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April 20, 2018

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

As you may be aware, your child attends one of our Achievement Zone (AZ) schools. The Achievement Zone is a geographic area in South Fulton consisting of Banneker High School and its feeder elementary and middle schools which include: Asa G. Hilliard Elementary, Brookview Elementary, College Park Elementary, Feldwood Elementary, Heritage Elementary, Love T. Nolan Elementary, Mary M. Bethune Elementary, Ronald McNair Middle, and Woodland Middle.

At the beginning of the 2016 strategic planning process, School Governance Councils approved proposed changes to school bell times and the school calendar. The proposal has now been approved by district leadership for implementation over several years. Our focus is that all AZ students receive a quality education; therefore, we implement a school day that is 30 minutes longer and includes eight student release days when students will not report to school. The release days will allow additional professional development and collaboration for staff without reducing instructional time for students. Please note that these days are in addition to the district-wide professional development days and teacher workdays.

Summary of the Bell Times and School Calendar for 2018-2019

2018-2019 Bell Times:

- Elementary: 7:40 am – 2:50 pm
- Middle: 8:55 am – 4:35 pm
- High: 8:20 am – 4:00 pm

2018-2019 Student Release Days:

- August 24: AZ Release Day
- September 14: AZ Release Day
- October 19: AZ Release Day
- November 9: AZ Release Day
- December 7: AZ Release Day
- January 18: AZ Release Day
- February 14: AZ Release Day
- March 15: AZ Release Day

What impact will Release Days have on a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) will be implemented on regular school days when school is in session. IEP services will not be implemented during Release Days.

If you have any questions, please contact your student's school. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dara Wilson
Area Superintendent, South Learning Community+

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