



Lifelong learning . . . .

# Hapeville Charter Schools

**Hapeville Charter Middle School**  
6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Campus  
3535 South Fulton Avenue  
Hapeville, GA 30354  
404-767-7730

**Hapeville Charter Middle School**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy  
6045 Buffington Road  
College Park, GA 30349  
404-767-7730

**Hapeville Charter Career Academy**  
6045 Buffington Road – Building A  
College Park, GA 30349  
404-766-0101

[www.hapevillems.org](http://www.hapevillems.org)

[www.hapevillecharter.org](http://www.hapevillecharter.org)

---

August 21, 2013

Dear Hapeville Charter Parents and Guardians,

In light of the tragic event that took place in Dekalb County yesterday, we feel it is important to remind everyone that Hapeville Charter School has crisis plans that assist us in responding to emergency situations. The safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance.

We encourage parents to talk with their children and validate their feelings with regard to current events. Be open to opportunities to talk with your children and allow them to be honest about their feelings related to violence. Emphasize the positive things that a child/family/school can do to be safe. Be conscious of media exposure and what they say about the event and limit television viewing. Developmentally inappropriate information can cause anxiety or confusion, particularly in young children. Adults also need to be mindful of the content of conversations that they have with each other in front of children, even teenagers, and limit their exposure to vengeful, hateful, and angry comments that might be misunderstood.

To ensure safety on each of the Hapeville Charter campuses we:

- monitor school guests (report to main office, sign in, wear badges, report unfamiliar people to school office.)
- maintain crisis plans in the event of emergencies and conduct preparedness training (build level teams; review plans and simulation drills regularly; train teachers and other staff how to respond to crisis.)
- create a safe, supportive school climate that provides school-wide behavioral expectations, positive interventions and supports, psychological and counseling services, and violence prevention programs (bully-proofing, social skills development, peer conflict mediation.)
- promote compliance with school rules and report potential problems to school officials.
- practice school preparedness drills (intruder alerts, weather and fire.)

It is important to know that one of the best ways for students to recover from the impact of a tragedy is to maintain their normal routines. Normal routines help establish a sense of calm and predictability, which is important to maintaining effective learning environments. As your school leaders, we will do our best to lead by example.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your school principal.

Respectfully,

Jannard Rainey, Principal of Hapeville Charter Career Academy

Marcia Lowe, Principal of Hapeville Charter Middle School