



BARNWELL ELEMENTARY

9425 Barnwell Rd Johns Creek, GA 30022 470-254-4960

Fulton
County Schools
Where Students Come First

A Note from the Principal, Takisha Benning February 6, 2025

New Information

I hope this message finds you well and thriving! As we move further into the school year, we want to take a moment to appreciate each of you for your ongoing support and partnership in our school community. Together, we are creating a nurturing environment for our students to learn and grow.

Please remember to read our bi-weekly Principal's Newsletters in addition to the weekly communication from your classroom teacher for updates and important announcements. We're looking forward to a fantastic month of learning and fun together!

Barnwell's Teacher and Professional of the Year!

Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year, Ms. Karla Lazzari and Professional of the Year, Ms. Susan Agerton. This well-deserved honor reflects their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to our students and school community.

We are incredibly proud of you and are grateful for the impact you have on Barnwell. Enjoy this special recognition--you earned it!

Staff Luncheon – Thank you!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful PTO for organizing a fantastic luncheon this week. Your efforts are truly appreciated by our teachers and staff and help to foster a supportive and collaborative school environment.

FCS Schools Will Be Closed February 17th and 18th

Please note, all Fulton County schools will be closed on **Monday, February 17th** and **Tuesday, February 18th**. Please click [here](#) for the FCS 2024-2025 School Calendar.

Barnwell's SGC Needs You!

Barnwell has **two parent/guardian SGC positions** open for election this upcoming school year. If you have a child that will attend Barnwell for at least two consecutive years, you are eligible to run for election.

Our School Governance Council (SGC) plays a critical role in the success of our school. The SGC works with school leadership and the community to help determine the long-term direction of the school, participates in the approval of the school budget, designs innovative solutions to increase academic achievement, and serves as school ambassadors to the local community.

The candidate declaration period is now open and ends Friday, March 28th with elections being held April 16th -April 23rd. If you are interested in running for a position on SGC, visit the district's [Charter System Website](#). Click [here](#) for a candidate guide and/declaration form. For specific information about Barnwell's SGC, feel free to contact me at Benning@fultonschools.org.

Georgia School Climate Student Survey

Students in grades 3rd through 5th will take the student climate survey. The survey, includes 27 questions and should take students approximately 10 minutes to complete. Students are asked about the quality of teaching and learning, the school environment, support for students, and how commonly students in the school face challenges (such as being bullied). Names are not tied to survey answers in any way, and students can skip any question. The is data collected is solely used to help leaders improve our school.

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232(c)(1)(A) gives parents the right to review a copy of the student survey questions. You may review the survey questions at [Georgia School Climate Survey Students 3-5.pdf](#). Opt-out letters will be sent home next week, should a parent wish to do so for their student.

Georgia School Climate Parent Survey

Your voice matters! Help us create a safe, supportive, and thriving environment for our students by participating in the **Georgia School Climate Survey**.

This quick, anonymous survey gathers feedback on our school's learning environment, safety, relationships, and overall climate. Your insights directly influence decisions to improve programs, policies, and culture—and impact school ratings with the State of Georgia.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey by **March 31, 2025**. The survey can be accessed by clicking the link: [Barnwell ES Climate Survey](#)

Please respond as your participation directly impacts our school ratings with the State of Georgia.

Thank you in advance for your partnership in making our school the best it can be!

Media Center Summer Renovation

We are excited to share that our media center will be undergoing extensive renovation this summer! This transformation will provide an enhanced learning environment and updated resources for our students.

As we prepare for this project, please take note of the following important dates:

Friday, February 14th: The last day for book checkout

Tuesday, March 5th: All books should be returned

Although the media center will be preparing for renovations, students will still have access to great resources for books during this time through Sora, Tumblebooks, MackinVIA books, and our awesome classroom libraries.

Spring Individual and Class Pictures – Tuesday, February 25th

Mark your calendars! Spring pictures will take place on **Tuesday, February 25th**. Order forms and flyers were sent home today with your student.

Order now for early Picture Day pricing at mylifetouch.com. You can create an account or login with **Picture Day ID: EVTPJCZJP**.

If you are available to volunteer for Picture Day, please click the link below to sign-up: [Barnwell Picture Day Volunteers](#) .

[Fulton County Schools 2025-2026 Pre-K Lottery Registration](#)

We are excited to announce that **our Pre-K lottery is now open! Registration is open until 11:59 PM, March 5th**. Our school lottery will take place on **Monday, March 24th**.

For additional information on the process and to complete the registration, please click [here](#) for the flyer. Thank you for your interest in our Pre-K program! If you have any questions, please reach out to Ellen Basile (Basile@fultonschools.org).

[Son + One Glow Party – Friday, February 7th](#)

Join us for our **Son + One Glow Party on Friday, February 7th (tomorrow)!** This event promises to be a fun-filled evening for families to come together and enjoy some quality time.

We are pulling out all the tricks with a neon party full of music, dancing, a photo booth, and light refreshments. The fun happens **from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM!** This is a party you don't want to miss. Tickets for the event can be purchased on Membership Toolkit by clicking the link:

<https://barnwellpto.membershiptoolkit.com/store/17200>.

***Tickets will be available at the door. CASH ONLY!**

[Son + One Glow Party Volunteers Needed](#)

PTO is still 🙏 for volunteers to help assist during the event, please [sign up here](#) if you are interested in helping us out!

[All Pro Dad's Breakfast – Friday, February 21st](#)

Friday, February 21st at 6:45 AM, Barnwell dads and students are invited for breakfast in the cafeteria. This is a great opportunity to connect with your student, our school, and discuss topics that help students to build character. *(No child should feel left out - Moms or Guardians are welcome too)*

PLEASE RSVP at allprodadchapters.com/chapters/4353

[Valentine's Day Reminders](#)

As Valentine's Day approaches, it is very tempting to send in treats. Your child's classroom teacher will communicate what the class will be doing for a Valentine's Day exchange if they have not done so already. We are asking that no food be sent in with your child in alignment with the district's request below:

*As we approach Valentine's Day, it is important to ensure that all homemade candy, desserts, baked goods, or other edible items **are not** sold or distributed during school hours. Please know that taking this measure will help us maintain a safe environment for all students with allergies, etc. You can help us protect your student(s) by requesting that they not eat anything given to them by another person, anything that they have not brought from your home, or anything not in its original sealed package without parent permission. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping all our students safe at school!*

Dates to Remember

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Son + One Glow Party	2/7	6:00 PM-8:00 PM	Cafeteria
President's Day	2/17	FCS Schools Closed	----
Professional Development	2/18	No School Students	----
Boy Scout Week	2/19-21		----
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	2/21	6:45 AM-7:30 AM	Cafeteria
PTO Board Meeting	2/21	7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Adm Conf Rm
Spring/Class Pictures	2/25	8:00 AM-2:00 PM	Barnwell
Student of the Month	2/26	7:00 AM-7:30 AM	Cafeteria
Teacher Workday	3/3	No School Students	----
Professional Development	3/4	No School Students	----
Girl Scout Week	3/5-7		----
Humane Society Donation	3/10-14	7:10 AM-7:40 AM	Car/Bus Area
Date w/Daughter Dance	3/14	6:00 PM-8:00 PM	Cafeteria
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	3/21	6:45 AM-7:30 AM	Cafeteria
PTO Board Meeting	3/21	7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Adm Conf Rm
5 th Grade Fiesta	3/21	2:30 PM-4:30 PM	Cafeteria
Staff Appreciation Week	3/24-28	During school day	Barnwell
Student of the Month	03/26	7:00 AM-7:30 AM	Cafeteria

Recurring School and Community News

Traffic, Bus Lane, and Carpool Safety

As you navigate the area around the school, we kindly request that you exercise extra caution. If you are walking your child to school, please cross at the designated crosswalk with the assistance of the JCPD traffic officer. For those dropping students in the carpool lanes (front or side), please be extra vigilant and follow the instructions provided by our staff at those locations. Also, please be mindful of students and parents who may be walking in the parking lot or crossing the crosswalk. Let's keep everyone safe!

Student Pickup/Building Entry

A driver's license or government issued ID is required for all student checkouts and any entry into the building. Please have your ID available to present to the camera when you ring the bell to be buzzed in.

Volunteer Protocol

All Mystery Readers and School Volunteers are required to complete the Volunteer Protocol before coming to school. To initiate the process, please complete the child abuse reporting training and the online registration by clicking [here](#). Use your legal name as it appears on your government identification during registration. The training is self-paced, and your government ID will be required upon your arrival at school.

After completing the training and registration, kindly email Susan Agerton at Agertons@fultonschools.org with your legal name to ensure your application is approved before your visit.

Changes In Transportation

Any changes in dismissal transportation must be submitted to the student's teacher using our [dismissal change form](#) which is available on our school website. If there is a last-minute change in dismissal, please call the front office. Students are only allowed to ride the bus assigned to their home address.

Administrative Team

Throughout the year, I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher with any classroom questions or to our Administrative Team with any school-wide questions:

- Renee Morris Diggelmann, Assistant Principal – Diggelmannr@fultonschools.org
- Alysia Muse, Curriculum Support Teacher - Musea@fultonschools.org
- Chelsea Garcia, School Counselor – GarciaC2@fultonschools.org
- Eden Griffin, Instructional Support Teacher – GriffinE1@fultonschools.org
- Takisha Benning, Principal – Benning@fultonschools.org

Quick Links

[Attendance Options](#)

[Bus Stop Information](#)

[Here Comes the Bus Info](#)

[Dismissal Change Form](#)

[Birthday Celebration Form](#)

Takisha Benning
Principal