



# 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 January 8, 2026*

## New Information

### Welcome Back & Happy New Year, Barnwell Families!

Happy New Year! We hope you and your family enjoyed a restful and joyful winter break filled with time to relax, recharge, and make special memories. We are excited to welcome our students back and look forward to a strong, successful, and prosperous second semester.

As we return, our days will be filled with meaningful learning, exciting community events, and important milestones, including spring testing. We are proud of what makes the Barnwell community so special: strong partnerships, dedicated staff, and students who are eager to learn and grow every day.

As a friendly reminder, we are now in the heart of cold, flu, and virus season. To help keep our students and staff healthy and safe, we ask for your continued support:

- Please keep your child home if they are feeling ill.
- Students must be **fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication** before returning to school.
- If your child is experiencing vomiting or gastrointestinal symptoms, please keep them home for **24 hours** after symptoms have been resolved.

We know it can be challenging, but these steps help protect our entire school community and ensure our students are healthy, engaged, and ready to learn.

Thank you for your partnership and for helping us keep our school a safe and thriving place for everyone. We are excited for all that lies ahead this semester!

### **Did You Know? Learning Comes to Life on Our Playground!**

We're excited to share new playground enhancements designed to support learning while students play and move! Our outdoor space now features four squares, a clock and compass, a number grid, a number snake, and an alphabet dragon—all created to reinforce math, literacy, and directional skills in a fun, active way.

These additions encourage collaboration, problem-solving, and movement, helping students strengthen academic skills beyond the classroom while building confidence and joy in learning. Click [here](#) to see our new additions.

## **FCS Schools Closed for MLK Jr Day – January 19, 2026**

All FCS Schools will be closed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Please click [here](#) for the FCS 2025- 2026 school calendar.

## **MLK Day Community Outreach Project**

In commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., our PTO has partnered with *The Sandwich Project* to make hearty sandwiches to help with food insecurity in our community. Please click [here](#) for information on how you and your student can be a part of this awesome service project.

## **All Pro Dad's Breakfast**

Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:45 AM, Barnwell dads and students are invited for breakfast in the cafeteria. Take a chance to connect with your student, our school, and discuss topics that help students to build character.

Upcoming topics include Optimism, Responsibility, and Patience. (No child should feel left out - Moms and/or Guardians are welcome too) PLEASE RSVP at [allprodadchapters.com/chapters/4353](http://allprodadchapters.com/chapters/4353)

## **Change of School Assignment**

**COSA applications close tomorrow Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.** Applications and additional information regarding the COSA process can be found on the [COSA website](#).

## **Pre-K Lottery and Registration Information**

The application window for the 2026-2027 Pre-Kindergarten Lottery will open Monday, **January 12, 2026, and will close at 11:59 pm Tuesday, March 3, 2026.**

Individual school lotteries will be conducted March 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>, with schools notifying parents of results by the end of the day on March 27, 2026.

### **Eligibility:**

- Only students who are 4 years old at 11:59 PM on 9/1/26 **AND**
- Only students who reside in the FCS school district are eligible to attend an FCS Pre-K program.

Please click [here](#) for the English Flyer and [here](#) for the Spanish Flyer.

## **Georgia School Climate Student Survey**

Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> will take the student climate survey the week of January 19<sup>th</sup>. 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).

You may review the survey questions at [Georgia School Climate Survey Students 3-5.pdf](#). Opt-out letters were sent home today 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 DOE School Climate Family Survey. Please take a few moments to complete the survey by February 20, 2026. The survey can be accessed by clicking the link: [Barnwell ES GADOE Family Climate Survey](#)

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

### [Family Bingo Night](#)

Join us for a night of Bingo fun for the whole family! Friday, January 16, 2026, in the Autrey Mill Middle School Cafeteria; 5:30 PM-8:00 PM.

[Pre-order](#) family packs by Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Family packs include pizza, drinks and Bingo cards.

Tickets for pizza slices, drinks, candy, and additional Bingo cards will be available for sale at the event. **Tickets: \$1 each or 20 for \$15**

*Pizza slice = 3 tickets, Candy = 2 tickets, 2 Bingo cards and drinks = 1 ticket*

### [Barnwell's Night with the Atlanta Hawks](#)

Barnwell's Chorus has been invited to sing the National Anthem at the Atlanta Hawks Basketball Game on Friday, January 23, 2026, at State Farm Arena. The game starts at 7:30 PM, and the Hawks will be playing against the Phoenix Suns.

If you would like to support our chorus and attend the game, you can purchase tickets at [www.Hawkspromos.com/barnwell](http://www.Hawkspromos.com/barnwell). Tickets start at \$47.40 per ticket, and for every ticket you purchase, the Hawks will donate a portion of the ticket sales back to our chorus. Bring your entire family along and help support Barnwell's Chorus! Thank you for your support.

## Recurring School and Community News

### [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.**

### [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.

### [Innovation Academy Stem Night—February 13<sup>th</sup>](#)

Innovation Academy is offering a STEM Camp for students in grades 3 through 5. The camp offers hands-on experiences in IT, Engineering, and Health Science, giving students the chance to code, build prototypes, and explore cutting-edge health technologies. Please click here for more information: [STEM Camp Flyer 2026](#)

## Strive for Girls

Register today for ALL Girls Flag Football! This program is for girls ages 7/8, 9/10, and 11-13. The program is held on Sundays only at East Roswell Park from February 15<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The **cost is \$90** (\$135 for non-Roswell Residents). **To register, please visit:** [www.striveforgirls.com](http://www.striveforgirls.com). Questions: Email: [striveforgirls@gmail.com](mailto:striveforgirls@gmail.com)

## Dates to Remember

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Family Bingo Night	1/16	5:30 PM-8:00 PM	AMMS Cafeteria
MLK, Jr Day	1/19	FCS Schools Closed	-----
MLK, Jr Service Project	1/19	12:00 PM-3:00 PM	The Ridge Clubhouse
PTO Board Meeting	1/23	7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Adm Conf Room
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	1/23	6:45 AM-7:30 AM	Cafeteria
SGC Meeting	2/3	3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Adm Conf Room
Papa John's Spirit Night	2/9- 2/12	4:00 PM-Close	Papa John's
Teacher Workday	2/16	No School Students	-----
Professional Dev Day	2/17	No School Students	-----
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	2/20	6:45 AM-7:30 AM	Cafeteria
Spring & Class Pictures	2/24	School Day	Barnwell
PTO Board Meeting	2/27	7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Adm Conf Room

## 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](mailto:Diggelmannr@fultonschools.org)
- Alysia Muse, Curriculum Support Teacher - [Musea@fultonschools.org](mailto:Musea@fultonschools.org)
- Chelsea Garcia, School Counselor – [GarciaC2@fultonschools.org](mailto:GarciaC2@fultonschools.org)
- Dr. Helen Herring, Instructional Support Teacher – [Herringh@fultonschools.org](mailto:Herringh@fultonschools.org)
- Takisha Benning, Principal – [Benning@fultonschools.org](mailto:Benning@fultonschools.org)

## Quick Links

[Attendance Options](#)

[Bus Stop Information](#)

[Dismissal Change Form](#)

[Birthday Celebration Form](#)

[25-26 Lunch Schedule](#)

Takisha Benning  
Principal