January 2, 2020

Happy New Year, Raiders! I hope you enjoyed the holiday break with your families and are now ready to ring in 2020 with Raider Nation! I look forward to greeting all 2,300 of our students back on Monday to kickoff spring semester.

This communication includes information on the following topics:

❖ Celebrations! AHS Designated as a Georgia *Beating the Odds School*
❖ Georgia DOE Parent Survey – Required from Georgia Department of Education
❖ Reminder: Saturday, January 4th - Distribution of Spring Off Campus Stickers
❖ Bell Schedule for Monday, January 6th (30 minute advisement before 1st period)
❖ Schedule Change Request Information for Second Semester
❖ Reminder: Final Exam Make Up Day is January 3rd from 9AM – 3PM
❖ 1st Semester Grade Reports Distributed Tuesday, January 14th
❖ Save the Date: Special Programs Night is January 30th 6:00pm - 8:15pm
❖ Anchor Time Off Campus Lunch Privilege Forms Due by January 24th
❖ Anchor Time Spring Enrichment Opportunities Registration is Open
❖ [December Raider Review](#) (click link for a visual review of December in Raider Nation)

**Celebrations: AHS Designated as a Georgia “Beating the Odds” School:**

The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) has issued the list of schools *Beating the Odds* for 2019. *Beating the Odds* uses a statistical analysis to compare a school’s actual performance on the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) with the performance of schools across the state with similar characteristics. Schools performing higher than similar schools are labeled as “Beating the Odds.”

Outperforming expectations is a hallmark of excellence and a hallmark of AHS! I am particularly proud of this designation for our school because it is evidence that we are meeting the needs of all our students. AHS is an extremely diverse school with students from many different backgrounds, and our outstanding teachers are supporting all students across the school in all academic programs.
Not many schools earned this distinction! I am proud that AHS is one of only 7 FCS high schools to *Beat the Odds*, and I am also extremely proud that Webb Bridge Middle School also earned the designation as a *Beat the Odds* School for 2019! We have much to be proud of in Alpharetta!

For 2019, 36 percent of schools in Fulton County and 31 percent of schools in Georgia were designated as *Beating the Odds*. More detailed information and school comparisons can be found here: [https://gosa.georgia.gov/accountability-0/beating-odds-analysis](https://gosa.georgia.gov/accountability-0/beating-odds-analysis)

**Georgia DOE Parent Survey – Required from Georgia Department of Education:**

*Parents, please* take a moment to complete this Georgia DOE survey about AHS! The **Georgia Parent Survey** is modeled after the required student survey that students will take on Monday, January 6th during advisement.

Parents, you may complete the survey using your personal computer, smartphone or tablet. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. 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)* to determine a correlation between the student responses on the Georgia Student Health Survey II and school personnel responses on the Georgia School Personnel Survey.

Parents, I hope you will find 5 minutes this week to complete this 20-question survey so that AHS will be able to be compared to other Georgia high schools and shine once again with excellence. We are very proud of our highest 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](http://gshs.gadoe.org/parents)

**Reminder:** Saturday, January 4th - Distribution of Spring Off Campus Stickers:

All students with off-campus classes spring semester must complete and return the relevant attached waiver/s in order to receive permissions to have off campus courses as well as receive the **required spring** 2020 Dual Enrollment Sticker, Virtual Course Sticker and/or Flex Schedule Sticker to be placed on the student’s required photo identification.

Waiver attached:
Students taking Dual Enrollment (College), GAVS Virtual, FVS Virtual, and students with Off-Campus Internships should plan to report to AHS on **Saturday, January 4th between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.** with **STUDENT ID** to return the required off campus waivers and receive their spring off campus stickers. Students must have their student ID to receive the stickers. (This does not include Anchor Time stickers; those will be distributed in February).

If a student with off campus courses spring semester cannot come to AHS on Saturday, January 4th between 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. or if a student needs to have a student ID reprinted, **the student will report to the cafeteria during 1st period – or the period when the student has an off campus course - on Monday, January 6th to return the waiver and receive appropriate stickers.**

After Advisement on Monday, January 6th, all students with any Off Campus 1st period courses who are able to come to AHS on Saturday, January 4th and receive their Spring Off-campus stickers will be able to leave campus starting Monday, January 6th or may remain in the cafeteria during 1st period.

**Bell Schedule for Monday, January 6th (30 minute Advisement before 1st period):**

All students should report to their advisement classroom for thirty minutes before first period on Monday, January 6th, 2020. Bell schedule attached.

Students enrolled in college courses or off campus virtual courses during 1st period must still report to advisement at 8:20 a.m. on Monday. During advisement, students will receive a copy of their second semester schedule as well as complete the annual, required Georgia DOE health survey.

Students must pick up a hard copy of their second semester schedule in advisement and follow that schedule on Monday.

**Schedule Change Request Information for Second Semester:**

Parents, this is a reminder that our students register for courses for the entire year in the spring of the previous school year. As such, please know we only allow necessary schedule changes at the beginning of second semester. Any schedule change request is contingent upon space available in a classroom. Please note that all requests will go before our AHS scheduling committee during the first 10 days of the semester. Students will be able to access the schedule change request form from the AHS counseling website starting January 6th.
Reminder: Final Exam Make Up Day is January 3rd from 9AM – 3PM

- The Final Exam make-up day is January 3, 2020 in Room 1122 from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM. Any student who is unable to make-up exams on those days will need to contact decaminada@fultonschools.org, ASAP.
- If a student was absent for a final exam due to an illness, a doctor’s note must be provided upon his or her return in order to obtain permission to make up exams.
- If a student was absent for a final exam due to another extenuating circumstance, appropriate documentation must be provided upon his or her return and the student’s administrator must approve.
- If a student was absent from a final exam, the teacher will calculate the final grade counting the exam as a zero. Upon make-up of the exam, the teacher will re-calculate the grade and submit a revised grade. Incompletes will not be given.

1st Semester Grade Reports Distributed Tuesday, January 14:

Parents, please note that final semester 1 grades are not due from teachers until the end of the day on January 3rd after the holidays and will not be verified until January 8th. First semester report cards will be printed and distributed on Tuesday, January 14th during a special Advisement after 2nd period.

Please be sure to review the report card with your child. If you have any questions or concerns about any 1st semester grades, please first contact the teacher for the course and then, if necessary, contact your child’s counselor or administrator. Additionally, if your child was unsuccessful in passing any course 1st semester, please be sure to contact your child’s counselor about opportunities for retaking the course to ensure your child stays on track for graduation.

Save the Date: Special Programs Night is Thursday, January 30th

Believe it or not, we must begin thinking about course selection for next school year. Our pre-registration process has already started. Pre-registration is the time when our teachers make recommendations for the courses your child will take next school year and when you and your child select electives, review, verify and make final decisions on next year’s schedule.

Special Programs Night is Thursday evening, January 30th, 2020. This very important evening event for 9th, 10th and 11th grade students and parents kicks off our 2020-2021 course registration process.
During Special Programs Night, students and their parents may learn about Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment College Courses, Virtual Course Options, International Baccalaureate, English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language (Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish), Career Technology, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Talented and Gifted (TAG), SAT Prep, and Career Pathways. There are many courses to select from at AHS, and this evening is vital to learn about them in order to choose wisely.

The goal of the evening is to support students and parents as they progress through the Course Registration process. It is important that students and parents gather all the information they can prior to completing their course request forms, as we will not be able to make changes once the spring registration process concludes in the spring.

**Anchor Time Off Campus Lunch Privilege Forms Due by January 24th:**

Anchor Time will start up again for second semester on Thursday, February 6th and will end for second semester on Thursday, April 16th. Please be sure to mark these dates and plan schedules accordingly, including potential Dual Enrollment college courses or internships.

AHS will offer eligible juniors and seniors the option to leave and re-enter the school campus on designated Tuesdays and Thursdays for an extended lunch period as both recognition for their demonstrated maturity and responsibility as well as an incentive to keep up the good work throughout the year. To be eligible for this off campus privilege, students must have their own transportation and meet the following criteria:

To be initially eligible, AHS juniors and seniors must:

- Receive Parental/Guardian Permission
- Be on track for graduation;
- Be classified as a junior or senior and enrolled in correct courses; and
- Be passing all courses as of the fall semester final grades.

Juniors and Seniors may access the permission form here: [https://sites.google.com/fcsgaonline.org/anchortime/off-campus](https://sites.google.com/fcsgaonline.org/anchortime/off-campus)

Hard copies are available in the front office. The deadline for all juniors and seniors to submit Off-Campus Privilege forms to their counselor is 1/24/2020. No forms will be accepted after this deadline.

**Anchor Time Spring Enrichment Opportunities Registration is Open:**
Registration for Spring Enrichments is now open! Students interested in taking an enrichment class during Anchor Time should register now. Space is limited and registration is on a first come basis.

Link: https://tinyurl.com/ATenrichment

**Dates to Remember:**

- Saturday, January 4th – Off Campus Waiver Collection & Sticker Distribution 8-12
- Monday, January 6 – 30 minute Advisement before 1st period
- Tuesday, January 14 – Advisement after 2nd period to distribute Report Cards
- Wednesday, January 15 – Sophomore Parent Meeting 12pm -1pm, AHS auditorium
- Wednesday, January 15 – ACCESS Testing Window Opens
- Monday, January 20 – MLK Holiday (No school)
- Thursday, January 23 – Financial Aid Night, 7pm
- Friday, January 24 – Off Campus Anchor Time Waiver forms due to Counselor
- Friday, January 24 - Winter Pep Rally
- Wednesday, January 28 – AHS Balance Night
- Thursday, January 30 - Special Programs Night, 6pm
- Thursday, February 6 – Anchor Time Begins
- Wednesday, February 12 – Middle School Tours During Day & MS Transition Night
- Friday, February 14 – AHS Professional Development Day (no school for students)
- Monday, February 17 – Presidents Day Holiday (school closed)

Again, Happy New Year! I am excited to be back and begin second semester! I am looking forward to this new decade and am confident it will be another decade of excellence in Raider Nation! Thanks again for all your continued support. Go Raiders!

With Raider Pride,

**Shannon N. Kersey, Ph.D.**

Principal

Alpharetta High School

*Creating Opportunities for Excellence in Academics, Arts, Athletics & Altruism.*