



ALFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**The Mission of
Gwinnett County
Public Schools**
*is to pursue excellence
in academic knowledge,
skills, and behavior
for each student,
resulting in measured
improvement against
local, national, and
world-class standards.*

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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools
not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex,
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or any other program, activity, or service.

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July 7, 2021

Greetings Alford Family,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer with some much-needed rest and relaxation after a very trying school year. You truly deserve it.

In reflecting on this past year, we experienced some major hurdles due to the pandemic, but we made it through successfully. This was all due to your support and commitment to the school. There were often times that we were uncertain about our next steps, but with your belief and dedication, we were able to remain focused on our most important objective which was to provide a quality learning experience for the students both virtually and in-person. As a community, you partnered with us to ensure that our students were safe and ready to achieve at high levels, and for that, we are immensely grateful. Our students put forth their greatest efforts during such a difficult time, and this resulted in lots of progress in the classroom on their instructional activities and assessments. Of course, there are some learning gaps due to the pandemic, but we have already constructed some effective plans to support and improve their performance in every area. The Summer Enrichment Acceleration Program that occurred this past summer was one, and there will be several others implemented throughout the entire school year to support the students' academic and social/emotional needs.

As we prepare for this year's educational journey, I want to encourage you to continue partnering and supporting our efforts with the students. To begin this process, please join us in exercising our school-wide theme which is to *shine a light of excellence on all that we do for our students*. This theme charges us to be the "best" daily in all that we do for the entire school community especially our students.

The first step in executing the school-wide theme is participating in the ***Open House/Meet Your Teacher*** day which is scheduled to occur in-person at the school. We will also provide an alternative time for those parents that prefer a virtual meeting. Be advised that the in-person **Open House/Meet Your Teacher session will be on July 29th from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.** It is structured so that you can visit with the teacher and gain some understanding about what the instructional year will be like for the child/student. The session is for both new and returning students. Please know that we are extremely excited about this opportunity especially about seeing our students return to school. We hope you are as well.

For your viewing and as a reminder, a copy of the GCPS school calendar is enclosed with this letter. Please know that the first day of school is **August 4th for all students.** However, the students will be staggered in terms of their physical arrival to the school building. In more specific terms, only kindergarten and 1st grade students will report to the physical building on August 4th. The students in 2nd and 3rd grades will report to the physical building on August 5th. The students in 4th and 5th grades will report to the physical building on August 9th. Although the dates for physical attendance in the building are different, all students will begin their first day of school on August 4th. For those students that are not reporting physically in the building on August 4th, they will participate **virtually** with their teacher until they report physically to the school according to the scheduled date for physical attendance in the building. Chromebooks/laptops will be issued to students that need them for these start dates. The devices will be issued during the Open House Meet/Your Teacher day.

If you have any specific questions prior to Open House/Meet Your Teacher day, please be sure to contact the school (678-924-5300).

We are looking forward to a great school year. Take care and see you soon!

Honored to serve as your principal,

Dr. S. Davis
Principal