



Atholton High School

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August 5, 2025

Dear Atholton Families,

Welcome back to another great year at Atholton High! For those of you who are new to the school—welcome to Raider Nation! It's been a short but busy summer. As I shared with staff, I recently watched the Bob Dylan biopic, *A Complete Unknown*, on a plane ride to Texas, so the song in my head is "The Times They are a-Changin'." Our front office is a-changin' with the soon to be completed vestibule project you may have seen driving by the school. Our staff is a-changin' with the addition of more than 28 new staff members this August. And our student body is a-changin' with more than 400 9th graders (and new students in grades 10-12) joining Raider Nation this Fall. Change is always a constant in our business, but there are a lot of rituals and routines that stay the same from year to year. With the start of the school year only a few weeks away, here's some essential info to help you plan for this coming year (I'm sure you'll see a few things that give you that familiar "Back to School" feeling):

Expectations

We will be reviewing student expectations the first few weeks of school and reinforcing this message with some resources that we will include in our school newsletter. For now, I suggest that you familiarize yourself with the HCPSS Student Code of Conduct which can be found at:

<https://www.hcpss.org/about-us/student-code-of-conduct/>.

Some of the expectations on the webpage I want to highlight include:

- Attend and engage in all learning experiences.
- Give your best effort and persist in your work.
- Ask questions and actively seek assistance from teachers and other school staff when you need support.
- Recognize how actions affect other students and school staff and, if harm occurs, that there is an opportunity to restore relationships.
- Avoid participating in any behavior or activity that intentionally or unintentionally causes harm to yourself or others.

We want every student to be successful and, as I share with students, they have grown up learning our school rules and regulations; they know right from wrong—it's about making the decision to do the right thing. Some "non-negotiables" we will be emphasizing here from day 1 that we appreciate you also emphasizing at home are:

- Get to school and class on time.
- Stay in class. Don't wander.
- Your cell phone is more of a distraction than a resource. Manage it appropriately. More on that later.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Listen to staff if they ask you to stop or provide your name.
- Use school-appropriate language.

Personal Technology Devices

HCPSS is continuing the policy change implemented in March 2025 that prohibited personal technology devices during the school day. With the exception of students with IEP/504 accommodations for headphones and/or cell phone use, personal electronic devices (mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, personal computers, wearable technology, video recorders or other devices equipped with microphones, speakers and/or cameras) must be away and silent from 7:50am-2:35pm. Teachers may allow the use of personal tablets or laptops for instructional activities.

- Violations will result in the following actions:
 - 1st Offense – An administrator/security assistant will pick up device or escort student to the main office if the student refuses to hand in the device, student may retrieve the device at the end of the school day
 - 2nd Offense – Same as first offense; however, a parent/guardian must pick up the device
 - Subsequent Offenses- administrators will work with the student/family to develop a plan to address consistent violations including check-in/check-out with an administrator.
- NOTE- Students who refuse to turn over their devices will be brought to the office and an administrator will call the student's parent/guardian. If students still refuse to turn over their device(s), they will be assigned to in-school intervention.

Communication

With so much going on at the school, we take advantage of multiple communication tools to help you stay informed of everything going on here at Atholton. Be sure to check out the online resources below in the weeks to come and throughout the year:

1. School Messenger- Families **do not have to sign up for email** messages from Atholton. All parents are automatically subscribed to the school based on your student's enrollment information. If you don't receive the school and/or county newsletters, you need to update your information in the Family File. See below under "Emergency Contact Information" for instructions on how to do that.
2. Websites- The school's website is <https://ahs.hcpss.org/>. At the bottom of the web page under "Essential Applications and Resources," you'll find the links for the PTSA website and websites for our various Boosters organizations. Please check out these pages and consider joining these organizations and supporting your student and ALL the students at Atholton High!

Student Chromebooks

HCPSS is a 1:1 school system. All students are provided with a Chromebook and are expected to bring it to school each day. Students may not need to use it every period, every day, but should charge their device at home each night and have it with them. Most students still have their devices from last year. Those students who did not receive a Chromebook last year (new to HCPSS) may pick up their Chromebooks from the media center on the day of the new student orientation (August 21st). Students unable to pick up devices then can get them the first week of school.

Updating Schedules

Although there was a temporary glitch in the system this past weekend, courses for the 2025-2026 school year will be available to view in Synergy August 6th. The actual class schedule with teacher names and periods will be available to view starting August 20th. Don't be alarmed if you see "Vacancy" for the teacher name. We have all our teaching positions filled, but late hires may not have their names in Synergy when you first log on. There may still be some minor changes happening this next week as we balance some classes that have changed due to HCC

enrollment and late registrations. Please refer to the information on the schedule regarding the procedure, dates, and times for making a schedule change.

NOTE: At this time, schedule changes will be made for the following reasons only:

1. You are missing a class in your schedule.
2. You passed a class in summer school and need to update your schedule.
3. You need a class to graduate and it is not scheduled.
3. You need to drop a class for release time, student aide, or dual enrollment.

Beginning September 2nd, schedule changes will be permitted on a case by case basis. We do not make course changes for lunch shift preference or teacher preference.

Emergency Contact Information-Please Do This NOW!!!

"Family File" is where we collect our Emergency Contact information. When you log in through **HCPSS Connect**, there will be a link directing you to the Family File section. **Family File** is where parents will find all of the information historically located on the Emergency Procedure Cards. Data from last year will be present when you log in for the first time. Parents who do not have or have forgotten their log on credentials can request assistance using the help link in the HCPSS Connect page. [This website](#) has helpful information on navigating Family File. Just a reminder: **YOU MUST COMPLETE/CONFIRM YOUR INFO IN FAMILY FILE EACH YEAR.**

Traveling to School Reminders

Here are some key points of information regarding bus transportation, walking, and drop off/pick up procedures for Atholton HS:

- Bus stop information for the 2025-2026 school year will be available the week before school begins and can be accessed online via the Bus Stop Locator or HCPSS Connect Synergy under *More Options* and then *Homeroom / Transportation / POS*.
- If your child will be walking or riding their bike to school, take time now to familiarize your child with their route to and from school. If appropriate, map out and walk the route between your home and school to ensure all roads, sidewalks and pathways are familiar for your child. If you encounter any issues regarding safety as you walk these routes with your student, please contact the [HCPSS Office of Student Transportation](#)
- Student drivers **MUST** have a valid parking permit for the 2025-2026 school year. The school website includes information about obtaining a parking permit. Students should park in white spaces. Yellow spaces are reserved for staff.
- Drop off and pick up procedures are posted on our [website](#). Please review and follow these directions to ensure a safe and efficient process.

Student Orientation

Atholton staff members will host an orientation session for **new students** on **Thursday, August 21st from 8:30am to 11:30 am**. Incoming 9th graders and any students new to Atholton should report to the auditorium to start the morning. Following a brief welcome session, all students will meet their teachers as they go through their schedules, participate in some team building activities, and end the morning with a treat from administration. Students should bring a printout of their schedule or pick up a copy in the front lobby when checking-in. Please note that freshmen will be taking their yearbook picture this morning and receiving their school ID on-site. Any student who doesn't attend the orientation will have an opportunity to take pictures when the 10th and 11th graders are photographed on August 27th and 28th.. During the orientation, families will have a chance to meet administration and other key staff, learn about parent organizations at Atholton, take a building tour, and participate in a Q & A.

There will be a Raider Nation Community “Block Party” in the stadium following the orientation. Food trucks, music, fun and games, and a chance to mix and mingle with Atholton students, staff, and families. Check out the flyer at the end of this letter.

Back to School Night **Thursday, August 21, 2025 Program begins at 6:00pm**

The evening begins with a welcome session at 6pm in the auditorium with Atholton Administration. You’ll have a chance to meet AHS administration, get information about how to get involved with our different parent organizations, and have your questions answered. This session is not required, but attendance is encouraged, especially if you are new to the school. The schedule can be found at the end of this letter.

Families should report to their child’s first period class at 7pm. You’ll have a chance to go through your child’s schedule and meet their teachers. In addition, our parent organizations will be here to welcome you to Raider Nation. Bring your wallets and purses for membership and spirit wear! Parking can be an issue at Back-To-School night so carpool if you can, arrive early, and be prepared to walk a ways if the lots are full. If your student is enrolled in a class at the Applications Research Laboratory (ARL), please note that their Back to School Night is scheduled for September 11th from 6:30-7:30 PM.

First Day Requirements

School begins for students on Monday August 25, at 7:50 a.m. Bell schedules with our start times can be found at the end of this letter. Arrive early by car! Traffic jams occur daily in the morning. **Please follow the drop-off procedures posted on the website.** If you ride your bike, please secure it in one of the racks. Students will report to their first period classes. Any student without a printed schedule will be directed to their 1st period class where they will pick up a copy. Form distribution and collection will take place through students’ second period classes (AM ARL students will report to the cafeteria upon return). There are no supply lists for high schools since material requirements vary by course load; therefore, all teachers will share what school supplies students will need for their specific class.

School Pictures/Student ID Cards

Students receive an ID card when they take school pictures. Seniors have been taking portraits this summer, freshmen will take pictures at the new student orientation, and sophomores/juniors will take pictures through English classes on Wednesday 8/27 and Thursday 8/28.

Students need to carry their ID cards with them at all times. The barcodes on the ID cards are used for late check-in at the attendance kiosks, entry to dances, and verifying identity when needed. The attendance kiosk check-in procedure will begin on September 2nd to ensure all students have a chance to get their ID cards.

Parking Permits

All students who wish to park on school property will need to submit the parking permit application, safe driving contract, copies of driver’s license and vehicle registration along with the \$15 fee. Details can also be found on the AHS website.

- [Parking Permit Application](#)
- [OSP Online Payment System](#)

Lockers

Students will receive lockers the second week of school. Not all students want lockers, so those who do will be able to request during lunch shifts one will be assigned through the 3rd period class. All students will receive a locker, but we recognize that many students may choose not to use it. That is fine. Thanks for your patience waiting until the second week of school.

Important Dates to Remember

August 13-15	Fall Sports Tryouts
August 21	New Student Orientation (8:30am)
August 21	Back to School Night (6pm)
August 25	First Day of School for Students
August 27 & 28	Sophomore and Junior Pictures
September 1	Labor Day - Schools and Offices Closed
September 17	11:35am Dismissal
September 23	Rosh Hashanah- Schools & Offices Closed
October 2	Yom Kippur-Schools and Offices Closed
October 6-10	Homecoming Week
October 10	Homecoming Pep Rally
October 11	Homecoming Breakfast, Parade, Football Game, & Dance (Times TBA)
October 15	PSAT Day
October 17	Professional Work Day-Schools Closed for Students
October 20	Diwali- Schools & Offices Closed
October 31	End of First Marking Period- 11:35am Dismissal

For the complete HCPSS calendar, go to <https://www.hcpss.org/calendar/>. If you are looking just for Atholton HS events, you can check out the school calendar at <https://ahs.hcpss.org/calendar>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming year, please don't hesitate to call your child's counselor or administrator. We are happy to help make your child's school year as successful as possible. The 2025-2026 school year is going to be great! Go Raiders!

Sincerely,



Nick Novak
Principal

Atholton High School Bell Schedules 2025-2026

Daily Schedule	
7:50-8:45 AM	Period 1
8:50-9:40 AM	Period 2
9:45-10:40 AM	Period 3
10:45 AM-12:45 PM	Period 4
10:45-11:15 AM	A Lunch
11:15-11:45 AM	B Lunch
11:45 AM-12:15 PM	C Lunch
12:15-12:45 PM	D Lunch
12:50-1:40 PM	Period 5
1:45-2:35 PM	Period 6

Raider Time Schedule (Wednesday)	
7:50-8:35 AM	Period 1
8:40-9:25 AM	Period 2
9:25-9:55 AM	Flextime
10:00-10:50 AM	Period 3
10:55 AM-12:55 PM	Period 4
10:55-11:25 AM	A Lunch
11:25 AM-11:55 PM	B Lunch
11:55-12:25 PM	C Lunch
12:25-12:55 PM	D Lunch
1:00-1:45 PM	Period 5
1:50-2:35 PM	Period 6

3-Hour Early Dismissal	
7:50-8:20 AM	Period 1
8:25-8:55 AM	Period 2
9:00-9:35 AM	Period 3
9:40-10:10 AM	Period 4
10:15-10:45 AM	Period 5
10:50-11:20 AM	Period 6
11:20-11:35 AM	Break

2-Hour Delayed Opening	
9:50-10:20 AM	Period 1
10:25-10:55 AM	Period 2
11:00-11:30 AM	Period 3
11:35 AM-1:35 PM	Period 4
11:35 AM-12:05 PM	A Lunch
12:05-12:35 PM	B Lunch
12:35-1:05 PM	C Lunch
1:05-1:35 PM	D Lunch
1:40-2:05 PM	Period 5
2:10-2:35 PM	Period 6

BTSN Schedule-August 21, 2025

6:00-6:45	Opening Session • <i>Principal Novak & AHS Administration</i> • <i>Parent organizations</i> • <i>Q & A w/Mr. Novak</i>
6:45-7:00	Transition to 1st Period (Check out parent group tables)
7:00-7:07	1st period
7:07-7:12	Pass Time
7:12-7:19	2nd period
7:19-7:24	Pass Time
7:24-7:31	3rd period
7:31-7:36	Pass Time
7:36-7:43	4A period
7:43-7:48	Pass Time
7:48-7:55	4B period
7:55-8:02	Pass Time
8:02-8:09	5th period
8:09-8:16	Pass Time
8:16-8:23	6th period

NOTE- ARL classes will be directed to the cafeteria. HCC classes can stop in at the media center.

Atholton High

AUGUST
21ST

BAG
TO K
SCHOOL

11:30
-1:00

BLOCK PARTY

ENTERTAINMENT, PTSA, BOOSTERS,
COMMUNITY RESOURCES, SCHOOL
SUPPLIES, FUN GAMES, FOOD
TRUCKS AND MUCH MORE



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For questions or to donate contact:

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