



January 30, 2020

Dear Achievement Prep and AppleTree@Achievement Prep families:

We appreciate the trust you have in Achievement Prep to provide the best education to your children. As you know, we take our mission to prepare students to excel as high-achieving scholars and leaders in high school, college and beyond very seriously. We are committed to developing and fostering strong character in them so that they, too, can be change agents in a world often set up against them.

You have vested in us the privilege of educating your scholars and we hold the privilege with the highest regard. We expect the best of ourselves, and we have faced some severe challenges in achieving our mission for our middle school scholars. We have not kept our promise to our middle school families and our middle school is not the school your scholars deserve.

What matters to us most is our ability to offer you and the Ward 8 community an excellent education where scholars grow academically and socially. Right now, Achievement Prep middle school campus is not offering that. Therefore, after much deliberation, our Board of Trustees made the very difficult decision last night to close our Wahler Place Middle School campus at the end of the current school year. For those of you who attended the open meeting you know this decision was not entered in to lightly.

Because our scholars matter most and we are determined to ensure our scholars are properly educated at the level they deserve, we have proposed a plan that will ensure your scholar has a seat at a higher performing school. Simultaneously the proposed plan will allow Achievement Prep to refocus its efforts and be the network that not only honors its commitment to the community, but thrives and serves as a proof point of what is possible in SE DC from prek3 through 8th grade.

What this means for our current 3rd through 7th grade families:

- Upon approval from the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB), we will enter into a partnership with Friendship Public Charter School (FPCS). FPCS will be the new middle school for currently enrolled middle school scholars. For the next school year (2020-21), FPCS will operate a middle school campus at our Wahler Place Middle School location, and all 3rd to 7th grade scholars will have a guaranteed seat at that FPCS campus. So if you decide to stay at Wahler Place, the only difference is the scholars will be students of FPCS instead of Achievement Prep. This means interested families **will not** have to complete a My School DC lottery application. Starting in August 2021, the scholars will attend school at the newly constructed Friendship SE Middle School on Milwaukee Avenue SE.
- Further, PCSB Enrollment Specialists will work with current middle school scholars and their families who desire an alternative to the FPCS campus at Wahler Place. We will also hold a school fair for families interested in learning about other middle school options. Our operations team will work directly with families who need support determining next steps should you not want to remain at the FPCS campus at Wahler Place.
- Achievement Prep will petition the PCSB to reconfigure the current elementary campus to serve grades prek3 -8 so that eventually we can slowly restart our middle school campus out of an even stronger foundation. We have made great gains at the elementary campus with your support and we expect that to continue.



For scholars currently enrolled in grades preK 3 through 2nd:

- Your campus will remain open and thriving. You will still be attending Achievement Prep Wahler Place Elementary Campus with a strengthened elementary school.

This proposed reconfiguration of the Achievement Prep network and acquisition by FPCS was approved last night by the Achievement Prep Board of Trustees at a public board meeting and we will go before the DC PCSB in February for their approval. We will share the date of this meeting with you and hope you will attend. We have put a lot of thought into this plan, with a focus on what is best for our scholars, their families and the community.

While we know that these changes will impact everyone in different ways, they are the result of the need to secure the future of Achievement Prep and the positive impact we have on scholars' lives and our city for years to come. We have always been and remain committed to serving as a proof point for what's possible. Our honor is serving our community. We look forward to that privilege continuing and being strengthened by you - our families.

We appreciate your loyalty and trust in us over the years. You have been ride or die Achievement Prep. And, we respect scholars for their determination and commitment to defy the odds. You are why we do this work. We will never settle for less than greatness for our scholars. We must all work together over the next few months to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. We will hold a series of meetings next week to answer your questions. And, please feel free to contact us with questions or feedback at info@apreacademy.org.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason E. Andread".

Jason Andread
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shantelle Wright".

Shantelle Wright
Founder and CEO