

Welcome To Garden Hills Elementary- We're Glad You're Here!

Here are some answers to your important questions...

Dress Code

BOYS: Solid khaki, navy blue, or black pants or shorts. Shirts should have collars, in solid colors only-no prints or pictures. No flip flops.

GIRLS: Solid khaki, navy blue, or black pants, shorts, skirts, polo dresses or jumpers. Shirts should be crewneck or collared, in solid colors only-no prints or pictures. No spaghetti straps. No flip flops or open-toe shoes.

FRIDAYS ARE SPIRIT DAYS: Jeans may be worn if accompanied by a Garden Hills t-shirt.

FIELD TRIP T-SHIRTS: Kindergartners should purchase an orange Garden Hills shirt to be worn on Field Trip outings. These t-shirts are \$10 and will be sold during Open House on Monday, August 3rd, but also available any time by submitting an order form and payment to the front office. Your shirt will be given to your child's teacher to send home.

LAND'S END EMBROIDERY: If you are interested in purchasing items embroidered with our school logo, Lands' End has the GHES logo on file. Shop online under their School Uniforms category and create an account, our Preferred School Number is **900134719**.

SPIRIT GEAR DIRECT: For items such as hoodies, sweatshirts, and other spirit wear, use this link to access the Garden Hills page: <http://www.spiritgeardirect.com/MainStore.aspx?storeid=8&storetype=2>

Getting to and from school

BY BUS: Bus routes and times will be posted online by the end of July at <http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/5364>. All students who registered before or during Summer Registration can locate their bus stop online by the end of July. Students who registered after the Summer Registration period can use the nearest bus stop until they receive a permanent bus stop after school begins. **If your bus is late on any given day, you may call the school office and check on its status: 404.802.7800.**

BY CARPOOL: You can pick up a carpool number at the Carpool station at Open House on August 3rd. Should you miss Open House, carpool numbers will be available in the front office once school begins. **Parents who plan to pick up their child by car or by walking to get them will need a carpool number.** Carpool numbers should be hung on your rearview mirror for easy identification in the carpool line, or brought with you for identification at the walkers' door.

Morning:

- Please pull all the way forward so that a designated carpool chaperone or Safety Patrol student can assist your child.
- Please do not drop students off near the buses, at the back of the school, or near AIS (Atlanta International School).
- If you arrive after the 8:00 am bell, please walk your child into school and check them in at the front office.

Afternoon:

- Students will be released at 2:30 pm. The carpool line moves fairly quickly, so it is important to be prompt.
- Any students not picked up by 3pm will be taken to the After School program and parents may be responsible for a \$22 drop-in fee.
- For the safety of the children, it is important that all cars stay in a single file line.
- **Please do not park in the carpool line during carpool hours.** If you need to enter the school, park in the parking lot or on Rumson Road and use the walkway access.

ON FOOT: If your child is a walker, after-school pick up will be at the top of the covered stairway leading from gym to the main building. The walkway to the covered stairway is located at the electronic Garden Hills marquee at the front of the school. Please bring your child's carpool number to show at the door.

It is very important to communicate any change in transportation to your child's teacher and by CALLING the front office! 404.802.7800.

What's for breakfast/lunch?

The menu for breakfast and lunch will be posted once school starts at www.atlantapublicschoolsnutrition.us. **To set up an account for prepaid meals, select Pre-Payment Options from the menu bar.** You will need your child's student ID number, which may be obtained by calling the front office at 404.802.7800, or simply by contacting your child's teacher. You may send money with your child- cash only please. We cannot accept checks. Of course, you may also pack a lunch!

ALLERGIES If your child has an allergy that requires medication (EpiPen, Benadryl, etc.) to be stored at school, there are several forms that need to be filled out by you and your child's doctor. Please contact the front office or school nurse to obtain these forms. Arrangements in the classroom and cafeteria will be determined on an individual basis. There is a peanut-free table in the cafeteria for those who have peanut allergies.

After School Program & After School Extracurriculars

THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM is an "after care" program for students whose parents need their child to stay for a while after school, up until **6 pm**. During this time, they will have homework helpers, receive a healthy snack, and have supervised activities and free play. **Kiddos Atlanta** is in charge of our After School Program. Please visit www.kiddosatlanta.com for details, pricing information and scholarships, and registration for the GHES After School Program.

GEORGIA PRE-K STUDENTS: Kiddos Atlanta is certified to work with Preschool-age children, and welcomes your little ones to the after school program this year!

THE AFTER SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULARS PROGRAM, also organized by **Kiddos Atlanta** (www.kiddosatlanta.com), offers a series of after school activities for a reasonable extra fee; scholarships are also available. There are several activities available each day of the week from 2:30 until 3:30. If your child normally goes to the After School Program, they will be returned to the After School Program once their extracurricular activity is complete at 3:30 pm. More information will go home via backpacks during the first weeks of school. Here is a ****tentative**** schedule for 2015-2016:

FALL

Monday
Chess K-5
Art K-5
Golf

Tuesday
Karate 2-5
STREM 2-5

Wednesday
Karate K-1
Film 3-5
Ballet K-3

Thursday
Tennis K-5

Friday
Drama K-5
Basketball K-5

SPRING

Monday
Chess K-5
Art K-5

Tuesday
Karate 2-5
Bricks for Kidz K-2

Wednesday
Karate K-1
Double Dutch 3-5

Thursday
Tennis K-5

Friday
Drama K-5
Soccer/Flag Football K-5

MORE AFTER SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DETAILS TO COME: Stay tuned for more information about Girls On The Run, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Discovery Kids Club, and Discover Architecture...

PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) Information

Parents, please join the GHES PTA! Your membership dues of \$10/member and generous donations help us support our teachers and students by providing funds for:

- Extra classroom support and supplies for our teachers
- Community-building activities such as Movie Night, Spaghetti Dinner, and Teacher Appreciation

The PTA Board meets once a month throughout the year to plan events. There are three General Meetings for all PTA members to attend. Dates will be posted on the school calendar. To accommodate parents' schedules, General Meetings will take place either in the morning as soon as school starts and last a very short time, or in the evening to coincide with a school-wide family event. We hope you'll support the school and join the PTA!

Acorns To Oaks: GHES Foundation Information

Founded in 2011, **Acorns To Oaks** is a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization that exists solely to benefit Garden Hills Elementary. It provides students with access to programs, technology, and educational experiences not funded by tax dollars. It also provides relevant training to faculty and administrators. Please visit <http://www.gardenhillselementary.org/foundation/faq/> to learn more about our Foundation, and how you can help support our children!

Volunteer Information and Sign Up Genius

We encourage parents to jump in and get involved! Please go to <http://www.gardenhillselementary.org/parent-involvement/volunteer/> for a current list of volunteer opportunities. All PTA members will be entered into our **Sign Up Genius** database, a convenient online tool to help organize volunteers and events. You will receive emails inviting you to help when you can. Please sign up as your schedule allows—it is not required, but very much appreciated!

CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS/ROOM PARENTS: Volunteering in the classroom is encouraged and welcomed at Garden Hills! Contact your child's teacher for their needs.

School Communications

- **CONSTANT CONTACT:** Parents, it is very important that you sign up to receive emails from Garden Hills Elementary! These emails will contain weekly reminders of upcoming activities and time-sensitive messages. Please go to <http://www.gardenhillselementary.org/parent-involvement/volunteer/> and enter your email address where noted to sign up for the *Garden Hills Gab*. In your Inbox, our email signature will be **GHES PTA**.
- **FRIDAY FLYER:** Students will receive a paper newsletter detailing weekly happenings, teacher birthdays, and an updated calendar each Friday afternoon. The Friday Flyer will also be posted on our homepage at www.gardenhillselementary.org.

Brown Bag Lunch & Walking Club

- **BROWN BAG LUNCH:** An opportunity to connect with GHES parents once a month—bring your lunch and the host will provide drinks and dessert. Check your school calendar for the dates of these events.
- **WALKING CLUB:** Another opportunity to connect with GHES parents while exercising! Check your calendar for the dates to meet at the Garden Hills/AIS Walkway on Rumson Road at 8:15 am for a brisk walk through the Garden Hills neighborhood.

Spirit Nights

Spirit Nights are held once a month at a local restaurant that has pledged a portion of the evening's profits to the school. You can drop in at any point during the allotted time. Wear your GHES shirts to show your school spirit! The dates and locations for each month will be announced prior to the event.

Important Numbers, Contacts & Links

School Office: 404.802.7800
285 Sheridan Drive, NE
Atlanta, GA 30305

For teacher contact information, go to www.gardenhillselementary.org > ABOUT US > FACULTY

Principal: Tommy Usher 404.802.7800
Assistant Principal: Tracey Scott 404.802.7800
School Nurse: Connie Penland 404.802.7800
School Counselor: John Gaither 404.802.7800

After School Program: Operated by Kiddos Atlanta
Garden Hills Coordinator: Jennifer Martinez
website: www.kiddosatatlanta.com 404.922.8156

APS website: www.atlantapublicschools.us

Breakfast/Lunch Menu:
www.atlantapublicschoolsnutrition.us > Menu

Breakfast/Lunch Pre-Pay Meal Plan:
www.atlantapublicschoolsnutrition.us > Pre-Payment Options

Breakfast/Lunch Free Meal Application:
www.atlantapublicschoolsnutrition.us > Meal Application

Bus Routes: www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/5364

GHEs website: www.gardenhillselementary.org

Homework Hotline: 404.553.3029

Infinite Campus: 404.802.1000

Media Center Specialist/Library:
Everett Jolly ejolly@atlanta.k12.ga.us

NAPPS (North Atlanta Parents for Public Schools):
website: www.napps.us

Parent Center/Parent Resources/Hispanic Community Liaison:
Claudia Lopez clopez@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Volunteer Opportunities:
www.gardenhillselementary.org > GET INVOLVED > VOLUNTEER

PTA (Parent-Teacher Association)

Contact: info@gardenhillselementary.org

President: Jennifer McCarthy
Treasurer: Keith Woodbury
Secretary: Ellen Whitney

Marketing/New Parent Liaisons/School Tours:
Gwendy Johnston
Jenni Rainwater

Fundraising: Susan Wheeler
Rhonda Avery

Enrichment (Events): Erinn Grier
Katherine Carhart

Communications: Kirsten Neufeld
Tavia Underwood

GHEs FOUNDATION: ACORNS TO OAKS

Contact: info@acornstooaks.org

President: Hadley Laughlin
Vice President: Kristin Fors
Secretary: Kristin Mitra
Treasurer: Erica Fanelli
General Council: Jeff Joyce
PTA Liaison: Jennifer McCarthy

LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL 2015-2016

Kristin Childers
Flip Fors
Dr. Kimberly Kleiss
Todd Pawlowski
Jane Rawlings

T-Shirt Chairperson:
Rhonda Avery hapyflyn@yahoo.com

Sutton Middle School Liaison:
Kristin Childers jrjoyce@aol.com

Girl Scouts:
Rebecca Galla-Jones rebgalla@yahoo.com