



Alpharetta Elementary Eagle Wings



Soaring with Alpharetta Attitude - Ready, Respectful, Responsible

Patricia Reed—Principal

Andy Allison - Assistant Principal

From:
The Principal's Desk

Wow! What a wonderful start to the school year! It has been an amazing week seeing all of our AES Eagles back in the building! Thanks to all students, staff and parents for making our beginning so great. This is due in large part to all of your cooperation and we greatly appreciate your patience in following our procedures. Thank you to our AES PTA and their outstanding work in pulling off our successful Open House last Thursday. I hope you were able to meet our new CST, Michele McInnish, and Assistant Principal, Andy Allison. If not, be sure to introduce yourself the next time you are in the building. They are great additions to our AES Administrative Team!

We already had Pre-k, K, and 1st grade curriculum night and look forward to our 2nd/3rd grade curriculum night on Monday and 4th/5th grade curriculum night on Tuesday. We hope that all of you will be in attendance for this important meeting with your child's teachers. On Monday night, parents will go directly to their child's homeroom from there they will follow their child's schedule and change classes for to language arts and math class. This way you will be able to meet your child's primary teachers and learn about the various academic curriculums and some exciting activities planned for the school year. Please sign-up for a conference if you wish to discuss your child. Teachers will be unable to discuss individual students during this evening. Also, remember curriculum nights are for parents only – if you must bring a child with you, he/she will need to sit next to you the entire evening.

The Tuesday night curriculum night will begin in the cafeteria for a 5-10 minute PTA meeting to vote for the PTA budget. Parents will then report to their child's homeroom and follow the child's schedule to change classes for language arts and math. We hope that all of our 5th grade parents will remain for an informative meeting regarding the 5th grade field trip to Rock Eagle. You will have the opportunity to sign-up to be in a lottery for chaperoning this exciting overnight trip. The drawing of chaperones will take place the following day and chaperones will be notified by the end of the week.

Beginning the week of August 25th, parents are invited to have lunch with students in our cafeteria or courtyard. We hope that you will not bring meals from outside vendors (fast food restaurants such as McDonald's or Chick-Fil-A) as it creates anxiety for some who do not have the same opportunity and competes with our food services program. We are building smooth routines and good lunchroom habits in these first couple of weeks, and we appreciate your support in allowing students time to practice the procedures.

Now that students have walked to and from their classrooms throughout this week, we are certain that they are ready to make the trip down our halls by themselves at arrival each day. Today was our last day for escorts and again we are so pleased with how successfully students have returned to school this year. We thank you for your time and support in escorting students to class these first few days, but the staff will be available to help monitor students' travels from now on.

Thanks again for sending your wonderful children to Alpharetta Elementary and for a fabulous school opening!

School Board Revises Continuous Achievement Model

Last May, the Fulton County Board of Education adopted new guidelines for the school system's Continuous Achievement Model, a framework for advancement that allows all students to be challenged according to their aptitude and motivation levels.

Under this model, elementary and middle school students are allowed to progress in language arts and mathematics at their optimum pace and depth. High schools do not follow the Continuous Achievement Model because there are already numerous advancement opportunities available through honors classes, Advanced Placement (AP) courses and dual-enrollment partnerships with nearby universities.

The revised guidelines were adopted so that the framework would better align with new curriculum standards. These changes also reflect recommendations from a recent curriculum audit and feedback from our parents, teachers and school leaders. Information regarding placement along with on-level and advanced curriculum standards will be available for parent review in the elementary and middle school curriculum handbooks. The level at which students are placed will also be noted on report cards.

Kindergarten (all year) and First Grade (first semester)

Since the primary years are devoted to the development of basic skills and concepts, kindergarten and first-grade students (during first semester) will be appropriately challenged by differentiated instruction where teachers tailor the curriculum to each child's strengths and weaknesses. The K-1 curriculum is written so teachers can make adjustments for students based upon their individual learning needs.

First Grade (second semester)

At the end of the first semester, students showing higher performance will be identified for advanced curriculum opportunities. The curriculum level at which the student is working will be noted on the report cards during the second semester as either "on-level" or "advanced." Grade placement for the following year will be made based on the student's academic performance in the advanced curriculum.

Grades 2-5

In grades 2-5, students will be evaluated for curriculum placement based on testing data, grades and teacher recommendation and evaluated as either "on-level," "advanced" or "accelerated" (one year ahead). The advanced curriculum is written at a different pace, depth and instructional level than the on-level curriculum and additional resources are used to challenge students. Students identified for the accelerated curriculum will work at the next grade's pace and depth in that curriculum area. Student placement will be reviewed, at minimum, every 18 weeks to determine if the placement level continues to be appropriately challenging.

Grades 6-8

The middle school mathematics curriculum is written so that the advanced students learn at a deeper level and faster pace. Additional resources are also used to support their learning and offer more challenge. Students identified for the accelerated curriculum will work at the next grade level's pace and depth. In the content area of reading, middle school students who, in fifth grade, scored at the 60th percentile on the ITBS or 825 or above on the CRCT, can take a world language course instead of reading. Those developmentally and academically capable of learning at a deeper level and at a more compacted pace can opt for an advanced language arts course. Like the elementary grades, student placement will be reviewed, at minimum, every 18 weeks to determine if the placement level continues to be appropriately challenging.

Blended Math Approach Begins This Year

This spring, as a way to provide learning opportunities for students using both conceptual and skills based methods, the Fulton County Board of Education approved a plan that blends the two philosophies harmoniously. Implementation of this blended approach will begin this school year. To support this blended approach, additional textbooks have been purchased, which will be used in conjunction with the texts already in place in grades 6-8. At the high school level, the names of some math courses are being changed to provide more description of the content. These descriptive course names will replace the more generic names, which were previously used. Over the summer, many teachers are receiving additional training in the delivery of the math curriculum in grade K-9. Opportunities will be provided in the fall for those teachers who are unable to attend summer training sessions.

News from the Cafeteria

This year students are only allowed one fruit, one vegetable or two different fruits (canned or fresh) or two different vegetables (cooked or fresh) of their choice, but they can't choose everything. If you have any questions please email your concerns to monger@fultonschools.org. Also ice cream will be \$.75 this year.

Thanks, Vickye Monger, Cafeteria Manager

Affidavit Update

The County has a very strict policy this year – affidavits must be received by the school within 30 days from the start of school. After 30 days students will be put on a provisional enrollment for a set amount of time with the possibility of being withdrawn.

We will notify parents weekly through Eagles Wings regarding the Affidavit process and due dates.

Thank you for your help with this process.

Lisa Hawks, Data Clerk

AES is WILD about PTA

Thank you to the teachers, staff, and parents who have already joined PTA this year. Our goal is 100% PTA Membership. Forms to join can be found in the front office. If you would like one sent home with your child please call or email Leigh Ann Maloney, Membership Chairperson at LAM63@comcast.net or 770-664-1132. Since we will not be selling Sally Foster this year your donations to the Enrichment Fund will help us reach our budget as well. With your support we can do so much more for our children!

5th Grade Rocks!!!

Attention 5th Grade Parents!
Just a reminder: Curriculum Night Tuesday,
August 19 at 6:00 pm
Rock Eagle Meeting to follow in cafeteria
At this time, if you are interested in being a chaperone, please sign up for the lottery drawing.

Notice

Important information for parents whose child uses an assistive technology device:
Dynavox will be providing local training for teachers, parents, and staff. Please visit their website at www.dynavoxtech.com for dates and locations of training. Registration is required.