



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
AMERICAS SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
GEORGIA/ALABAMA COMMUNITY
5701 SANTA FE ROAD
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905-2724

23 July 2021

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Welcome back to school year 2021-2022! It is truly an honor to serve the military-connected students and families of the Georgia/Alabama Community within the Southeast District. I also extend a warm welcome back to the faculty and staff members of all schools located on Fort Benning, Fort Rucker and Maxwell Air Force Base. A new school year always comes with excitement, anticipation, and even a little apprehension. During the last school year, we have all shown resilience and patience as we navigated through processes for in-person and virtual learning, and I am excited about our upcoming year!

The DoDEA COVID-19 Operational Guidelines and Procedures provide guidance for all our connected stakeholders. Based on this guidance, we are updating some of our back-to-school plans for school year 2021-2022. Open houses and back to school nights will continue to be conducted virtually. Students and staff will continue to wear masks. This applies to all DoDEA school facilities including buses. Please plan for your students to wear a mask on the school bus, if a bus rider, and be masked when exiting the vehicle if a car rider. Please have a discussion with your children prior to the first day of school to inform them that these strategies will continue to be in place.

We appreciate your cooperation as DoDEA and installation leaders make decisions to keep our community safe. Our goal is to always ensure the safety of staff, students, and our community members. DoDEA's current COVID-19 Operational Guidelines can be found at https://www.dodea.edu/newsroom/publications/upload/DoDEA-COVID-19-Operational-Guidelines-and-Protocols_V6_.pdf.

Our priorities continue to focus on the implementation of college and career ready standards and our process to ensure all schools are laser focused. The DoDEA Blueprint for Continuous Improvement plots our directional path and our commitment to DoDEA's core values sets the stage for the educational journey of excellence. You can review the DoDEA Blueprint at <https://www.dodea.edu/Blueprint/upload/Blueprint-Continuous-Improvement-Volume-3.pdf>

I look forward to a spectacular year for our students. Please contact your child's school office if you have questions and continue to read any information about the upcoming school year that may be shared via At Hoc, Facebook, or email. Thank you all for your flexibility, patience and understanding as we begin school year 2021-2022!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa B. Coleman", is positioned above the typed name.

LISA B. COLEMAN, Ph.D.
GA/AL Community Superintendent
DoDEA Americas Southeast District