



## Altamaha Elementary School

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Dr. Rhonda M. Hollis  
Principal  
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School Counselor

Monday, August 5, 2024

Greetings Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to Altamaha, the renowned "School of Excellence!" The faculty and I are eagerly anticipating the return of students to our classrooms and hallways, infusing them with energy and enthusiasm for learning. We are fully committed to collaborating with you as we embark on another exceptional school year. The dedicated staff at AES has diligently and collaboratively established a strong educational foundation using their skills and training in engaging techniques, early intervention strategies, and best practices. We will rigorously adhere to the Georgia Standards, 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 unwaveringly maintain a warm, nurturing, and welcoming environment, which is a defining characteristic of Altamaha Elementary.

We will continue with the reading program adopted three 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 continue to use SAXON Phonics to build phonemic awareness and phonic skills.

Altamaha teachers will use the Savvas enVision Math program as a new resource to help implement the math standards. Teachers vetted the program to ensure it meets the expectations of Georgia Mathematical Standards and the needs of Altamaha students. You can access more information about the resource through <https://www.savvas.com/solutions/mathematics/envision-mathematics-grades-k-12>.

Grades three through five will continue with departmentalizing, a structure that has proven to be highly beneficial for our students. A student in these grades will have the advantage of three or four teachers, each specializing in a different subject. One teacher will focus on reading, another on Math, and a third on Language Arts, with rotating weeks of teaching Science and Social Studies. The fourth teacher will be a resource teacher, providing additional support as needed.

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.*