



45 Day Check-in & Preparing for Budget Development

GO Team Business Meeting #3
November 18, 2024

Agenda

Electing Student Representative

GO Team Office Presentation

Graduation Rate

Review of Strategic Plan and priorities progress

Strategic Plan Updates

Preparing for the Budget Development

Rank Strategic Priorities

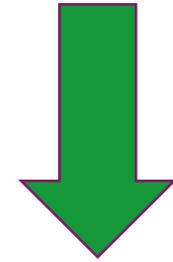
Cluster Advisory Update

Principal's Report



Timeline for GO Teams

You are **HERE**



1

Fall 2021

GO Team Developed
2021-2025 Strategic Plan

2

Summer 2024

School Leadership
completed Needs
Assessment and defined
overarching needs for
SY24-24

3

August 2024

School Leadership
completed 2024-2024
Continuous Improvement
Plan

4

Sept. – Dec. 2024

Utilizing current data, the
GO Team will review &
possibly update the
school strategic priorities
and plan

5

Before Winter Break

GO Team will take action
(vote) on the school's
strategic plan and vote
on the ranked strategic
plan priorities for
SY25-26 budget
discussions.



Data Discussion



GRADUATION RATE

| | Score | Difference from 2023 Grad Rate |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Overall Graduation Rate | 92.6 | +2.7 |
| 4- Year Graduation Rate | 92.78% | +1.52 |
| 5- Year Graduation Rate | 92.33% | +5.15 |



GRAD RATE PERFORMANCE FLAGS

*4 Year Grade Rate

| | RATE | TARGET | FLAG |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------|---|
| ALL STUDENTS | 92.78% | 90.00% |  |
| AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE | Too Few Students | N/A | |
| ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER | Too Few Students | N/A | |
| BLACK | 85.83% | 84.79% |  |
| HISPANIC | 93.48% | 90.00% |  |
| MULTI-RACIAL | 86.67% | 90.00% |  |
| WHITE | 97.28% | 90.00% |  |
| ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED | 89.29% | 85.45% |  |
| ENGLISH LEARNERS | 86.67% | N/A | |
| STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY | 82.05% | 77.48% |  |

GRAD RATE PERFORMANCE FLAGS

*5 Year Grade Rate

| | RATE | TARGET | FLAG |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------|---|
| ALL STUDENTS | 92.33% | 90.00% |  |
| AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE | Too Few Students | N/A | |
| ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER | Too Few Students | N/A | |
| BLACK | 85.91% | 77.74% |  |
| HISPANIC | 91.43% | 90.00% |  |
| MULTI-RACIAL | 100.00% | 90.00% |  |
| WHITE | 95.94% | 90.00% |  |
| ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED | 87.50% | 75.63% |  |
| ENGLISH LEARNERS | Too Few Students | N/A | |
| STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY | 80.56% | 79.65% |  |

Strategic Plan Updates



Mission

Through a continuing culture of equity, trust, and collaboration, every student will graduate ready for college, career, and life with a dedication to community involvement and service.



Vision

An inclusive, culturally sustainable school community where educators inspire, families engage, and students are passionate about learning and preparing for their rapidly changing world.

SMART Goals

The percentage of students who graduated in 4 years will increase from 89.8% to 93% in June 2025

The percentage of students in grades 9-12 attending school will increase from 86% to 90% according to the districts ADA (from APSgraphs)

Special Education Students in grades 9-12 will increase by 3% on the 2025-2026 GA EOC Milestones in order to begin closing the achievement gap between special education and other subgroups

Implement STEAM signature programming school-wide through the implementation of PBL, monthly professional learning for teachers, and opportunities for students to engage in STEAM themed extracurricular activities by May 2026.

APS Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

Fostering Academic Excellence for All
Data
Curriculum & Instruction
Signature Program

School Strategic Priorities

1. Offer a rigorous and culturally sustainable curriculum that prepares students for college, career, and civic engagement
2. Ensure a safe and effective learning environment that encourages student engagement and quality work
3. Use existing and appropriate tools to measure, analyze, and communicate student progress

School Strategies

- 1A. The master schedule includes over twenty AP classes and a significant offering of honors classes. Various student data is used to identify potential enrollees in these higher level courses, and students are encouraged to reach beyond their comfort zones for a reasonable challenge. Course additions include: Women’s Literature, African American Studies, Forensic Science, Advanced Financial Algebra, Physical Science & Music Technology
- 1B. We provide opportunities for students to take college courses through the Dual Enrollment Program at a variety of academic institutions in Georgia.
- 1C. CTAE programs will continue the process of achieving industry certification.
- 2A. Administrators will support teachers’ efforts to minimize classroom disruptions and protect instructional time.
- 2B. Continue to build a master schedule that incorporates protected time for PLC’s.
- 2C: Proactive process in place to prevent student failure (Edgenuity, GradU, Knight School, Academic Support Coach, Saturday School, etc.).
- 3A. All content areas will continue to use frequent common formative assessments to gauge student mastery and prescribe individualized remediation.
- 3B. Further our work regarding teacher consistency: developing learning targets, identifying focus standards, defining student success criteria, creating/modifying common assessments, and specifying remediation activities.
- 3C. All teachers keep Infinite Campus up to date utilizing equitable grading practices; Continue use of the Schoology, learning management system, as a clear, current, and a key tool for students and parents to support their academic success.

Building a Culture of Student Support
Whole Child &
Intervention Personalized
Learning

4. Create a welcoming, inclusive, and responsive school culture embracing the diverse communities that comprise the Midtown family.
5. Build teacher and counselor knowledge, understanding, and skills to meet the diverse social and academic needs of students.

- 4A. Continue use of Chris 180, an on site mental health services provider. Ernst and Young partnership that builds a cohort of students who will be supported and nurtured from their junior year of high school through their first year of college. We have added a 5th counselor and 2nd social worker in response to student and families needs. Social workers will work to re-establish positive relationships with cluster transitional housing facilities.
- 4B. Parent conferences will be held 2 Tuesday’s a month using a systematic format that provides access and equity to all families to engage directly with their children’s teachers.
- 4C. Offer a broad selection of clubs and organizations that appeal to the wide range of interests of our diverse student body.
- 4D. Build a robust co-teaching program through the curriculum through the additional support of a consultant who will provide professional learning, classroom observations, and teacher coaching. Offer ongoing parent learning sessions focused on issues pertaining to students with disabilities, the SST/504 process and supports, etc., to equip our students and their families with skills to successful here and beyond.
- 4E. Increased student supports that include graduation coach, bilingual engagement specialist, student support clerk and a therapy dog.
- 5A. Provide teachers the professional learning necessary to ensure the student master of 21st Century Skills.
- 5B. Work with “Empower Academic Coaching” to provide Midtown faculty professional learning on enhancing executive functioning skills in students to support their success in post graduation settings,

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Implement STEAM signature programming school-wide through the implementation of PBL, monthly professional learning for teachers, and opportunities for students to engage in STEAM themed extracurricular activities by May 2026.

APS Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

Equipping & Empowering Leaders & Staff

Strategic Staff Support
Equitable Resource Allocation

School Strategic Priorities

- 6. Value teacher time by ensuring sustainable workload and offsetting new responsibilities with reduced tasks or increased compensation when possible
- 7. Directly solicit and act on teacher input regarding course selection, professional development, instructional resources, communication, and collegiality.
- 8. Provide a mechanism for teachers to increase leadership and mitigate burnout

School Strategies

- 6A. Administrative team and SELT will conduct frequent observations and provide frequent feedback to all teachers. Teachers will have opportunities to share exemplary strategies during PLC and professional learning.
- 6B. Continue to build the team by incorporating SEL moments among the staff (recognizing professional and personal achievements, faculty pot lucks, etc.)
- 7A. Provide the infrastructure and staffing necessary to address STEAM across the curriculum.
- 7B. Continue one to one chromebook initiative.
- 7C. Provide Instructional Materials and manipulatives to enhance the classroom environment.
- 7D: Makerspace to assist with STEAM Integration
- 7E. Implement Personal Electronic Device (PED) Free initiative based on teacher feedback to decrease the distractions in the classroom setting
- 8A. Increase the number of teachers with credentials and certifications for advanced learning (e.g. AP, Gifted)

Creating a System of School Support

Strategic Staff Support
Equitable Resource Allocation

- 9. Provide necessary and salient resources to enhance teaching and learning.
- 10. Ensure parents/ guardians of all Midtown students feel welcomed and have opportunities to engage with the school and strengthen their ability to support their students.
- 11. Increase the diversity of parents engaging in school functions

- 9A. Continue to provide subject specific professional memberships for teachers.
- 10A. Engage with parents to create opportunities for them to volunteer on campus.
- 11B. Continue to utilize parents and local businesses to serve on the CTAE advisory board and engage in mock interviews and other school activities.
- 11C. Create parent surveys in order to identify skills and strengths within our parent group. Create opportunities for parents to teach or share their skills with our community.
- 11D. Continue to utilize parents to provide opportunities for Gifted internship classes

Updates to the Strategic Plan

Changes to SMART Goals:

1. Maintain 80% participation rate on the school climate survey and use this data to implement 3 school wide improvements by August 2025.
2. Provide a minimum of 10 opportunities per semester for parents to engage and participate in the school community by May 2025.

Changes to School Strategies:

1. Offering Advanced Financial Algebra and Physical Science in the master schedule
2. Provide GradU, Knight School, & Academic Support School to be proactive in decreasing failures in classes
3. Added 5th Counselor and 2nd Social Worker to provide student support services
4. Provide Family Conferences 2 Tuesdays a month
5. Provide professional learning and coaching for co-teaching model
6. Hired consultant to train staff on teaching executive functioning skills during instructional time

Updates to the Strategic Plan

Changes to School Strategies:

1. Implement PED Free initiative based on teacher feedback to decrease the distraction in the classroom
2. Continue to utilize parents to offer opportunities for Gifted internship opportunities

Proposed Changes to SMART Goals for 2025-2026:

1. The percentage of students who graduated in 4 years will increase from 92.6% to 93.6% in June 2026
2. The percentage of students in grades 9-12 attending school will increase from 93% to 94% according to the districts ADA by May 2026 (from APSgraphs)
3. Special Education Students in grades 9-12 will increase by 3% on the 2025-2026 GA EOC Milestones in order to begin closing the achievement gap between special education and other subgroups
4. Implement STEAM signature programming school-wide through the implementation of 1 PBL in each course per semester, monthly professional learning for teachers, and opportunities for students to engage in STEAM themed extracurricular activities by May 2026.

Action on the Updated Strategic Plan

The GO Team needs to **TAKE ACTION (vote)** on its updated Strategic Plan. After the motion and a second, the GO Team may have additional discussion. Once discussion is concluded, the GO Team will vote.

Preparing for Budget Development



Discussion

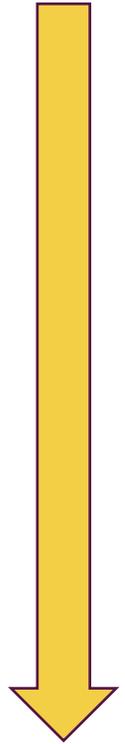
Strategic Plan Priority Ranking

In preparation for the 2025-2026 Budget Development (January–March 2025), the GO Team needs to rank its Strategic Plan Priorities. Use the next slide to capture the priority ranking.

Strategic Plan Priority Ranking

Insert the school's priorities from Higher to Lower

Higher

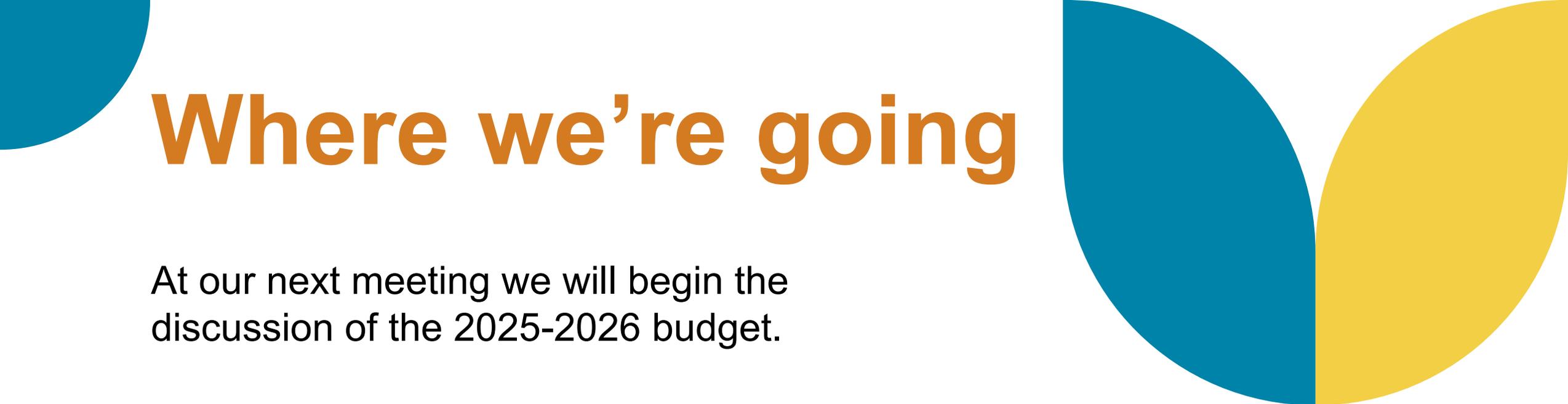


Lower

- | | |
|-----|----|
| 1. | 1 |
| 2. | 2 |
| 3. | 4 |
| 4. | 3 |
| 5. | 10 |
| 6. | 7 |
| 7. | 5 |
| 8. | 6 |
| 9. | 11 |
| 10. | 9 |
| 11. | 8 |

Action on the Strategic Plan Priorities

The GO Team needs to **TAKE ACTION (vote)** on its ranked Strategic Plan Priorities. After the motion and a second, the GO Team may have additional discussion. Once discussion is concluded, the GO Team will vote.



Where we're going

At our next meeting we will begin the discussion of the 2025-2026 budget.

Let me or the Chair know of any additional information you need for our future discussion.

Principal's Report

Survey to Club/Activity Sponsors

- Sent survey to all club/activity sponsors on 11/5/2024 asking about device use in their clubs/activities.
- Teachers were asked about all devices (cell phones, chromebooks, personal laptops and tablets) and were given open space to provide context for challenges.
- Teachers were asked to comment on whether they would want an option to have their students surrender their laptops at the start of the day and so that they could use them for the club at the end of the day.

Results

- 27 sponsors responded across a range of clubs and activities.
- Most saw no need for students to have devices other than their phones or chromebooks (both of which students have access to at 3:30).
- Some expressed concern that we *not* offer another option because it could impact the consistency of our process overall if we start making exceptions.
- Follow-up emails were sent to 1) any sponsor who had questions or 2) and sponsor whose answers needed clarification.
- **One sponsor** responded that it would definitely benefit their students to have their personal laptops and that they would like the surrender option for their students.
- **Two other sponsors** responded that they would *not* want to offer the surrender option in general but might want to offer it in very specific circumstances (like the run-up to a competition or on the eve of a big production).
- All three of these organizations were emailed a clear process (if they choose to utilize it) by which their students can surrender their devices starting Monday, November 18.

Further follow-up

- Myself and other staff members have been pursuing with APS since August the issue of students having access to their personal emails, which prior to this year, was a problem that students were circumventing by using their phones or personal laptops.
- After making our way through contacts in the IT department, we sent a follow-up to Erica Long on 11/13 detailing the issues that this poses for students and requesting help to resolve the matter.



OCTOBER | NOVEMBER 2024 STEAM UPDATE



- The Physical Science Classes created bath balls. Many students incorporated fragrances for relaxation. Digital Design will be assisting with branding.
- Health & 9th Grade ELA classes have been including the STEAM Outdoor Classroom. Tulips & daffodils are on the way!
- The Photography & Journalism students visited the Kennesaw State University Food Forest. They will be creating PSAs about Food Insecurity.
- PreCalculus Students visited Georgia State University to participate in an event designed to create awareness and recruitment for careers in actuary science.
- ALL Students enrolled in Geometry visited the High Museum over the span of three days to complete a Selfie-ometry Activity, which required them to observe and identify terms of the course within the Art.
- Human Anatomy, Marketing, and Art have partnered up in a project titled: Inked In, The Science Beneath Tattoos and Skin Health. Tattoo artist provided a presentation to the students about the process, tools, hygiene experiences and career advice. The Art students began with creating drawing of skin layers, but there is more to come.
- Girls from the Computer Science, & Financial Technology Course participated in the State Farm Tech Day. They were exposed to future careers and job opportunities in Computer Science & Technology.
- 9th ELA had a SLAM Poetry Coffee House event with professional poets from the Alliance Theatre and GaTech University. Context from personal life experiences and the book Long Way Down served as inspiration for the students' poems.
- STEAM Teens volunteered to provide support at the Mary Lin STEAM Night Event.
- Midtown Staff received Common STEAM Language and Art Integration as we continue to move toward GaDOE Certification Requirements.

Volunteers are needed to further engage community partners to support PBL experiences. The SignUp is located in the Knightly News

Mark your Calendars!

- **November 25-29: School is Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**
- **November 21: Principal's Coffee, 9AM on zoom**
- **November 21: Introduction to Midtown HS for RISING 9th grade families, 6:30PM in the Theater**
- **December 17-20: Final Exams (half days for students)**

Thank you