



BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EMPOWERED TO LEARN, LEAD, INNOVATE AND SERVE

#Built4Bibb Blast

The Bibb County School District Newsletter

October 2024

BCSD Graduation Rate Exceeds State Average

87.04%

Class of 2024
Graduation Rate

SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR EXCEEDING THE STATE GRAD RATE

BUILT4BIBB
BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bibb County School District maintained a steady high school graduation rate in 2024. Data released by the Georgia Department of Education put the graduation rate for the Class of 2024 at 87.04% compared to 87.07% for the Class of 2023. For the second year in a row, Bibb County exceeded the state average of 85.4%. Most high schools saw continued gains, and 3 of Bibb's 7 high schools secured graduation rates higher than 90% – with Central leading at 96.45%, followed by Rutland at 93.37%, and VIP Academy at 91.55%.

For more, visit: [Bibb Class of 2024 Posts 87 Percent Grad Rate, Beats State Average](#)



Breaking the curve | How Southwest High School in Bibb County is increasing its graduation rate

For Bibb County, their overall graduation rate for 2024 is at 87.04% which is above the state average of 85.4%.

[13wmaz.com](#)



Central High School celebrates highest graduation rates in BCSD

On Friday, Oct. 18, Central High School celebrated its high graduation rates at a pep rally - featuring the esteemed Sugarbear Marching Band and student DJs.Fo



Celebration!

**SWD Graduation Rate has increased
*again!***

**This is the highest Graduation Rate for this
District at 78.76%.**

**The gap between SWDs and all students has
decreased over
4% points!**

**Congratulations and Thanks to All
our staff!**

Graduation Rate for Students with Disabilities Improves

We want to highlight our amazing students with disabilities! Their graduation rate is the highest the district has seen at 78.76%. Congratulations to these students and teachers!

Community Encouraged to Participate in Town Hall

SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION TOWN HALL



WE NEED THE COMMUNITY'S INPUT!

COME OUT TO A
BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL
DISTRICT TOWN HALL
MEETING TO DISCUSS
THE NEEDS OF
STUDENTS AND THE
FUTURE OF
EDUCATION IN
MACON-BIBB.



TOWN HALL MEETING
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CENTER
2003 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
MACON, GA 31204
THURSDAY, NOV. 7 | 6 P.M.



The Bibb County School District is seeking your input on the school consolidation process! Come out to a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. to discuss the needs of students and schools. This meeting will take place at the Professional Learning Center, located at 2003 Riverside Drive. Follow along with information and updates about the District's school consolidation review process at www.bcsdk12.net or [click here](#).

Bibb's Teachers of the Year Celebrated



We had an amazing time at the Bibb County Teacher of the Year Celebration on October 1, 2024, at the Grand Opera House of Macon! Thank you to our sponsors:

Grand Infiniti of Macon
MidSouth Community Federal Credit Union
Griffith Family Foundation
Hutchings College & Career Academy
Andrews, Hammock & Powell
Appling Brothers Co.
Bibb Mount Zion Church
Bibb Retired Educators Association
Christ Episcopal Church
Dozier Law Firm
Dunwoody/Beeland Architects
Fincher's BBQ
K D Epps Enterprises, LLC
Gray Chapel AME Church
Greater Zion Hill Church
ICB Construction Group
Macedonia Church
Optimist Club of Macon
Park Memorial United Methodist Church
Raffield Tire Master
Sheridan Construction
Solomon, Deaton & Buice
Teacher Created Materials



Bruce and Burdell-Hunt Honored as School of the Week



Burdell-Hunt Magnet celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with a festival, feast and fiesta

As Bibb County School's Communication Magnet school, they not only integrate Spanish into the curriculum, but non-English speakers also attend.

13wmaz.com



School of the Week: 100 Black Men starts mentorship program through Boy Scouts of America at Bruce Elementary

100 Black Men is starting a Boy Scout troop at the school to provide more mentorship to students, particularly younger boys.

13wmaz.com

Paying Tribute During National Principals Month

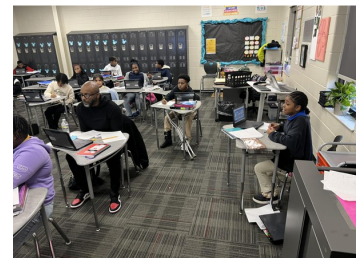
Happy National Principals Month!



October is National Principals Month! Thank you to the amazing principals who lead our schools. Every day, our principals inspire teachers, staff, and students to strive for their best!

Dr. Sims Shadows BCSD Student Advisory Members

[Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims](#) stepped into the shoes of our students, shadowing two of them to gain firsthand knowledge and experience! He visited Ryleigh Thomas at [Applying Middle School](#) and Tylan Tharpe at [Rutland High School Storm Tracker](#). These two students serve on our Student Advisory Board!



Be a #BibbRAKStar



During the month of October, we are encouraging ALL Bibb County students, staff and parents to show Random Acts of Kindness, Snap a Picture of the Act and Post it on Social Media (Facebook, X, Instagram), using [#BibbRAKStar!](https://www.instagram.com/BibbRAKStar/)

Northeast High Art Teacher Making a Difference



A Heart for Macon students: Northeast art teacher, Parker Cloud creator makes a difference - The Macon Melody

Randy Williams is the art teacher at Northeast High School. He's also an artist, the creator of the cartoons Parker Cloud and Friendz.

maconmelody.com

Georgia Tech Educators Visit Central High



Representatives from [Georgia Tech](#) visited Dr. Suneetha Panda's class at [Central High School](#) to teach students about nanotechnology. This STEM field impacts various aspects of our daily lives, including our money, our cell phones and even our cosmetics!

Students Receive IB Pins at Central High School



Congratulations to the [IB at Central High School](#) Class of 2025! Class members were honored during [Central High School](#)'s IB Pinning Ceremony this evening. IB DP and IB CP ([Bibb CTAE](#)) seniors were recognized and presented with their IB pins, a long-standing Central High School tradition.

Fire Prevention Week Poster, Essay Winners Recognized



The following District students were honored for their efforts in the [Macon+Bibb County Macon-Bibb County Fire Department](#) Fire Prevention Week Poster and Essay Contest! We are proud of these students and thankful for the hard work of the individuals who help keep us all safe!

POSTER CONTEST

First Place - Matthew Watson, [Vineville Academy of the Arts](#)

Second Place - Tanish Thumukunta, [Rosa Taylor Elementary School](#)

Third Place - Kailynn Paul, Vineville Academy

Honorable Mention - Brenda Cardona, [Southfield Elementary](#); Adalynn Caughey, [Heard Elementary School HAWKS - Macon, GA](#); Zaina Mokwa, [Burdell-Hunt Elementary Magnet School](#)

ESSAY CONTEST

FIFTH GRADE

First Place - Christina Taylor, Burdell-Hunt

Honorable Mention - Justin Donla, [Springdale Elementary School Macon, GA](#)

EIGHTH GRADE

First Place - Jordyn Evans, [Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School](#)

Second Place - Karen De Leon-Cruz, Miller

Third Place - Adam-Smith Toukem, [Howard Middle School](#)

Honorable Mention - Dianna Hooks, [Ballard Hudson Middle School](#)

HS SENIORS

First Place - Miah Marris, [Rutland High School Storm Tracker](#)

Rutland High Parent Serving as State Representative with GaDOE



Congratulations to Phyllis Wallace, a parent at Rutland High School. Selected by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Ms. Wallace will serve a two-year term (School years 2024-2026) on State Superintendent Richard Woods' Parent Advisory Council (PAC). We know that Ms. Wallace will represent Bibb County School District well! Watch a video with Superintendent Dr. Dan A. Sims and Ms. Wallace here: <https://www.facebook.com/BibbDrSims/videos/1076051100922887>.

Academic Calendars Approved for 25-26 and 26-27



BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

| JULY 2025 | | | | | | | AUGUST 2025 | | | | | | | SEPTEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | July 24-Aug 1 Pre-Planning | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | Aug. 4 First Day of School | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | Sept. 1 Labor Day Holiday | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | Sept. 2 Asynchronous Learning Day | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | Oct. 6-10 Fall Break | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | 21 | Nov. 24-28 Thanksgiving Break | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | Dec. 19 Last Day of Semester | |
| | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | | Dec. 22-Jan. 2 Holiday Break | |
| OCTOBER 2025 | | | | | | | NOVEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | DECEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | Jan. 5 Planning Day (No Students) | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | Jan. 6 First Day of Semester | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | Feb. 16-17 Winter Break & Incentive Weather Makeup Days | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | Feb. 18 Asynchronous Learning Day & School Data Day | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | March 30-April 3 Spring Break | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | May 22 Last Day of School (Half-Day for Students) | |
| | | | | | | 18 | 30 | | | | | | 15 | | | | | | | | May 25 Memorial Day Holiday | |
| JANUARY 2026 | | | | | | | FEBRUARY 2026 | | | | | | | MARCH 2026 | | | | | | | May 26-27 Post-Planning | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | *Asynchronous Learning Days are student virtual learning days that do not require the student and teacher to be online at the same time. Students may complete assignments any time. | |
| | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 18 | 29 | 30 | | | | | 16 | | | | | | | | | |
| APRIL 2026 | | | | | | | MAY 2026 | | | | | | | JUNE 2026 | | | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | | |
| | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | 19 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | 16 | | | | | | | | | |

First Semester: 89 Days | Second Semester: 91 Days
Calendar Approved by Board of Education: 9/19/2024

www.bcsdk12.net

- First / Last Day of Semester
- Holidays
- Teacher Planning Days
- Asynchronous Learning Days



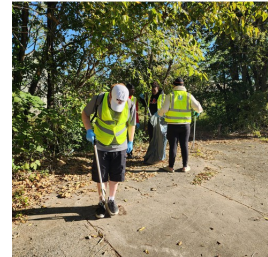
2025-2026

Recently, Board Members approved the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school year academic calendars. To view the calendars, visit: <https://shorturl.at/rRljD>

Community Joins Elementary Neighborhood Clean-ups



Huge thanks to the volunteers who joined us for Community Schools United's Walking School Bus Neighborhood Clean-ups at Burdell-Hunt Magnet School and Williams Elementary School in October! Because of your support, our school neighborhoods are cleaner, and our students will have a safer, easier path to school. Progress in action!



NASA Astronaut Visits Sonny Carter Elementary



Joan Higginbotham, a former NASA astronaut, spoke to students in celebration of the school's 30th anniversary. Higginbotham began working with NASA in 1987 and was selected as an astronaut in 1996. She was part of the 7-member crew of the STS-116 Discovery in December 2006. Sonny Carter Elementary is named after the Macon native who was selected by NASA to be an astronaut in 1985.

Compass Rose Café is Open for Business



November at the Compass Rose Cafe is a busy and exciting time!

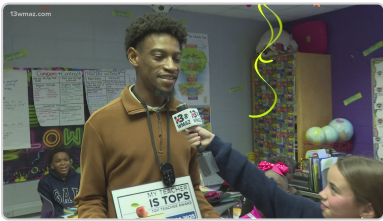
We have a meal kit available this Friday, November 1 - <https://www.compassrosecafe.com/meal-kits>

We have 2 café openings scheduled for November 8 and 15 - <https://www.compassrosecafe.com/cafe>

AND, if customers are interested in buying our smoked collard greens before Thanksgiving Break, we will see them at the register on Nov 21 - \$10 per quart feeds 4-6 people



Hartley Elementary's Hurley Honored with My Teachers is Tops



My Teacher is Tops: James Hurley

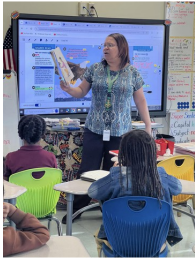
Junior Journalist Blair Plaxico surprised him with the news.

[13wmaz.com](https://www.13wmaz.com)

Bibb Celebrates Annual Read for the Record



Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who read to our students for Read for the Record Day. This years book was "Piper Chen Sings" by Hamilton star Phillipa Soo and Maris Pasquale Doran!



Pathway Students Achieve ServSafe Manager Certification



The first-year students in the [W. S. Hutchings College and Career Academy](#) Culinary Arts Pathway have recently completed the ServSafe Manager Certification. This program includes assessment in a variety of food safety protocols, and it is a milestone in these students preparing themselves for a future career in the food service industry. To recognize these students, a Culinary Toque Ceremony was held. Congratulations on this amazing accomplishment!

Businesses and Teachers Matched in BEP Partnership Program



School staff and community partners gathered for the first Business Education Partnership (BEP) meeting of the school year! This meeting highlighted a new business partner/teacher match program. We also discussed BEP's theme and focus for the year – literacy! Thank you to everyone who made this an awesome event! To learn more about the partnership and how you can participate, [click here](#).

Veterans Educator Honored with Georgia Council for Social Studies Teaching Award



Congratulations Mrs. Domeka Harden Smith from Veterans Elementary on being awarded the Georgia Council for Social Studies 2024 Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Excellence in Teaching Award!

Transportation Team Members Receive Shout-Outs



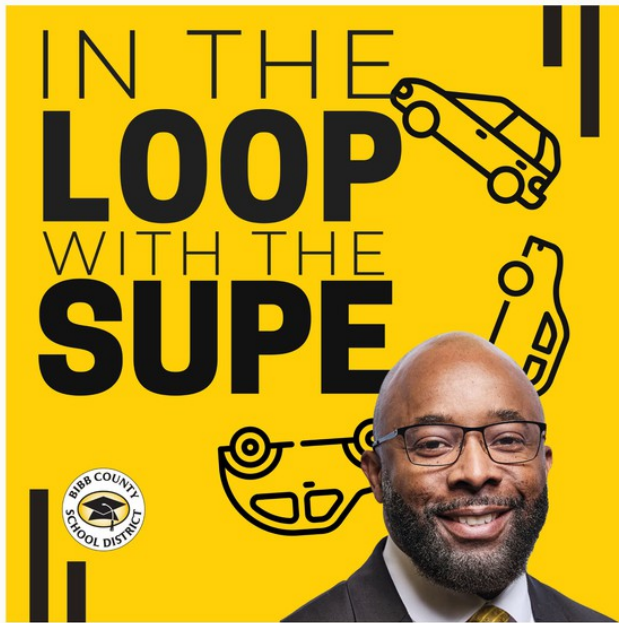
In October, we celebrated National School Bus Safety Week! We encourage everyone to always stay alert, watch for kids, and follow the rules near school buses! Thank you to our dedicated school bus drivers for ensuring our students arrive safely every day. You are appreciated by BCSD!

Treasures Found During National School Lunch Week



School Nutrition team members throughout the District celebrated National School Lunch Week in October. At SOAR Academy, staff truly embraced the theme of "School Lunch Pirates: Find Your Treasure" as they dressed in costume for the week!

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST!



APPLE



SPOTIFY



LET'S TALK!



Download the "Let's Talk" app for your phone or use the link on your school website to provide feedback, concerns or questions about your child's school or the District!

View Archived Newsletters!



Bibb County School District

COMMUNICATE WITH US: Send us a message or question through [Let's Talk!](#)

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/bibbschools

Twitter: [@bibbschools](https://twitter.com/bibbschools)



Bibb Schools

Bibb is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

Bibb County School District is located in Macon, GA, with about 22,000 students.