February 17, 2020

Happy President’s Day, Raiders! I hope your family has been able to enjoy this long weekend. Our teachers had a wonderful day of learning together on Friday! I am so appreciative of the support this community gives to our teachers! I am so grateful for our collective understanding of how important ongoing, job-embedded training is for our amazing teachers. I am looking forward to the hustle and bustle of our campus as spring sports and spring performance arts get going. Best of luck to all our spring athletes, performers, conductors and coaches! Go Raiders!!

This communication includes information regarding the following topics:

❖ AHS Celebrations!
❖ Fall ’20 Parking Lottery for Rising Seniors & IB Diploma Students This Week
❖ AHS School Governance Council (SGC) Elections Happening Now
❖ SGC’s Request for Flexibility
❖ Reminder: Please Take the Georgia DOE Parent Survey

Celebrations:

The Georgia Department of Education recently named Alpharetta High School an AP Honor School for 2020! This award recognizes the dedication of our school and district to ensure that our students are prepared for college and career after graduation. It also highlights the hard work of our AP teachers and students as they
challenge themselves with rigorous coursework, culminating with the AP Exam in May. Specifically, AHS earned these accolades:

❖ AP School of Distinction
❖ AP Humanities School
❖ AP Humanities Achievement School
❖ AP Stem School
❖ AP Stem Achievement School

For more detailed information regarding the criteria for these accolades, please access the following link: https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?PressView=default&pid=741

Also, please join me in congratulating Mr. Derek Wright as our 2020 Teacher of the Year and Mr. Robert Bennett as our 2020 Professional of the Year! Well-deserved honors for these two amazing educators!

Please click on this link to see a visual review of January highlights in Raider Nation. **January Raider Review**

**Fall ‘20 Parking Lottery:**

The Fall ‘20 Parking Lottery will take place this week and is for **Rising Seniors & IB Diploma Students Only**. Students may turn in the parking application on 2/19 or 2/21 during both lunches. Please access all needed information including the application at the link below:

http://school.fultonschools.org/hs/alpharetta/Pages/AHS-Student-Parking.aspx

Please know that I fully understand the disappointment from our rising juniors that we will not be including them in our parking lottery for the fall. I am deeply sorry for this inconvenience. As our school grows larger, we must make necessary adjustments. I worked tirelessly over this past winter break to find alternatives to increase the capacity of our parking lot. Unfortunately, there are many obstacles, and the process is long and expensive. I am working with a consultant at this time
to keep exploring options, but there is no guarantee that we will increase our parking capacity.

Our senior class next year is projected to be around 550 students, and I only have 460 total student parking spots available. As such, in agreement with district leaders, I have decided to prioritize seniors and students who have committed to the IB diploma program.

I have received many questions regarding why I am prioritizing the IB diploma candidate students. The rationale is because AHS is the North West Learning Community (NWLC) International Baccalaureate School. As such, Fulton County Schools has provided additional resources and additional funding to AHS to support the development and growth of this program for students beyond those attending AHS. Students in the NWLC may curriculum hardship to AHS for the IB Program. The IB program course sequence requires that students come in several days a week prior to the beginning of our regular school day; therefore, a school bus will not be able to accommodate these students. That is why IB diploma candidates will be allowed to enter the fall ’20 lottery.

Additionally, I have been asked what we will do with any remaining parking spots once the senior and IB lottery has concluded. First, students will not pay for and receive their parking permits until August. I will not know if we have any additional spots until after the first week of school concludes. If we end up with any remaining spots, we will conduct a separate lottery at that time. However, it is highly doubtful we will have many, if any, parking spots for Juniors next year.

Please note that AHS student parking spots are not guaranteed. Selecting Off Campus courses for your 2020-2021 schedule must be in conjunction with securing transportation.

If your student requires a parking spot in order to take dual enrollment courses, online courses, work-based learning courses or internships, your student must secure a parking spot during this February lottery time period. If your student does not secure a parking spot for Fall ’20, your student will need to adjust their course requests accordingly next week when we finalize course requests for 2020-2021.

A separate, more detailed communication will be sent to students and parents regarding the course 2020-2021 registration process that will occur next week.
All questions regarding parking should be directed to AHS Athletic Director Dustin Rennspies at rennspiesd@fultonschools.org

**AHS School Governance Council (SGC) Elections Happening Now:**

It's SGC election season again! SGC elections are a way for parents and teachers who are elected onto the council to have a role in the vision and direction of the school. This year our theme is #jointhejourney. It all starts with elections!

Candidate declarations will remain open until Feb. 26th. We have open seats for 1 parent, 1 community member and 1 teacher elected position.

Complete DETAILS: ([Click Here](#))

Declaration LINK: ([Click Here](#))

**SGC’s Request for Flexibility:**

The Request for Flexibility (RFF) process allows for the AHS Community to submit comments on proposed RFFs. This year AHS SGC is looking at two RFF’s:

- **RFF #1** IB Diploma Candidates exempting Physical Sciences replacing it with an IB Science.
- **RFF #2** Student & Staff Extended Support with Administration and Counseling Staff

These RFF’s are presented in detail on the website [HERE](#).

Please take the time to review these proposals and submit any public comments until March 9th. Public comments can be submitted either electronically [HERE](#) or in the front office of AHS where there is a paper submission form and box.

Our next steps will be to review the comments at the March 10th SGC meeting in Room 1240 at 7:30am, revise the RFF as necessary and approve this RFF forward to Fulton County Schools Administration for review.

Thank you in advance for your contributions. ~ AHS SGC Team
Reminder: Georgia DOE Parent Survey:

Parents, this is a gentle reminder to please take a moment to take this Georgia DOE survey about AHS! Data from the Georgia Parent Survey will be used to calculate Alpharetta High School’s School Climate Star Rating within the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). We are very proud of our 5 Star Climate rating 4 years in a row and again need your participation to keep up our trend of excellence at AHS! Go Raiders!!! Please use this link to take the parent survey: http://gshs.gadoe.org/parents

Again, I hope our Raider families enjoyed this long weekend! As always, thank you for your support! Go Raiders!!

Sincerely,

Shannon N. Kersey, Ph.D