



# STAR NEWS

## Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts

**Iris C. Wilson, Ph.D., Principal**

**David Rudenborg, Assistant Principal**

**Volume 9, Number 1**

**August 18, 2017**

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have had a remarkable first week! Our star scholars are ready for a dynamic new school year. The school enrollment is 644 and we welcome all our new and returning families! I am proud to introduce our new staff: Mrs. McKiernan (PreK), Ms. C. Jones (1<sup>st</sup>), Ms. Auker (2<sup>nd</sup>), Ms. Routt (2<sup>nd</sup>), Ms. Griffith (3<sup>rd</sup>), Ms. Smith (3<sup>rd</sup>), Ms. S. Jones (3<sup>rd</sup>), Mrs. Lawrence-Laing (4<sup>th</sup>), Ms. Meisner (4<sup>th</sup>), Ms. McMahon (4<sup>th</sup>), Ms. Brow (5<sup>th</sup>), Ms. Johnson (5<sup>th</sup>), Ms. Lockhart (5<sup>th</sup>), Mr. R. Jones (5<sup>th</sup>), Ms. Simunek (Music), Mr. Scarpone (Music), Mr. Pride (Dance/Theatre), Coach Picinic (PE/Gardening), and Ms. Lay (Parent Liaison).

A school-wide calendar for the first nine weeks is included in your child's Agenda Book. The Agenda Book for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade scholars is part of the AVID binder/organizational tool. Stars in PreK – 1<sup>st</sup> have their calendars in organization folders. This calendar provides dates for currently scheduled events. We believe this will keep everyone well informed. Changes to the calendar will also be noted in your monthly newsletters, website, Listserve, and through Remind. I encourage you to sign up for listserv, Remind, and Facebook to quickly receive news updates.

ATMSA is fortunate to have an extraordinary, supportive PTO! We thank them for providing a special, welcoming Boo Hoo breakfast for our new kindergarten families, as well as welcoming all new families. If you have not joined the PTO, we encourage you to join and get involved in the many activities that allow us to provide special events for our shining stars. Our STARS need you and we will continue striving for increased parental involvement! Our first PTO meeting is September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., immediately following our SAC meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Please help us to keep our children safe by following safety procedures. **Before school supervision does not begin before 7:45 a.m.** Please make sure your child does not arrive at school before this time unless he/she is enrolled in the Before School Extended Day program. Mrs. Wells can provide information if you are interested in this service. We have an increased number of stars at car pick-up. It is critical that everyone is patient and follow procedures before school and at dismissal. Please have your car visor sign (child's grade and name) on your visor to speed up locating your child. If you do not want to wait in the pick-up line, please park in the parking lot and use the sidewalk to pick up your child. The sidewalk from the far parking lot provides a safe walk to the cafeteria and office. Please cross at the crosswalks and use the sidewalk. **The bus area is for buses only for the safety of our children.** Modeling this behavior helps our students recognize and follow these universal safety

behaviors. We understand that this process takes time, however there is no time limit when it comes to the safety of each of our young scholars. Thanks in advance for your support in this area.

All visitors **must report to the front office for entrance to classrooms and the cafeteria. Pre-K parents are to walk their child (through the front office-no need to sign in) to the classroom and sign-in in the classroom.** Thanks for your support and cooperation.

Mr. Rudenborg and I are extremely proud to be the administrators of your child(ren). We know this year is going to be one marked with excellence and high expectations. Teachers have spent the first week on rules, routines, guidelines, and procedures. Please review your child's Agenda Book, AVID binder (2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>), and reinforce our Star P.R.I.D.E. expectations daily. We look forward to seeing you throughout the year as we continue this journey of excellence with, in, and through the arts!

*Iris C. Wilson, Ph.D.*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 18 .....Star Newsletter goes home
- August 21 .....Solar Eclipse – School dismisses at 3:30 P.M.
- August 22 .....Leon County School Board Mtg @ 6:00 P.M., Howell Center
- August 31 .....ATMSA Birthday Celebrations
- September 4.....Labor Day – No School
- September 7 .....Open House, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
- September 13 .....SAC Mtg @ 5:30 Media Center  
.....PTO Mtg @ 6:00 Media Center
- September 27 .....**Dad-Take Your Child to School Day**

# MORNING PROCEDURES

---

Beginning Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, we will begin our normal morning procedures.

**7:45 a.m. Supervision Starts** – Cafeteria Opens for Breakfast (Students not permitted in classrooms without office/teacher pass.)

**8:00 a.m. Students Dismissed to Classrooms** from Cafeteria – Students not eating breakfast may report directly to class beginning at 8:00 AM.

**8:20 a.m. Cafeteria Closes for Breakfast** (Late Bus Students will be allowed to eat breakfast)

**8:25 a.m. First Bell**

**8:30 a.m. Tardy Bell** - Tardies will be counted beginning August 21<sup>st</sup> and any student arriving after 8:30 must be signed in by an adult to receive a tardy pass to class. Unexcused tardies at the beginning of the day and unexcused early checkouts result in unexcused absences. Please make sure that your child arrives in time to join their class for the first bell. Their day will begin much better if they are settled and ready to work. Help your child achieve a good attendance record and arrive at school prepared to learn with the necessary supplies.

Parents, if you need to speak with your child's teacher, please contact the front office. Instructional time is limited and every minute is critical to your child receiving focused, direct instruction. We will protect this time to ensure our stars receive the full benefit of their time in school. Thank you in advance for your patience and support.

# LEARNING FOCUS

---

Our star scholars have a tremendous amount of content to master by the end of the school year. Items unrelated to learning need to be kept at home to avoid interrupting learning.

In addition, **cell phones interrupt learning** (ringing, games) **and are not allowed on campus unless the parent has provided a written request to the principal and it has been approved.** When approved, they must be kept in backpacks and silenced. Cell phones will be collected from students and parents must pick them up unless these procedures are followed. Thanks for instilling the importance of following rules and making good choices each day.

# SCHOOL ADVISORY

---

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a decision-making group make-up of school administrators, teachers, parents, community members, and other stakeholders.

The goal of SAC is to assist in making decisions about the mission and educational purpose of the school. Each year, SAC members monitor the goals of the School Improvement Plan, conduct needs assessments, and review surveys. Our first SAC meeting is September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m., followed by our PTO meeting.

We hope you will consider joining our School Advisory Council!

# PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

---

ATMSA stars would like to thank **Ms. Gayla Parks, State Farm Insurance** for providing a \$250.00 donation to help provide supplies for classrooms. In addition, our school will receive a matching donation from the corporate office! Our thanks to **Prudential Insurance** for once again providing a full, hot breakfast to staff during pre-planning. Our thanks also to Mr. Kone for providing **Chick-fil-A** treat cards to all staff! These partners recognized our staff's hard work and late hours. As you visit or see these partners, please let them know how much you appreciate what they do for our school.

# SOLAR ECLIPSE

---

As you are aware, the solar eclipse will occur on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. With much consideration and for the safety of our stars, we will keep them inside during the eclipse (2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.); however, they will get to watch the eclipse via their classroom Smartboard by using a link provided by NASA. Throughout the day, Prek – 5th grade teachers will integrate science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) while teaching our young scholars about the solar eclipse.

Per Superintendent Hanna, our dismissal time on Monday will be at 3:30 p.m. Our star scholars attending our afterschool programs will be kept inside from 3:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. and weather permitting, the afterschool programs will resume normal outside activities.

If you would like to pick up your child from school early on Monday, you may do so and it will be excused. Please feel free to contact our front office (850) 488-7110 if there are questions.

# CHANGE OF TRANSPORTATION

---

**Transportation changes must be received in writing by 2:15 p.m.** Please email [atmsa@leonschools.net](mailto:atmsa@leonschools.net) and describe in detail the change in mode of transportation. Transportation changes will not be taken after 2:15 p.m.

