

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 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: We also sell items such as hoodies, sweatshirts, umbrellas, dri-fit GHES shirts, and tie-dye logo shirts. These can be purchased at Open House and throughout the year. Order forms are available on the table in the front hall of the school, and links to the spirit wear order form will be sent periodically via our school email letter The Garden Hills Gab.

Getting to and from school

BY BUS: Bus routes and times will be posted online by the end of July at bit.ly/apsbusroute. If you have transportation issues once school begins, you can email transissues@atlanta.k12.ga.us. Please be sure that you include your child's name, student ID, school, bus stop and bus number in the email.

BY CARPOOL: You can pick up a carpool number at the Carpool station at Open House. 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 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, click **Pre-Payment Options** on the webpage. 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 also 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 **6:30 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!

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. Class options vary throughout the year and include sports, drama, art, science and chess to name a few. Other independent programs are also available for your child, such as Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Discover Architecture, Soccer in the Streets, and Girls On The Run. Information about these activities will be sent home during the first weeks of school. 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.

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. Parents are welcome to sit in on these meetings for as long as you'd like. There will be General Meetings for all PTA members to attend as well. 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. To join, go to www.gardenhillselementary.org/parent-involvement/ for a downloadable form which you can submit to the school office with your dues. You may also join online via our school Directory. Prompts for this will be sent via Friday Flyer and The Garden Hills Gab in the first weeks of school. 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! Donate by visiting bit.ly/ghesgiving.

GHES GO Team:

On September 25, 2015, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Atlanta Public Schools charter system application during its state board meeting. A charter system is a school district that operates under a performance-based contract between the local board and the state board of education. Under the Charter System, Atlanta Public

Schools would gain freedom and flexibility from many state education laws and regulations in exchange for increased accountability for student achievement. A key element to charter system is moving decision-making closer to where learning takes place. That means leaving decisions to the school system and to the schools within the system. It also means involving more people in the decision making process. To this end, implementing a "Go Team" for each school is the method the school system has decided upon to get the community, parents and teachers involved in decision making to maximize educational opportunities for our students. Come to a meeting and meet our incredible GO Team, comprised of GHES parents and teachers advocating for our school! Meeting times are announced on the school calendar.

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. We encourage all parents to sign up to volunteer via our **Sign Up Genius** database, a convenient online tool to help organize volunteers and events. Please send an email to signupgenius@gardenhillselementary.org to get on the list! You will receive emails inviting you to help when your schedule allows. Volunteering is a great way to meet other parents and our wonderful teachers!

CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS/ROOM PARENTS: Volunteering in the classroom is encouraged and welcomed at Garden Hills! Contact your child's teacher for their needs. Many teachers now work with classroom-based apps so you can communicate easily with them regarding needs or volunteer opportunities.

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, volunteer opportunities, links to forms, and time-sensitive messages. Please go to bit.ly/GardenHillsGab 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 or communications@gardenhillselementary.org**.
- **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 at the bottom of on our homepage at www.gardenhillselementary.org.
- **DIRECTORY:** GHES has an online Directory where parents can access teacher email addresses and find contact information or their classmates. You'll receive a link to add yourself/edit your information in the first weeks of school.
- **CONTACTING YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:** Visit www.gardenhillselementary.org and select **Faculty** under the **About Us** tab.

Brown Bag Lunch

- **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 and locations of these events.

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.

School Office: 404.802.7800 FAX: 404.802.9375
285 Sheridan Drive, NE
Atlanta, GA 30305

We're on Facebook, and join us on Twitter @apsgardenhills