



## JOHN WESLEY DOBBS ELEMENTARY

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August 5, 2020

Dear Dobbs Elementary Families,

We are in high gear planning for the virtual return on **Monday, August 24, 2020**. As we continue to plan, I want to share some of the information about how virtual instruction for the first 9 weeks will be stronger and more consistent than it was in March, April, and May. Below is information you need to know about the Runway to Learning, instructional infrastructure, technology, food and nutrition and communications.

### **Runway to Learning**

Activities during the **Day One Runway, August 17-21**, will be mostly virtual. Some in-person activities may be needed in small or limited groups for parents to pick up needed supplies and materials for the first nine weeks of school. During the Day One Runway, we are putting a particular focus on student wellness and preparation, social emotional learning supports, student supply distribution, emergency contact information updates, and access to student learning. Again, these activities will be mostly virtual. The first day of school for students was pushed from August 10 to August 24. We will have ALL virtual instruction for the first 9 weeks/Quarter 1 with opportunities to revisit/revise after that.

### **Instructional Infrastructure**

- The school calendar for students will be reduced from 180 days to 170 days and the last day of school in May has not been changed.
- Teacher schedules for virtual instruction will be standardized/uniform across all grade levels for consistency of experience and to allow families to plan their time/childcare, etc.
- Differentiation will still occur in small groups.

- Class lists, grade level schedules and book bags filled schools supplies will be available and distributed August 17<sup>th</sup> an 18<sup>th</sup> during our **Virtual Open House and Drive-By Teacher/Student Meet & Greet**.

<b>Monday, August 17, 2020</b>		
<b>Grades</b>	<b>Virtual Open House</b>	<b>Teacher/Student Drive By Meet &amp; Greet</b>
<b>PreK</b>	9:00 a.m.	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>K</b>	9:30 a.m.	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	10:00 a.m.	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10:30 a.m.	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

<b>Tuesday, August 18, 2020</b>		
<b>Grades</b>	<b>Virtual Open House</b>	<b>Teacher/Student Drive By Meet &amp; Greet</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9:00 a.m.	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 a.m.	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 a.m.	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

- We will also be hosting **Parent Zoom Meetings** to answer any questions and introduce you to the teachers.

Please join me for these parent meetings to be held:

**Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

[https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/5380661225?](https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/5380661225?pwd=VjJDRm5FTENDYitYQVhRYUVydWR4Zz09)

[pwd=VjJDRm5FTENDYitYQVhRYUVydWR4Zz09](https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/5380661225?pwd=VjJDRm5FTENDYitYQVhRYUVydWR4Zz09)

**Meeting ID: 538 066 1225**

**Passcode: 491954**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

[https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/5380661225?](https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/5380661225?pwd=VjJDRm5FTENDYitYQVhRYUVydWR4Zz09)

pwd=VjJDRm5FTENDYitYQVhRYUVydWR4Zz09

**Meeting ID:** 538 066 1225

**Passcode:** 491954

- **Teacher resources for virtual instruction will be standardized/uniform as well.** APS has purchased the following Content Management Systems and Online Engagement Tools for this purpose:
  - **Google G Suite for Educators** (Google Classroom, Forms, etc.)
  - **ZOOM** (Premium) This will be the tool we use for all meetings and virtual instruction.
  - **FRECKLE** (K-5th - Content Management System that differentiates instruction across Math, ELA, Social Studies and Science) [www.freckle.com](http://www.freckle.com)
  - **Nearpod** (K-12)
  - **STAR**
  - **Accelerated Reader**
- **Virtual school will be as close to live school** as possible and we will consider the following:
  - Increased amount of time students will spend in virtual instruction - grade level dependent
  - Increased amount of time for teacher-led instruction in all content areas
  - Increased student self-efficiency in navigating a virtual world
  - Building parent capacity via a Dobbs Parent University to help guide and troubleshoot through virtual platforms
- Teachers will have **posted "office hours"** on a consistent basis across grade levels.
- Teachers will be given the choice to teach "virtually" from their classroom in the school. This will allow them access to all of their classroom and school resources.
- ESOL and Gifted will be included in the new schedule.

- SPED support services will be included in the new schedule. APS will continue to implement services and make decisions based on the best interests of individual students and their unique needs. We will continue to adhere to principles set forth in the IDEA by meeting the individualized needs of students and providing meaningful participation for parents. The district will implement virtual learning for our students with disabilities, just as we would during normal school operations.
- Specials such as Art, Music, PE, SEL and Spanish will be included in the new schedule.

### **Technology**

- APS has partnered with Comcast to launch the Get Our Kids Connected campaign to support low-income families. Eligible families will receive 12 months of free high-speed internet and/or a device that they can keep forever. For more information please visit <https://tinyurl.com/GOKCform>.
- Please take the APS Technology Readiness Survey posted on our website and Social Media outlets to let us know your technology needs before the first day of virtual school.

### **Food & Nutrition**

- Community meals (breakfast and lunch) will be distributed to students weekly beginning August 10th. Meal distribution will be provided on Mondays and will include breakfast and lunch for the week.
- Starting August 24 – the first day of school – APS meals will only be distributed to APS students. Parents need to request meals at the Order My Meals button through MySchool Bucks at [www.atlantapublicschools.us/nutrition](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/nutrition).

### **Communications**

- We understand the importance of ensuring that our families know how to navigate our virtual reality. In order to feel prepared, we will host live personal trainings and recorded sessions for parents to teach you all you need to know about, Google Classroom and our Math & ELA Curriculum Online Resources. As soon as I get these dates scheduled I will share them with you.

There are still a number of things that we need to work through but I am confident that we will be successful in this virtual environment.

We are still in the process of ensuring that every child has a device and a plan for distribution for children who need it. This will be done the week of August 17th. APS will provide PPE and temperature check equipment when we return in person. All persons must wear masks to enter the school for any reasons until further notice. No exceptions.

In closing, please know that this is not ideal for any of us. Our teachers would rather be with your children physically because they care and love each one of them, but we also know that their safety and well-being, along with our teachers/staff safety and well-being, has to be our number one priority. We miss your kids and we look forward to seeing them virtually in the coming weeks.

Continued good health to all of you, and I will be in touch with more information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tiffany Ragin

Dobbs Elementary Principal