



## Altamaha Elementary School

344 Altamaha School Road  
Baxley, GA 31513  
Phone: (912) 367-3713  
Fax: (912) 367-2609

Dr. Rhonda M. Hollis  
Principal  
Simikja Y. Wright  
School Counselor

Monday, July 31, 2023

Greetings Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to Altamaha, the “School of Excellence!” The faculty and I are looking forward to having students back in our classrooms and hallways, filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning. Also, we look forward to working with you as we embark on another exceptional school year. AES’s staff has worked diligently and collaboratively to establish an efficient educational foundation as they use their talents and training in engaging techniques, early interventions strategies, and best practices. We will use Georgia Standards of Excellence, Components of College and Career Readiness Performance Index, school improvement plans, and the Appling County District’s Strategic Plan to provide Altamaha’s students with a top-quality education. Furthermore, we will continue to offer a warm, nurturing, learning, and welcoming environment that is a hallmark of Altamaha Elementary.

We will continue with the reading program adopted two years ago to meet the needs of our students. Kindergarten’s reading program consists of three main components: shared reading, interactive reading, and differentiation. The first and second grades will use *Wonders* by McGraw-Hill. Third through fifth grade will use *Into Reading* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. The design of these vetted programs will help your child make notable gains in reading. You can access research on the programs at <https://edreports.org/reports/overview/wonders> and <https://edreports.org/reports/overview/into-reading-2020>. In addition, kindergarten through second will use *SAXON Phonics* to build phonemic awareness and phonic skills.

Grades three through five will continue with departmentalizing. A student in these grades will have the benefit of three or four teachers. One teacher will specialize in Reading and another in Math. The third teacher will teach Language Arts and rotate weeks of teaching Science and Social Studies. The fourth teacher will be a resource teacher.

Altamaha Elementary, as always, is a parent-friendly school. We know it is a contributing factor to our success. With an open-door policy, we create a thriving, successful learning environment in which we collaborate with parents and guardians, the local board of education, and the community. We encourage parents and guardians to support and volunteer in classrooms and school functions/events. In addition, you can help us support your child’s learning by making sure he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day’s learning experience
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
- 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and graduate high school, as well as continue his/her education by way of college or technical school

For additional information about the school, please visit our website <https://aes.appling.k12.ga.us/>. We thank you for your support and look forward to serving your child and you in sharing unforgettable memories of learning and growing as a school family!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Rhonda M. Hollis*

Principal

### *Vision*

*Altamaha Elementary School will be a school of excellence for all learners.*