Welcome!



2026-27
Rising Kindergarten
Parent Coffee

Agenda

- About Mary Lin
- Beginning of Year
- Aftercare & Transportation
- Typical Day & Specials
- Kindergarten Assessments
- GATE & Student Supports
- Field Trips
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Enrollment & Kinder Camp
- PTO Volunteer & Engagement Opportunities



Introducing...



Katie Zubrowski
Assistant Principal

Charissa Morgan
Administrative Asst. & Registrar

Denise Bringslid
Principal

Introducing...



Emily Fuller
Instructional Coach



Lynanne Brennan
Instructional Coach



Stephanie Shumacher
Instructional Coach



Gina Matias
Special Ed Lead Teacher



Tanesha Bellard
MTSS & 504 Plans



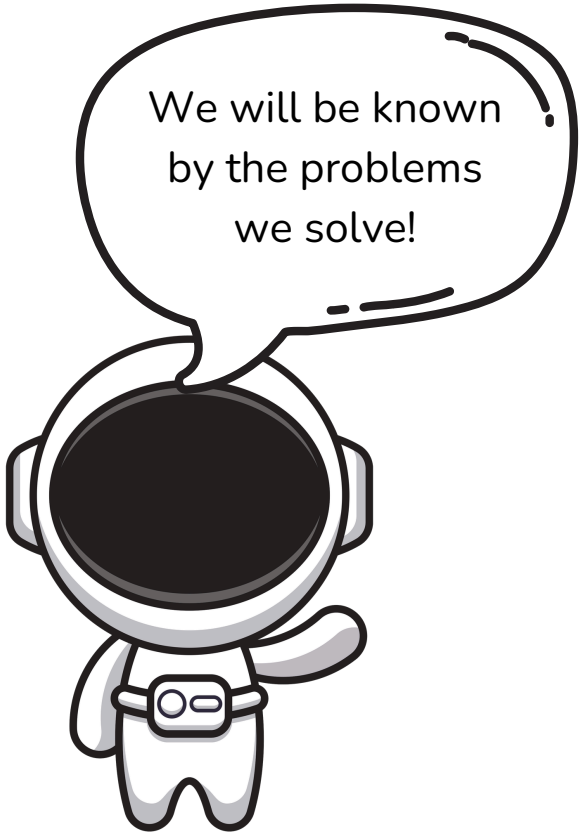
Erika Kelly
School Counselor



Becki Heacox
School Counselor

About Mary Lin

- Founded in 1929
- Serves the Candler Park and Lake Claire Neighborhoods, part of **Midtown Cluster in APS**
- **Signature Program:** STEAM
- **Vision:** Our vision is to foster students who are lifelong, proactive learners. Our students will be clear communicators who use innovative problem-solving to address the complex issues facing our community and world.
- **Mission:** The mission of Mary Lin Elementary is to educate our students through meaningful, interdisciplinary experiences. Partnerships among students, teachers, and the community will prepare our students to be caring and creative risk-takers ready for the world.



STEAM AT MARY LIN

ASK • IMAGINE • PLAN • CREATE • TEST • IMPROVE • SHARE





STEM/STEAM CERTIFICATION PROCESS

ASK
Identify Problems & Constraints

How is a STEM/STEAM school different than traditional school?

Develop & implement a vision to build school culture

Choose a Process-Thinking Model

Utilize district initiatives to identify overlap of standards

Identify real-world problems of your local community

SHARE AND IMPROVE
Adjust for Better Results

Evaluate the outcomes and improve.

Build a sustainability plan

Showcase your work with other STEM/STEAM schools

Begin the certification process

CREATE
Build, Test and Evaluate

Try it out!

Put long-term and day-to-day plans into practice

Include community partners in executing PBL

Record notes for PBL & day-to-day reflections

Begin the pre-certification process



IMAGINE
Brainstorm & Choose the Best Ideas

Envision possible resources to get there.

List existing school resources

Gain Professional Learning on culture & goals

Access school partners to understand needs and resources

Establish protected collaborative planning

PLAN
Design a Blueprint

Layout an interdisciplinary approach using Georgia Standards.

Draft long-term Project Based-Learning experiences rooted in standards using Process-Thinking Model

Engage community partners to support PBL experience

Design day-to-day interdisciplinary lessons connecting a minimum of two content areas

Generate Journal prompts for PBL & day-to-day interdisciplinary

STEM GEORGIA
Georgia Department of Education

STEAM GEORGIA
Georgia Department of Education

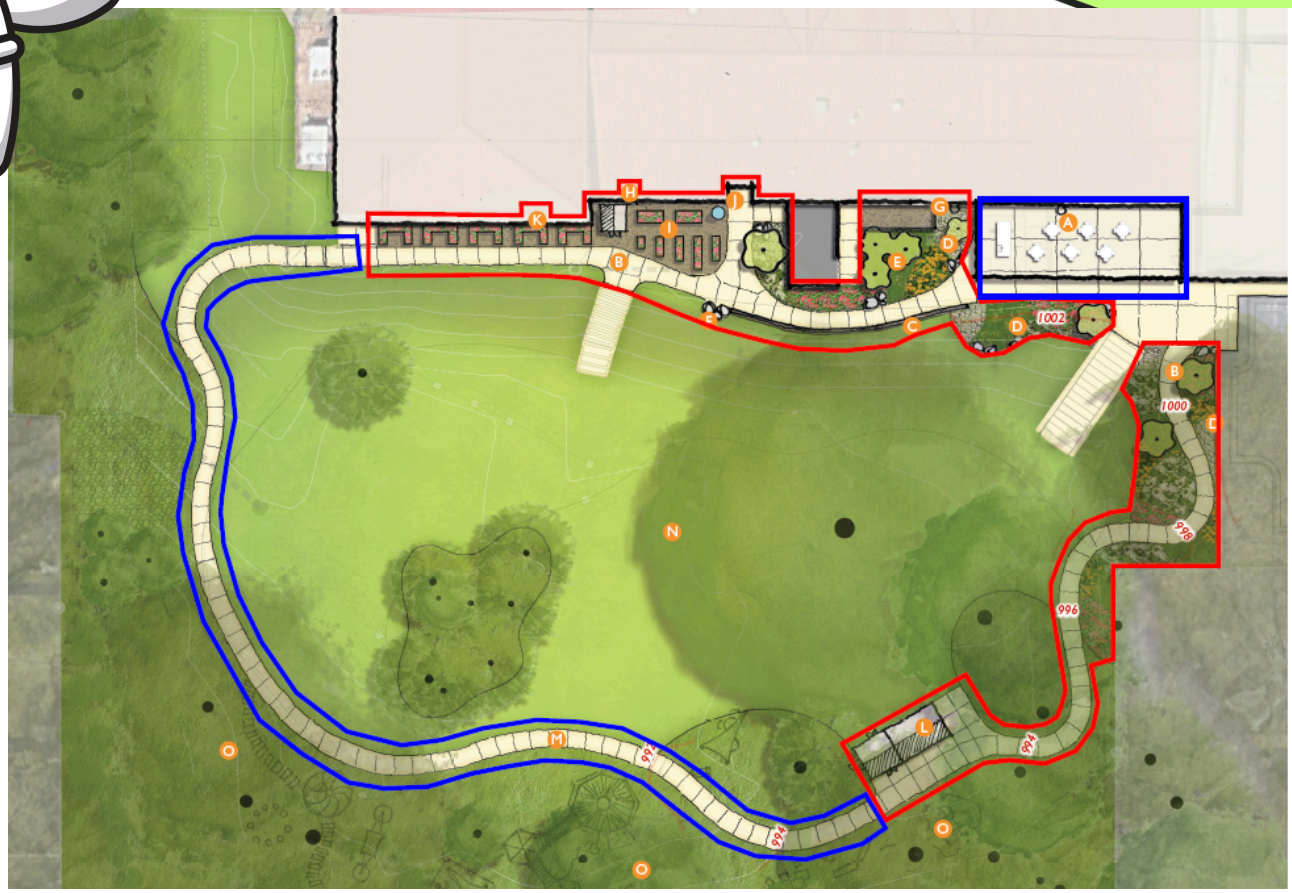
STEAM at Lin
Instagram

Outdoor Learning Environments



STEAM AT MARY LIN

ASK • IMAGINE • PLAN • CREATE • TEST • IMPROVE • SHARE



KEY LEGEND

- A COVERED OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- B CONCRETE SIDEWALK - ADA ACCESSIBLE
- C +/- 18" HT. RETAINING WALL
- D NATIVE PLANTINGS / POLLINATOR HABITAT
- E FLOWERING TREES
- F BOULDERS
- G UTILITY SCREEN FENCE
- H RELOCATED STORAGE SHED & RAINWATER CATCHMENT
- I CRUSHED STONE PAVEMENT
- J WATER CISTERN
- K VEGO RAISED BEDS
- L RELOCATED CHICKEN COOP
- M 1/7 MILE LENGTH WALKING TRAIL / LOOP
- N OPEN PLAY / ACTIVITY AREA
- O PROJECT-BASED LEARNING OUTDOOR AREAS

Mary Lin education foundation

CCRPI

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (GOSA)
OVERALL SCHOOL SCORE

95.5

CONTENT MASTERY — 100.0–

English Language Arts	100.00+
Mathematics	100.00+
Science	100.00+

VIEW DETAILS

PROGRESS — 95.0↓

English Language Arts	95.53
Mathematics	94.45
Progress Towards English Language Proficiency	Too Few Students

VIEW DETAILS

CLOSING GAPS — 85.7

Improvement Target Performance	85.70

READINESS — 97.1↓

At Or Above Grade-Level Reading	92.59
Student Attendance	98.84
Beyond The Core	99.80

VIEW DETAILS

Public PK, KG-5

586 Candler Park Dr NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

(404) 802-8850

District: Atlanta Public Schools

SchoolDigger Rank:

20th of 1,238 Georgia Elementary Schools

★★★★★

Student/teacher ratio: 15.2

Number of students: 526

Racial breakdown:

White:	73.6%
African American:	8.7%
Two or more races:	8.2%

more

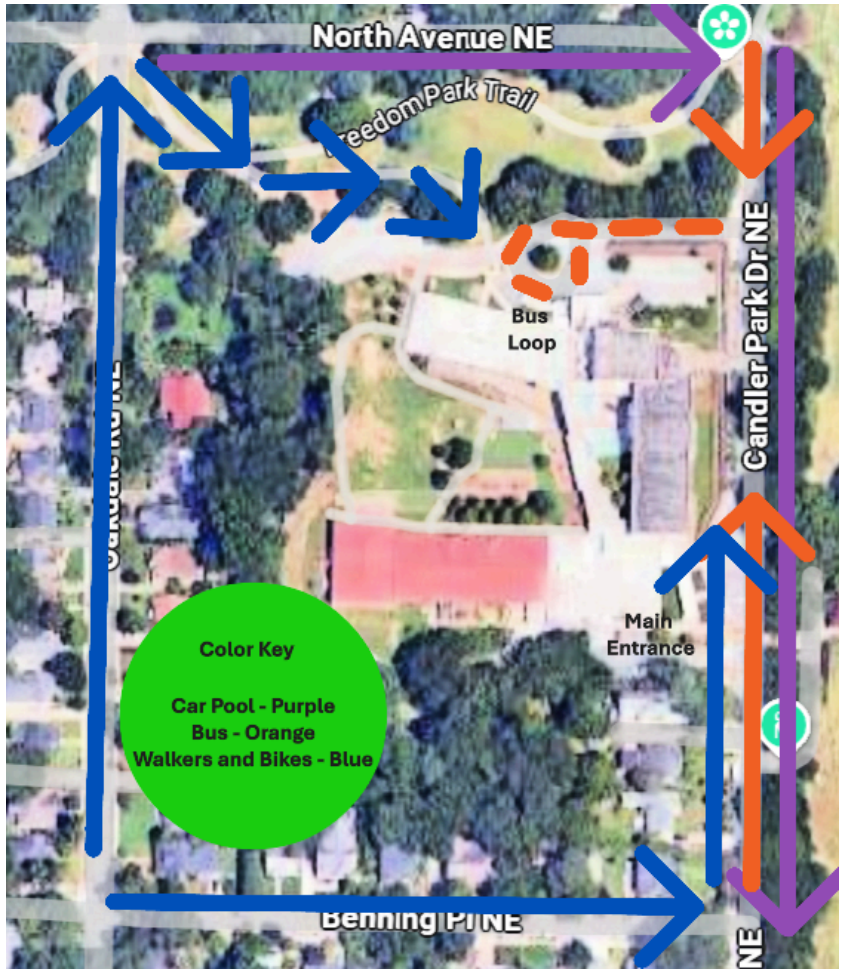
Beginning of Year



- Sneak Peek - July 31, 2026
- First Day of School - August 3, 2026
- QR Code Links to 2026-27 APS Calendar
- After School Care
  - iKids, LEEP Extras
  - Off-site Providers
- Transportation
  - Bus, Walker, Car Rider, Biker



Drop-off & Pick-up



Carpool - Students are dropped off in front of the building and will enter through the main entrance.

Bus - Students will enter/exit through the back entrance into the bus loop.

Walkers and Bike Riders - Kinder students are walked to the main entrance of the building and enter directly into the kindergarten hallway where happy and smiling teachers await at the door!

After Care Options



In-House Aftercare Program - iKids

- https://ikidspca.com/
- Open until 6:00 pm daily.
- Weekly enrollment preferred, drop-ins available.





My After School Program: LEEP Extras

- http://www.myafterschoolprogram.com/
- Starts after Labor Day, until 3:30-3:45 (depends on class).
- Limited options for Kindergarteners.



Off-Campus Aftercare

- Atlanta Contact Point
- Primavera School
- Horizons
- Jewish Kids Group
- L5P Community Music Center
- The Children's School

Typical Kindergarten Day



- **Arrival:** 7:15 am
- **Instruction Starts:** 7:45 am
- Social Emotional Learning/Morning Meeting
- Phonics/Reading/Writing
- Recess (30 min)
- Lunch (30 min)
- Math
- Specials
- Science/Social Studies
- **Dismissal:** 2:15 pm



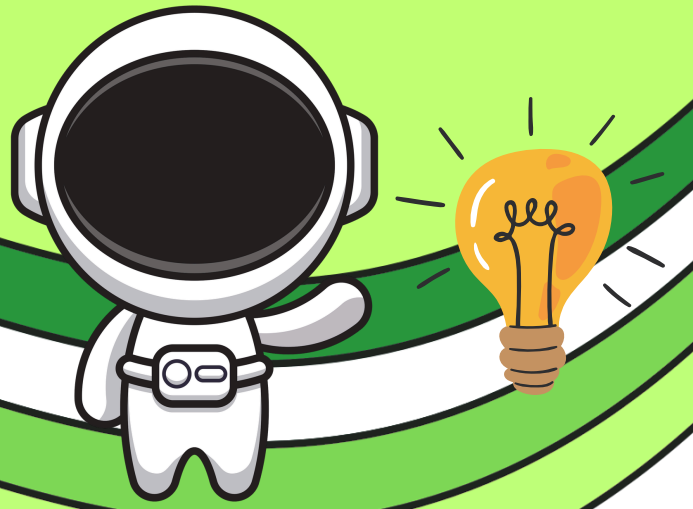
Specials



- Music
- Visual Arts
- Physical Education
- STEAM Lab
- Counseling
- Library (Media Center) & Digital Literacy



Kinder Assessments



- **GKIDS Readiness Check & GKIDS (Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills)** - Math, ELA, Social and Personal Development Skills
- **MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Growth** - MAP Growth is an adaptive universal screening online assessment that is utilized three times a year-fall, winter, and spring. The purpose of MAP Growth is to determine what each student knows and is ready to learn next. MAP Growth will track students' individual growth over time.
- **Amira Reading Screener** - Amira is an AI-powered, voice-based universal reading screener and dyslexia risk assessment designed for grades K-8, designed to measure reading mastery and provide actionable insights in less than 20 minutes.
- **WriteScore** - comprehensive, standards-aligned, writing assessment tool that provides detailed insights into writing, including handwriting, spelling, and sentence construction.

Gifted & Talented (GATE)



Identifying, Serving, Enriching, and Supporting Gifted Learners in Atlanta Public Schools

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) is committed to empowering exceptional learners to thrive academically and creatively. Through our Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program, we provide enriched learning experiences for students in grades K–12 who demonstrate exceptional intellectual ability or creative talent. These opportunities—available in all traditional APS schools—are designed to challenge, inspire, and nurture each child's unique strengths. Students are identified through a fair, state-approved process that evaluates mental ability, academic achievement, creativity, and motivation, ensuring every gifted learner receives the right level of support.

APS GATE Website

Kindergarteners are assessed in the Spring for Fall (1st gr) eligibilty.

Student Supports



- **MTSS** - Multi-Tiered System of Support
  - Tiers 1, 2, 3, and 4
- **504 Plans**
- **Special (Exceptional) Education** - Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
  - Occupational Therapy (OT)
  - Speech & Language Pathologist (SLP)
  - Regional Units
  - School Psychologist
- **Pathways Counseling** - School Partner





Nurse's Clinic

- If a student is not feeling well, they should tell their teacher.
- If it persists or is urgent, they will go to see Nurse Wanda.
- Upon arrival at the clinic, she will assess the student, take their temperature, etc... she will then determine next steps:
    - If the student has a **fever**; doesn't feel well; nausea, vomits, lice, broken bone - She will contact the parent to pick up the student.
    - If it is not an emergency (lost a tooth, bumped heads, splinter, hit their elbow on their desk, stepped on a toe), Nurse Wanda will send the student back to class and call you.
- **We ask that students DO NOT use their phone or watch to call/text parents to pick them up.**

Field Trips



- **High Touch High Tech**
  - In-school science programs transform your classroom into a Living Laboratory!
  - Kids become scientists and learn by conducting the actual experiments.
- **Atlanta Zoo Trip** (each child brings one adult buddy)
- **Atlanta Botanical Garden**
- **Children's Museum**
- **Alliance Theatre, Theatre for Youth**
- **Center for Puppetry Arts**



Kindergarten Readiness



- Teach young ones packing and unpacking backpacks independently.
- Practice tying shoes
- Practice rote counting objects
- Practice pencil grip and holding scissors
- Recognizing their name





Enrollment opens on March 9, 2026



Mary Lin Kindergarten Camp

June 1-5, 2026

8:30-12:00

Registration will open on March 9.

Open to rising Mary Lin Kinders (starting in August 2026) who have completed their official APS enrollment. We have up to 60 seats available.

Registration details will be shared in the Rocket Blast!

Your Cost: $290 per child

Kindergarten Camp is facilitated by our very own Mary Lin teachers and staff, and takes place in kindergarten classrooms!

Calling all Rising Rockets!

Come for the **clothes**, stay for the **community**

Item Swap 2026

Saturday, March 14 @ 9 AM - 12 PM



What is Item Swap?

Annual Mary Lin family event to exchange items with one another we'd otherwise donate, including **Clothing**, **Jackets**, **Sportswear**, and **more**! Drop off items in advance in exchange for tickets! See FAQs for details.

Do you have a rising PreK or Kindergarten Rocket?

Starting a new school is a big step – The Item Swap is a great event to **stock up on new gear** and meet the **Mary Lin community**!

Mary Lin Item Swap **FAQs**

- **When & where is the Item Swap?**
  - **Sat, 3/14 @ 9 AM – 12 PM** in the Mary Lin Gymnasium
- **When can I drop off items?**
  - Before school, **Mon 3/9 – Fri 3/13 @ 7:15 AM – 7:45 AM**
- **Can I drop off items the morning of the Item Swap?**
  - No. To make shopping easy for our Mary Lin families, our student volunteers will be organizing items throughout the week, based on item size and category
- **My child is a rising PreK or Kindergartner. Can I still get tickets?**
  - Yes! Exchange items for tickets at **Item Dropoff 3/9-3/14** before school in front of school
  - Additional tickets are available for a $2 per ticket suggested donation at the door
  - All items are **FREE** (i.e. no tickets required) the last hour of the Item Swap @ 11 AM – 12 PM!

- **What items ARE accepted?**
  - ✓ Clothing, Jackets, PJs, Shoes, Sporting goods / Rec equipment
  - ✓ Items must be in Good Condition and intended for PreK - Grade 5 (sizes 4T – Adult Large).
- **What items are NOT accepted?**
  - X Baby clothes
  - X Books
  - X Toys
  - X Undergarments
- **What happens to items left over after the Item Swap?**
  - We hope to see the majority of contributed items go home with our Mary Lin families
  - Any remaining items will be donated

Pro Tips for <u>Rising PreK & Kindergarten families</u>

❑ Bring a shopping bag

❑ Know your kiddos' sizes ahead of time…they grow so fast!

❑ You can expect a TON of clothes will be available in the younger sizes

Scan or click to RSVP

Stay Engaged!



- **Kindergarten Blast-Off**
  - Thursday, April 30
  - 3:00 - 4:30 pm
- Rocket Run
  - Sunday, May

Sign up for the Rocket Blast our PTO Weekly Newsletter!



Questions?

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