

# Shark Bytes

**Shakerag Elementary**  
Christine Lemerond, Principal  
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

**August 8, 2025**

Follow us on Twitter: [@ShakeragShark](https://twitter.com/ShakeragShark)

Visit our website: [www.shakeragelementary.com](http://www.shakeragelementary.com)

## Shark Tales:

### Welcome Back!

We had an AMAZING first week of school! I would like to send out a special welcome to any new members of our Shakerag family, both students and staff. As I walked through the halls, it felt like we had never left. I am overjoyed by the smiles and enthusiasm and how quickly students fell right back into our routines. If I can ever be of assistance, please email me ([lemerond@fultonschools.org](mailto:lemerond@fultonschools.org)), and I'll do my best to help. It is going to be a GREAT year of learning!

~ Christine Lemerond, Principal



### Teacher Assignments

Each year the first 10 days of school are critical for our enrollment counts and teacher allocations. As shared in your Sneak Peek packets, we are watching our enrollment very carefully. Current teacher assignments are tentative pending the potential allocation of additional teachers and/or the reduction of teachers. We will continue to keep you updated as more information is shared with us throughout the district-wide enrollment count process. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process each year and welcome all of our amazing new families.

### Meet Our New School Counselor!

Hi families! My name is Mrs. Becky Chang, and I'm so excited to be joining the Shakerag community as your school counselor. I'm here to support all students with their social, emotional, and academic growth—and to partner with families along the way.

If you'd like to request a meeting with me or refer your child to speak with me, you may fill out a [counseling request form](#). I look forward to a great year together!



### Announcing our 2025 WINTER Musical: Aladdin Kids!

That's right, Shakerag is venturing into something new-- a WINTER musical! Audition sign-ups will be open next week from August 11-14! All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are eligible to audition. A link to sign-up will be shared via Infinite Campus email. Sign-Ups will CLOSE Thursday, August 14 at 4:00pm. Contact Mrs. Housholder ([housholders@fultonschools.org](mailto:housholders@fultonschools.org)) if you have specific questions.

### Cell Phones/Other Electronic Devices... to include SMART Watches

With the passing of House Bill 340, we need the help and support from our parents in enforcing our policy on cell phones and other electronic devices, to include SMART watches. These items can be a distraction in school and disruptive in other nonstructured environments. Below, you will find our policy. If a child displays a device and/or is wearing a SMART watch, the teacher will collect the device, contact the parent, and then send it home at the end of the school day. If it happens again, the device will be turned into the front office, and a parent will have to come to school to pick it up. We truly appreciate your help with this. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal, at [weavers@fultonschools.org](mailto:weavers@fultonschools.org).

The following can be found in the Shakerag Family Handbook:

#### **Cell Phones/Other Electronic Devices**

In alignment with House Bill 340 and Fulton County Board Policy IFBGAA, a student shall not use, display, or turn on a tablet, cellular telephone or other personal electronic communication device (i.e. smart watches) on school property, except for **middle and high school students** who may use such devices on school grounds before or after the regular school day. **Elementary students are prohibited from using or displaying cellular telephones on school property and/or the bus at any time.** No such devices may be used at any time on school system operated vehicles, or during an emergency drill or evacuation. These limits on the use of personal communication devices do not apply to students whose special needs require the use of such a device to enhance speech or hearing. Students who are found with such devices in the "on" position, in use or displayed except as permitted above, shall have the device confiscated by a school administrator. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook for specific rules relating to the use of electronic equipment.

Items such as smart watches, iPods, iPads, Kindles or other tablets, electronic games, CD players/headphones etc., should not be brought to school. These items will be collected by the teacher, and the parent will be asked to pick them up.

### TAG Eligibility Update

The Fulton County School System screens all students for eligibility for gifted services (TAG) twice a year and uses a systematic approach to identify highly capable students who may qualify for gifted services. Please click [here](#) for more information on the TAG Eligibility Process.

## **Curriculum Night – Mark your calendars!**

At Shakerag, we believe that we are one big family working together to support the success of every child. A key to that success is open communication. We hope you will be able to join us for Curriculum Night as teachers will walk you through the class structure/schedule for their grade level and what you need to know to help your child be successful for the year. **This is a night for parents and teachers only! If you must bring your child, he/she will need to sit with you in the classroom for the duration of the evening.**

We received great feedback from families last year regarding our one-night curriculum night. We know parking is always a challenge, but we hope that one night will help families with children in multiple grade levels.

### **Thursday, August 21:**

If you only have one child, you may choose which session you would like to attend.

- **5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Session 1**
- **6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. – General Information Session and PTO meeting in the cafeteria – We highly encourage all families to attend and hear important updates for the year.**
- **6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. – Session 2**

## **Attention ALL 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Families**

Fulton County Schools is requiring all families who are new to the district and/or those entering grades 2, 7 and 10 to submit two proofs of residency prior to the start of the school year. One of the approved utility items and one of the approved residency items must be provided. If you were not able to bring this information with you to Sneak Peek, please reach out to our data clerk, Mrs. Gatlin-Cleary at [gatlinclearc@fultonschools.org](mailto:gatlinclearc@fultonschools.org). If proof of residency is not provided by the first day of school, your child will be placed on a provisional enrollment for 30 days. On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of enrollment, if proof of residency has still not been provided, your child will have to be withdrawn from school.

**One Utility Item:** Current water or electric monthly statement (Note: Gas bills are not accepted)

**One Residency Item:** Current mortgage bill/statement, Home sales contract, Current apartment/house lease, Section Eight/HUD housing document, Current HOA bill

**Both documents must contain parent/guardian name and current address where the student resides.**

## **Early Literacy Screening**

Recently, the state of Georgia has introduced new early literacy legislation aimed at improving reading skills among our young learners. We want to make sure you are fully informed about what this means for your child. In our back-to-school packets that you received during Sneak Peek, you should have received a letter outlining the literacy screening process. Please click [here](#) for an additional copy. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact our MTSS/504 Chair, Amy Cook, at [CookA4@fultonschools.org](mailto:CookA4@fultonschools.org).

## **Spotlight On Special Areas:**

### **What's Happening in Art with Ms. Munson this Month**

Please click [here](#) for this month's Art Newsletter.

### **What's Happening in ASL with Ms. Pennywell this Month**

Please click [here](#) for this month's ASL Newsletter.

### **What's Happening in Music with Ms. Housholder and Mr. Denney this Month**

Please click [here](#) for this month's Music Newsletter.

### **What's Happening in PE with Coach Smith this Month**

Please click [here](#) for this month's PE Newsletter.

## **FCS News:**

### **Fulton County Schools Student Code of Conduct Handbook**

Fulton County Schools' Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook is available online in a PDF format (click [here](#)). Once you have read the electronic version and have reviewed the contents with your student(s), please take a moment to complete the **Acknowledgment of Receipt Form** by using the provided link to access Infinite Campus' [Parent Portal](#). Please download the [instructions on how to complete the Acknowledgment of Receipt Form](#). **All parents and students (over 10 years old) MUST sign this form found within your INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNT.** If you would like a paper copy of the Handbook, you or your student can pick up one in your school's front office. The deadline to sign the Student Code of Conduct is August 29.

### **Transportation:**

We ALWAYS highly encourage families to use the bus as their primary way to get students to and from school. Parents should download the "**Here Comes the Bus**" app for the most up to date bus information. It is a free app that enables you to see the location of your child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. Click [here](#) for instructions on downloading the app. For additional details and updates, click [here](#) to visit the transportation department's website. Information will continue to be updated the closer we get to the start of the school year.

## School Nutrition Updates

The cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch for those who wish to participate. Breakfast will be served from 7:10 - 7:40 a.m. All students are invited to **purchase** food at school, as it is a well-balanced meal.

- When a child's account balance reaches a negative \$10, they will be offered a special lunch (cheese sandwich and a milk) until payment is made on their account. You may send in cash, or a check written out to "Shakerag Elementary Café" with your child in the morning with their name and teacher's name on the envelope. You may also pay online at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).
- **Free & Reduced Meal Applications for the 2025-2026 School Year:** The Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Program is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes Free or Reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of persons living in the house. A **new** application must be completed every school year. If there is an interruption in benefits or the household does not reapply, the household is responsible for payment of meals until the Free and Reduced Application is approved. **Free & Reduced Meal Applications are available in the cafeteria and anytime online beginning July 27, 2025. Visit [www.fulton.schoollunchapp.com](http://www.fulton.schoollunchapp.com) to begin the online application process.** Fulton County receives funding from a variety of federal grants based on the number of children in the district that QUALIFY for Free or Reduced priced meals, regardless if they choose to participate in the meal program. Many federal grant awards are allocated nationally to public school districts based on Free and Reduced percentages such as Title-1, E-RATE, and The National Direct Teacher Loan Cancellation Program.

## Café News - Birthday Treats

Class birthday treats may be purchased for students to enjoy during lunch. Parents need fill out the ice cream form from our website or by clicking [here](#) and submit the form to your child's classroom teacher at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the celebration. If there are multiple children with the same birthday, only one birthday treat will be served on that day. **No outside food, goody bags, or class gifts are permitted for distribution to students.** Make sure you have enough funds or add funds to your child's account through MySchoolBucks (click [here](#)) in your child's GENERAL lunch account to cover the cost of the treats for the number of students in the class.

## A Message from the PTO:

### Shakerag Spirit Wear – Thank You & Shop Now!

**Thanks for making Sneak Peek a splash!** We loved seeing so many friendly faces at the Shakerag PTO table—thank you for stopping by to check out and purchase our Spirit Wear! Your energy and enthusiasm made the day truly special.

**Still thinking about Spirit Wear?** You haven't missed your chance! Browse and customize your Shakerag gear online—and from now through **September 2**, enjoy an exclusive **25% OFF** everything in the online store. **Use Code: SCHOOL25** - Shop Now: [1stplace.sale/25252](http://1stplace.sale/25252) Let's gear up and show off that Shark pride—bold, bright, and unmistakably Shakerag!

### Join or Renew Your PTO Membership—You Could Win Big!

**Join or renew your PTO membership—and help Shakerag thrive.** Whether you're joining, renewing, or donating, every contribution makes a difference. Do it by **Monday, August 4** for a chance to **WIN a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!** **Your membership and donations fuel** classroom resources, school events, and community connections. To renew, join, and/or donate - please scan the QR Code:



## A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

### School Governance Council (SGC) Meeting

Our first School Governance Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 13 at 8:00 a.m.** To read more about our School Governance Council, we invite you to visit our School Governance Council (SGC) website by clicking [here](#).

## In the Community:

### Kristin McCabe's Community Meeting

Our school board member, Kristin McCabe, will be hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at State Bridge Elementary School. All are welcome to join.

### Free Adult ESL Class

Johns Creek United Methodist Church, one of our business partners, located at 11180 Medlock Bridge Road, will be offering a free Adult ESL class this fall. Please attend the Welcome Party at the church on Sunday, August 10 at 3:00 p.m. for more information or send an email to [ESL@johnscreekumc.org](mailto:ESL@johnscreekumc.org) if you have any questions. All are welcome. We look forward to meeting you. (Click [here](#) for more details.)

**Have a great weekend!**

