May 20, 2019

Greetings Alpharetta High School parents and students:

How exciting to be heading into the final week of the 2018 – 2019 school year! Our students continue to amaze me with all their successes in Academics, Arts, Athletics and Altruism! Congratulations to all our Class of 2019 graduates! It has been a joy to drive around the city of Alpharetta and see the neighborhood signs proudly displaying our graduates’ next steps after high school.

This communication includes information on the following topics:

❖ Celebrations!
❖ 2-hour Advisement Schedule Monday, May 20th to collect Dell Laptops
❖ Important Paperwork Coming Home Monday to be returned by 5/23.
❖ Final Exam Schedule for 5/21, 5/22 & 5/23
❖ Changing of the (Band Director) Guard…
❖ Re-branding Process for Raider Nation
❖ Summer Assignments for ELA & Honors, AP & IB courses
❖ Summer School Information
❖ Deadline for any Final Course Request Changes for 19/20 is June 7th
❖ Summer Office Hours for AHS

**Celebrations: AHS showcased on CBS46:**

FCS Student Support Services launched a district-wide Anti-Vaping campaign to address the growing national epidemic of vaping, “juuling,” and the use of e-cigarettes among young people. As part of the campaign, a student video PSA contest was proposed to give students the opportunity to speak out about the dangers and other negative impacts of vaping from a student perspective. I am so
proud to announce that with hundreds of student video entries across the district, 3 of the top 4 entries, including 1st place, came from Alpharetta High School. Congratulations to these awesome Raiders!! Their winning videos may be viewed with the links below.

Winner, Cristina Neville:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RhJXUvkPZf4PS-eXcAAhbZkKQ2MonCa/view?usp=sharing

2nd Place, Paige Tucci:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/15xLhrxdFT_OPOJsEw2kJ5u4eFB1clr7m/view?usp=sharing

4th Place, Parker Henry:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ql5BsUSV474xPmcBur6KC2lk8hgXCC4I/view?usp=sharing

We also have one more CBS46 video to share from the live newscast originally aired on May 10th. Such talented musicians!


**Important Paperwork Coming Home Monday to be returned by 5/23:**

Fulton County Schools is Moving to a new Student Information System. This system will replace eSchoolPlus and will be available to all families starting in July 2019. This system will replace Home Access Center (HAC) and will include a new Online Registration tool, among other features and upgrades. As such, we need your help! To facilitate a smooth transition to Infinite Campus, we need parent assistance verifying and updating student contact information. During Advisement tomorrow, Monday, May 20th, your child will receive a student information document that we need you to review, update, sign and have your child return to suite 1330 or the front office by the end of day on 5/23.

Directions on how to review and update student information is provided in this attachment:

For questions regarding how to update your student’s information, please contact our Data Clerk, Ms. Brenda Hunter at: hunterb@fultonschools.org

Thank you so much for your assistance in this important endeavor!
2-hour Advisement Schedule Monday, May 20th to collect Dell Laptops:

Please note that our AHS bell schedule will be altered each day this final week of the 2018-2019 school year. May 20th Bell Schedule:

Tomorrow, Monday, May 20th, All Dell Laptops will be collected during a 2-hour advisement period (9:50-11:45).

All students must return their school issued Dell laptop and charger tomorrow. Laptops must be charged tonight so that we may verify the device is in working order tomorrow. Please know that receipts will be issued to all students. We recommend that your child take a picture of their receipt and that they provide you with the receipt when they arrive home from school.

Unfortunately, no students may keep their Dell laptop over the summer. FCS will supply a different device for summer school students. Finally, please note that all Media Center materials and fines are now overdue.

Final Exam Schedule:

Tuesday, May 21st will mark the beginning of our 2019 final exams for underclassmen (9th – 11th graders). Please note that our AHS bell schedule will be altered each day this final week of the 2018-2019 school year. Please look closely at the attached Final Exam Bell Schedule:

Tuesday, May 21st, Wednesday, May 22nd and Thursday, May 23rd will be 2-hour final exams for all underclassmen; exam days are half days only. Please note that buses will begin leaving our campus by 12:40 p.m. on each of these final exam days. Students will be able to purchase a sack lunch each day on 5/21, 5/22 and 5/23 if they choose quickly to go by the cafeteria before leaving campus.

Changing of the (Band Director) Guard:

There will be a slight change in our Band department next year. Mike Walsh has been our Director of Bands since our school opened in 2004. Mike has dedicated 35 years of his life to developing and directing high school bands in Florida and Georgia. At Alpharetta High School, Mike Walsh grew our inaugural 28-student
Band to the point that our bands required a new building! With the help of Sheldon Fisher, Mike designed and supervised the construction and what has become the model band facility for Fulton County Schools.

Notably, Mike Walsh has developed the AHS Bands into a world-class, nationally-recognized program that receives local and national accolades annually. He has conducted AHS Bands as featured ensembles at The University of Georgia (multiple performances), Georgia State, University of Alabama, Festival Disney, Georgia Music Educators State Convention (multiple performances), Music for All Concert Band Festival, Midwest Clinic, and on multiple performances on stage at Carnegie Hall (a 2020 return performance at Carnegie is scheduled).

Please join me in thanking Mr. Walsh for his many years of service and his passion for excellence! Alpharetta High School is a well-known name in music circles and University Music Schools around the country! With the addition of our new Music Technology Program, Mike is going to make a transition and focus most of his efforts to cultivating a first-class Music Technology / Audio Production Program.

All this to say that beginning in the fall of 2019, Mike will reduce his Band Director responsibilities to working only with our Wind Ensemble (our most advanced concert band). As such, please join me in congratulating Mr. Ira Jenkins, our current Associate Director of Bands, as he assumes the Head Director position and absorbs most of the responsibilities of our Band Program.

Ira Jenkins has a bachelor’s degree in music education from Georgia State University, Masters in Educational Leadership from Kennesaw State University, and an Education Specialist degree from the University of Georgia. He is currently completing his Doctorate in Music Education at Georgia State University. Ira joined the AHS faculty in 2013, having previously taught several years at the middle and high school levels in Georgia, New Jersey, and New York. Since returning to Georgia, Ira has been very involved locally with Georgia Music Educators Association and Nationally with Bands of America, Drum Corps International, and Winter Guard International. As an adjudicator, clinician, and educator, he has been a driving force behind numerous band programs throughout our country. Ira has diligently worked along-side Mike Walsh in furthering the success of our three concert bands, our award winning marching band, and our nationally ranked Winter Guards.
Ira Jenkins will continue the tradition of excellence of Alpharetta Bands! Fortunately, he will have the ongoing support of Mike Walsh as well as the support of our new Assistant Band Director, 2011 Alpharetta HS graduate, Mr. Matt Crisman.

Again, please join me in thanking Mr. Walsh, congratulating Mr. Jenkins and welcoming Mr. Crisman! Go Raiders!!

Re-branding Process for Raider Nation:

Based on the numerous Alpharetta logos in use by our wonderful athletic and artistic teams, clubs, activities and groups, we are going to undergo a process to unify our Alpharetta HS brand. This process is exciting because it will solidify our unique identity and be reflective of our current students and community. You will see some immediate changes as we prepare our walls, fields, uniforms, and spirit wear for this change.

Stay tuned for more information concerning the re-branding process. Your voice will be requested and needed to create our new #AHSstrong logo.

Summer Assignments for ELA & Honors, AP & IB courses:

Please note that some courses require students to engage in summer work. Please encourage your child to access the Alpharetta High School website starting May 22nd to determine whether summer work is required for their scheduled courses next year.

http://school.fultonschools.org/hs/alpharetta/Pages/default.aspx

Summer School Information:

Summer School is an opportunity for Fulton County high school students to accelerate or recover credits during the time between school years. Face-to-face and virtual offerings exist, and often provide students with a broader array of options than those available during the school year. Please see this attachment for more information regarding FCS’ face-to-face summer school options as well as Fulton Virtual School (FVS).

Summer School Flyer:
Deadline for any Final Course Request Changes for 19/20 is June 7th:

Please recall students received their final course verification forms in April. The courses listed on that form will be the courses your child will take next school year. **Deadline to submit any final requests for changes: Friday – June 7th.**

Changes should be mailed to Alpharetta High School, ATTN: Clair Greenaway, Assistant Principal, 3595 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005 or delivered to the school or emailed, greenawayc@fultonschools.org. A receipt of form will be emailed to you by Monday, June 10th.

The course selections you submitted on the previous course verification forms will only be changed if a request is made on this 3rd and final course verification form and if there is space available in the requested course to make a change due to the Master Schedule and teacher contracts being set in March. We will not accept any requests for course changes after June 7th. During the first 10 days of the 18/19 school year in August, only necessary course request changes will be accepted for review.

**Summer Office Hours:**

The AHS main office will be open this summer:

May 28th – June 28th 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

July 1st – July 23rd 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays & Thursday Only

The office will be closed on July 4th.

Attached is next year’s approved FCS calendar:

**Please note the additional AHS Professional Development Days when AHS students will be off from school are: September 3rd, November 4th, February 14th, March 16th**

Thank you all for another wonderful year in Raider Nation! We have so much to be proud of and thankful for in our community! A special thanks to our wonderful PTSA, School Governance Council and AHS Foundation for all your extra support! I want to wish our men’s and women’s golf teams best of luck at State! Also, once again, congratulations to our class of 2019 graduates! Best of luck to you all in your future endeavors! Go Raiders!!
Sincerely,

Shannon N. Kersey, Ph.D.

Principal