



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 19, 2026

New Information

We are so proud of our Barnwell Bears! Our students continue to shine through their hard work, creativity, and dedication. Thank you for celebrating their accomplishments with us and for supporting a school community where every child can thrive.

Our Reading Bowl Team placed 5th in the district, and our Fulton Science & Technology Team represented Barnwell with excellence.

Congratulations to 4th grader Riyanshi Bagchi, who will represent both Barnwell and Fulton County at the State Young Georgia Authors Competition for her piece, **My Superpower: “Turning Normal People into Scary Strangers.”** We are so proud of her and wish her the best at state!

We also celebrate kindergartener Nicole Domas and 2nd grader Farrah Gonzalez, whose artwork was selected to represent Barnwell and Fulton County at the State Capitol from March 9th–11th. (Click [Barnwell: Capitol Art Exhibit](#) to view their artwork.)

Finally, we wish our Science Olympiad Team the best of luck as they compete at the district level on Saturday, March 7th.

Way to go, Barnwell Bears—your hard work and talents make us proud!

[Barnwell Teacher and Professional of the Year Finalists](#)

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for our Teacher of the Year and Professional of the Year. We were truly amazed by the number of thoughtful nominations—your support and appreciation for our staff is one of the things that makes our Barnwell community so special.

We are proud to share this year’s finalists:

Teacher of the Year Finalists:

- *Annie Fulford- 1st Grade*
- *Katie McCourtie- 1st Grade*
- *Lindsey Ostrowski- IRR*

Professional of the Year Finalists:

- *Catherine Ball- MOID Para*
- *Heather Johnson- Literacy Coach*
- *Kathryn Wilkerson- IRR Para*

And now for the exciting news...

Barnwell's Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Katie McCourtie!
Barnwell's Professional of the Year is Mrs. Kathryn Wilkerson!

Please join us in celebrating these outstanding educators. Their dedication, passion, and daily commitment to our students truly make a difference.

Way to go, Barnwell Bears!

[Spring Individual and Class Pictures – Tuesday, February 24th](#)

Mark your calendars! Students will take Spring pictures on **Tuesday, February 24th**. Order forms and flyers were sent home last week with your student. Order now for early Picture Day pricing at mylifetouch.com using **Picture Day ID: EVTCWHBKX**

Please click [here](#) to Volunteer on Picture Day.

[No Parent Lunch with Students on Tuesday, February 24th](#)

Please note that due to limited space, we will be using the cafeteria for school pictures on Tuesday, February 24th. As a result, parent lunches will **not** be available on this day.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we work to ensure a smooth picture day for our students. Parent lunches will resume as normal the following day. Thank you for your continued support!

[FCS Schools Closed on Monday, March 16th](#)

All Fulton County Schools will be closed on Monday, March 16th for students due to a Professional Development Day for teachers and staff. Please click [here](#) for the FCS 2025-2026 calendar.

[Middle School Parent Nights for AMMS and HBMS](#)

Save the dates for the Rising 6th Grade Parent Nights at AMMS and HBMS:

- Thursday, February 26th – Haynes Bridge Middle School – 5:30 PM
- Tuesday, March 24th – Autrey Mill Middle School – 6:00 PM

[Kids Heart Challenge](#)

Barnwell is supporting Kids Heart Challenge from February 9th – 27th. Families are encouraged to learn about heart health and Hands-Only CPR by completing Finn's Mission. Students who complete all steps earn a Lifesavers Cape and a chance to win two tickets to Super Bowl LXI in 2027! If you'd like to participate, you can sign up today at [Barnwell's KHC Link](#) or by the AHA Schools app.



[Date With Your Daughter Dance—Friday, March 13th](#)

Join us for an enchanted evening at the Date with Your Daughter Dance on Friday, March 13th from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM in our school cafeteria.

A \$25 family ticket admits one adult and child(ren) and includes drinks, dessert, photo booths, a goody bag, DJ and dancing, of course! Tickets can be purchased in advance here (<https://barnwellpto.membershiptoolkit.com/2026dances>).

We're also looking for a few volunteers to help make this a successful event. Please sign up to volunteer here!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A9AC2AA3FFC61-62189245-date>

Barnwell's SGC Needs You!

Barnwell has **one parent/guardian SGC position** 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 27th with elections being held April 22nd -April 29th. If you are interested in running for a position on SGC, 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.

Pre-K Lottery and Registration Information

The application window for the 2026-2027 Pre-Kindergarten Lottery is now open until **11:59 PM, Tuesday, March 3, 2026.**

Our school lottery will be conducted on Monday, March 23rd. We will notify parents of results by the end of the day on March 27th, 2026.

Eligibility:

- Only students who are 4 years old at 11:59 PM on September 1st **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.

Kindergarten Round-Up—Tuesday, April 14th

Do you have a child—or know someone—who will be five years old before September 1, 2026? If so, help us get them ready for kindergarten!

Join us for Barnwell's Kindergarten Roundup on Tuesday, April 14th. Families will have the chance to tour the school, meet our wonderful teachers, and staff, and learn what to expect in kindergarten.

Spread the word—we can't wait to welcome our newest Barnwell Bears! To RSVP, please click [Barnwell Kindergarten Round Up RSVP](#).

Spring Save the Date Events

We are excited to announce two wonderful upcoming spring events to showcase the incredible creativity of our students!

Annual Spring Chorus Musical

Join us for an evening of music, talent, and joy as our chorus students take the stage for their spring musical. More details will be shared soon—mark your calendars!

- **Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Barnwell Cafeteria

Masterpiece in the Making Art Showcase

Come celebrate the artistic brilliance of our students at this year's art showcase! We are excited to showcase the hard work and creativity of our students. Artwork will be on full display and available for purchase. We can't wait for you to experience it. Click [Barnwell Art Show](#) to view additional details about this event.

- **Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026
- **Time:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- **Location:** Barnwell Cafeteria

Art Showcase Volunteers Needed:

To help make our showcase a success, we are looking for volunteers. If you're able to support Ms. Pate with setup, organization, or day-of assistance, please click [here](#) to see how you can help. Your time and support mean so much!

Thank you for continuing to uplift our students and school community. We look forward to celebrating together this spring!

Staff Appreciation Week

Spring is in the air, and it's time to shower our amazing Barnwell staff with a little extra sunshine, because we **COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER TEAM!** During Staff Appreciation Week, we're setting up a *market* full of treats, meals, gifts, and fun surprises to help our teachers and staff feel rooted in love and appreciation.

You can help us **plant seeds of kindness** by making a donation through [Membership Toolkit](#) where every dollar helps us *grow something* special — from delicious lunches to thoughtful goodies that will make their week blossom OR you can check out all of the volunteer opportunities [here](#) and sign up to be hands on in showering our amazing staff with gratitude throughout the week! Please click [here](#) for more information.

See our staff lounge wish list for other donation ideas:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/167X2LSJ4Q374/ref=cm_go_nav_hz

Let's come together and **make their days bouquet-ful and bright**. Thank you in advance for helping our staff feel appreciated!

Class of 2026 Graduating Seniors Barnwell Elementary Grad Walk:

Attention all graduating seniors! Barnwell Elementary invites the esteemed Class of 2026 to commemorate your incredible journey by taking one final stroll through the halls where it all began. If you are a proud student of Barnwell Elementary, we cordially invite you to join us on **Monday, May 11th at 1:45 PM** in the school cafeteria. The walk will begin at **2:00 PM**. Let us come together and celebrate the remarkable path that led us here, from the very beginning.

To RSVP for this special event, please click [Barnwell's Class of 2026 Senior Walk](#) to confirm your attendance by Wednesday May 6th. We encourage you to share this information with your classmates, whether they attend schools in surrounding counties or private schools. Don't forget to wear your cap and gown for this momentous occasion. If you have a T-shirt that signifies your college plans, kindly wear it underneath your gown. We eagerly anticipate this joyous reunion with all of you! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Katie Stiers (StiersK@fultonshcools.org).

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.

Dates to Remember

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	2/20	6:45 AM-7:30 AM	Cafeteria
Spring & Class Pictures	2/24	School Day	Barnwell
HBMS Rising 6 th Grade – Parent Night	2/26	5:30 PM	Haynes Bridge Middle School
PTO Board Meeting	2/27	7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Adm Conf Room
Staff Appreciation Week	3/2-3/6	School Day	-----
Science Olympiad Competition	3/7	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	Riverwood High School
Humane Society Donations	3/9-3/13	School Day	-----
Chorus Concert-Parents	3/10	6:00 PM-7:30 PM	Cafeteria
Date w/Your Daughter Dance	3/13	6:00 PM-8:00 PM	Cafeteria
Professional Dev Day	3/16	No School Students	-----
Barnwell Art Showcase	3/18	5:00 PM-7:00 PM	Cafeteria
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	3/20	6:45 AM-7:30 AM	Cafeteria
STEAM Week	3/23-3/27	School Day	Classrooms
AMMS Rising 6 th Grade – Parent Night	3/24	6:00 PM	Autrey Mill Middle School
Spring Break	4/6-4/10	FCS Closed	-----

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
- Dr. Helen Herring, Instructional Support Teacher – Herringh@fultonschools.org
- Takisha Benning, Principal – Benning@fultonschools.org

Quick Links

[Attendance Options](#)

[Bus Stop Information](#)

[Dismissal Change Form](#)

[Birthday Celebration Form](#)

[25-26 Lunch Schedule](#)

Takisha Benning
Principal

