

August 4, 2023

Apalachee High School Students, Families, and Community,

We were very excited to welcome students back this week for the 2023-24 school year, and we hope everyone learned a lot and made connections! Every year offers a new chance to start fresh, work hard, make good grades, and get engaged in an extra-curricular organization. We want this year to be the best experience possible for each student and staff member. In an effort to ensure the focus remains on learning, we have listed a few reminders below:

Academic Success

Every student at Apalachee High School has the ability to meet minimal mastery, a 70% or better, in each course. Each teacher is regularly available to support and assist your student during their time at our school. Should your student be absent, please be sure you alert the school and send in a verifiable excuse note. Students are expected to return from absences, should they not be excused, with any work that is due and ready to take any assessments they have missed. Please be sure you are checking Parent Portal and your student is checking Student Portal to monitor all courses throughout each semester.

Georgia Standards

Our teachers are expected to follow the Georgia Standards, as posted by the State School Board of Education. Should you want to view these standards or resources, please go to:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/>

1-to-1 Chromebook Initiative

We have been actively giving students their Barrow issued Chromebooks in the Media Center, and we will finish distribution next week. In order for your student to receive a Chromebook, a parent/guardian must sign this form:

[Click here to sign.](#)

School Involvement

It is very important for each student to be involved in a sport, club, or other organization. Statistically, students are more academically successful and learn other valuable life lessons when they are involved in a group focused on a common passion or activity. Please view a list of our organizations in our handbook link and on our school website:

[Clubs – Apalachee High School | Clubs \(barrow.k12.ga.us\)](#)

Securing Items

Please be sure your student locks their things if they have a class in our gym. The school is not responsible for replacing stolen items. The best thing you can do is leave anything valuable at home. Just like any other public area, be sure you are with your belongings at all times.

Student Code of Conduct

The Apalachee High School student handbook can be found here:

[Student Handbook](#)

The Barrow County School System Code of Conduct can be found here:

[BCSS Code of Conduct](#)

Please be sure you and your student look these over, and [please sign off](#) that you understand our expectations. The most important thing for our students and families to truly understand: every student can make it through high school with zero discipline referrals while meeting minimal mastery and beyond with every course the first time. If a student's decision detracts from our school environment or another student's ability to learn, that student will be sent home with a plan in place to contribute in a more positive way the next time they are present at Apalachee High School.

Arrival, 8:15, Tardies

We have given everyone four days this week to get used to traffic patterns, prepare to arrive at school by 8:00, grab breakfast, and know how long it takes to walk to 1st period. The first bell of the day is at 8:15, and students arriving to class after 8:15 beginning Monday, August 7 will be considered an unexcused tardy. ***Students need to be in their classrooms and ready to engage in learning at 8:15.*** Students arriving on late busses will be given passes to class.

Also, all students should now understand how to avoid traffic in the hallways and get to their scheduled classes on time. Tardies for all classes will start accruing on Monday, August 7.

Student Checkouts

Student drivers may only check out with a handwritten note submitted to the Attendance Office in the morning before first period, and they may not leave until the note is verified and they checkout in the Attendance Office. Parents/guardians arriving to check students out will also be verified, and ***there are no checkouts between 2:30-3:15*** when the final bell rings. There are many tasks occurring in the offices at that time, and it creates traffic issues. All student check ins/outs will be through the Attendance Office.

Dress Code

The Apalachee High School dress code is consistent with the Barrow County School System dress code. We will offer any student breaking dress code an opportunity to adjust; however, if the student chooses not to adjust, that student will be sent home and expected to be picked up from our Attendance Office. Repeated dress code violations may result in other consequences as it distracts from learning and prevents staff from solving other issues. ***One issue we've noticed this week is exposed midriffs; please correct this violation.*** Please review all the dress code expectations carefully:

[View Board Policy JCDB: Student Dress Code \(eboardsolutions.com\)](#)

Student Parking

This is a privilege. If your student is driving faster than 15MPH on campus at any time, driving recklessly in the parking lot, or perhaps not paying attention to the administration and/or other teachers monitoring the parking lot, that privilege will be revoked. If a student driver is regularly tardy without alerting the school, the parking privilege will be revoked. If a student driver is showing irregular attendance patterns, the parking privilege will be revoked. If a student driver is gathering with friends before or after school, making it difficult for us to transition to the school day or to our after school events, the parking privilege will be revoked. We will make sure **your student** is aware of their first warning and then revoke the privilege should further inappropriate behavior continue. ***There are no refunds for student parking when the privilege is revoked.*** As an upperclassman, student drivers are responsible for their behavior in the parking lot.

There is no parent drop off or pick up in the student parking lot. This is a safety concern.

Other Important Procedures

- Students need to remain seated during lunch, not walking around or standing in the hallway.
- Students need to leave the building immediately after the final bell at 3:15 unless they are under the supervision of a teacher for tutoring, a sponsor for a club meeting, or a coach for practice or a game. Our offices close at 3:45 each day.

We are looking forward to a great year, and please remember that most of our procedures are in an effort to keep your student and others safe and focused on learning throughout the day.

Please let us know how to better serve your student,
AHS Administrative Team

KEY DATES, SEMESTER 1

- Picture Days: August 15-17
- Battle of Barrow: August 18
- Holidays: September 1 & 4
- Homecoming Dance: September 30
- Fall Break: October 6-13
- Report Cards: October 18
- Digital Learning Day: November 7
- Thanksgiving Break: November 20-24
- EOC Milestones: December 4-8
- Final Exams: December 19 & 20
- Early Release for Winter Break: December 20