

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

January 9, 2026

Follow us on Twitter: [@ShakeragShark](#)

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:

We hope you all had an amazing winter break and are enjoying this unusually warm weather. We are so excited for second semester. Wishing the entire Shakerag community nothing but JOY and SUCCESS in 2026!



Fulton County's District Spelling Bee

Good luck to Niyantri S. in Mrs. Christiansen's 3rd grade class, as she participates in Fulton County's District Spelling Bee tomorrow, Saturday, January 10! We are so proud of you!

Treats for Teachers

Thank you, Kathy Preuss, Agnes Law, Shirley Kim and the fabulous PTO, for once again preparing a delicious lunch for our teachers and staff today! We greatly appreciate our PTO for taking such good care of us!

Pre-Kindergarten Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year

Registration for the Pre-K Lottery opens on **January 12** and will end **March 3**. Registration is conducted through the district and the information can be found [here](#). If a parent misses the March 3 deadline, they will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list. For more information on the registration process, please visit the FCS website by clicking [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars: No school on January 19

All staff and students will be off on **Monday, January 19** in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

GA DOE School Climate Survey for Students and Parents

We value your feedback! Fulton County Schools wants to hear from you through the **Georgia Department of Education School Climate Survey**. The Georgia Department of Education (GA DOE) requires all public schools to participate in this annual survey.



There are five different surveys this year: one for parents, one for students in grades 3 -5, one for students in grades 6-12, one for teachers, and one for staff. Each school is aiming to have a minimum 71% or greater participation rate for each survey. Schools failing to meet the GA DOE participation rates could have their school's climate star rating automatically reduced by one star. Please help us meet our participation rate by completing this quick 22 question survey using the following link (<https://survey.gadoe.org/FM?sid=786E7A44>), or scanning the QR Code. **We currently only have a 2.09% participation rate with a completion of 12 surveys.**

Key points:

- This survey gives individuals the chance to share their thoughts on our school.
- The survey will be available from December 10-February 20, 2026.
- The survey is anonymous and confidential.
- The survey is available in both English and Spanish.

At Shakerag, students in grades 3-5 will participate in this survey the week of January 19. The survey is approximately 27 questions and should take about 10 minutes to complete. 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 [this link](#). Additionally, you may request that the school provide a copy of the survey questions for your review. The PPRA also gives you the right to opt your child out of participating in the survey. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please email our assistant principal, **Samantha Weaver**, at WeaverS@fultonschools.org, **prior to Friday, January 16** requesting that your student not participate in the Georgia School Climate Survey.

Your input helps us make improvements, and we truly appreciate your time and feedback!

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. We have started our Power Up for 30 Program. Students can join Coach Smith and Mrs. Dean in the gym prior to school to get their day started. Students must arrive by 7:20 in order to participate on their assigned day. The week of January 12 will be "week 2" classes.

	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Week 1	Kindergarten	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	Christiansen/Corney	Wolny/Sudeth/ Nephew
Week 2:	4 th Grade Brown/Davis	4 th Grade Gokhale/Greene	5 th Grade Barlow/Burnett	5 th Grade Dowling/Mack	

A Message from the PTO:

Act Fast: The Through My Eyes Art Contest Deadline Is Almost Here

Happy 2026! Time is running out for your Sharks to join the Annual *Through My Eyes* Inter-School Art Contest — a cherished event that brings together students from Shakerag ES, Ocee ES, Wilson Creek ES, Findley Oaks ES, and Medlock Bridge ES. This contest gives children the chance to express themselves, explore new ideas, and showcase their talents.

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Theme: *The Magic of Friendship*

Who Can Participate: Pre-Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Categories:

- Photography
- Visual Art
- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Music Composition
- Creative Writing

Students may submit entries in one or multiple categories. All artwork should follow the rules outlined in the entry form and will be judged on originality, theme interpretation, creativity, and technique. The entry form and rules can be found on the entry form by clicking [here](#). For any queries or clarifications, contact Meghana at meghanatme2023@gmail.com

Freeze the Fun: Yearbook 2025–2026

We're collecting photos for the **2025–2026 yearbook** and want to capture the heart of our school year—moments big and small! Think about highlights like:

Classroom fun School-wide celebrations Winter & End-of-Year Parties Field Trips & Field Day
Community favorites: Sneak Peek, Bingo & Movie Nights Musicals and more

If you've snapped a great shot, we'd love to consider it. [Upload Yearbook Pics](#)

Let's make this yearbook unforgettable—together.

Artist Day – We Need Your Help!

Shakerag Elementary's Annual Artist Day is returning this year, and we are dreaming even bigger. Our goal is to open our students' hearts and minds to the beauty of art and the richness of cultures from around the world - beginning with the incredible talent and heritage within our very own school community.

On **April 3rd**, we will host **Artist & Culture Day**, a vibrant celebration where students will have the chance to “travel the globe” without ever leaving school. They'll explore new art forms, hear stories from different cultures, discover creative expressions they've never seen before, and gain a deeper appreciation for the diverse world around them.

To bring this vision to life, **we need your help.**

Do you paint, dance, sing, craft, sculpt, or play an instrument?

Do you have traditions, art forms, or cultural activities you'd love to share?

Our students would be thrilled to learn from you. They light up when they hear real stories, see real demonstrations, and experience creativity and culture firsthand. Your participation can spark curiosity, inspire confidence, and shape how they see the world.

If you're interested in sharing your talents or cultural heritage, whether through a demonstration, a hands-on activity, or a story, we would love to have you join us. You can coordinate with other volunteers or lead a session on your own. Every contribution makes a difference.

Please reach out to our Artist & Culture Day co-chairs, Jen She and Myata Harris, at jen@fwdtalent.com and myataharris@gmail.com if you'd like to participate.

FCS News:

Change of School Assignment (COSA): ENDS TODAY!

The Fulton County School Board Policy JBCC (Student Assignment) provides options for students to attend a school different than the one zoned for their home. Parents can apply for a school transfer using the district's Change of School Assignment (COSA) process. No specific academic, hardship or medical reason is needed; however, the school must be part of the district's list of accepting schools. For special education-related transfers, the accepting school also must offer the specific program and services outlined in the student's IEP or Section 504 Plan. Below you will find links to two important documents. The first is an overview of the process and the second is a document for what parents need to know. The application window for the upcoming school year runs **December 1, 2025-January 9, 2026**.

-  [COSA - Process Overview.pdf](#)
-  [COSA - What Parents Need to Know.pdf](#)

A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

School Governance Council (SGC) Meeting

Our next School Governance Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 14 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:

Northview Techno Titans

The Northview Techno Titans Robotics Team will be hosting a STEM Night workshop at their team workspace on Saturday, January 17, from 4:00 - 5:30pm. For more information, please click [here](#).

Johns Creek Basketball Special Events

Basketball season is well underway at Johns Creek High School, and they want to share their events with the community! This season they are having a few nights to showcase their young feeder basketball teams, teachers, and elementary school kids. Please click [here](#) for all the events. FCS teachers and staff always receive free entry and for elementary night, all elementary students will get in free.

Have a wonderful weekend!

