



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 March 5, 2026


New Information

As we close out this week, I want to take a moment to share something from the heart. We have experienced a few challenging moments involving students using unkind language and demonstrating a lack of understanding about the diversity that makes our school community special. These moments remind us how important it is that we continue working together—both at school and at home—to guide our students in how they treat others.

Our students come from many different backgrounds, experiences, and abilities, this is what strengthens our community. This week we celebrated *Exceptional Children's Week*; this gave us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many unique gifts and differences that exist among our students. It was a powerful reminder that while we may all be different in many ways; we are united by our shared humanity and our commitment to supporting one another.

It's important for students to understand that words matter. Language that excludes, demeans, teases, or targets others for any reason will not be tolerated. Even at a young age, their words carry impact. As educators and parents, we must help students recognize this and guide them toward empathy, kindness, and respect.

Our staff is committed to having meaningful conversations about inclusivity, kindness, and respect for one another. We are working to ensure students understand what it truly means to build a community where everyone feels valued and safe. We, however, cannot do this work alone. **We need your partnership.**

Please take some time this weekend to talk with your student about embracing differences, speaking kindly, and treating everyone with dignity. You will also find a one-page resource, ( [Teaching Kids about Diversity.pdf](#)) to support conversations at home about diversity, inclusion, and respect. A copy was also sent home with all students today. These discussions at home make a meaningful difference and help reinforce the expectations we uphold at school.

Finally, as we adjust our clocks this weekend to reflect Daylight Saving Time, let's also take this opportunity to reset our expectations and remind our students of what it means to be a Barnwell Bear—being Kind, Respectful, and Positive in everything we say and do. Together, as a school community, we can ensure that Barnwell remains a place where everyone feels seen, valued, and celebrated.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

[Annual Spring Chorus Musical – March 10th](#)

Join us for an evening of music, talent, and joy as our chorus students take the stage for their spring musical.

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

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

Join us for an enchanted evening at the Date with Your Daughter Dance, 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>

[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.

[Masterpiece in the Making Art Showcase – March 18th](#)

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

Our online Art Gallery will be available for viewing on March 11th. Please be on the lookout for an email with details on how to view and purchase your student's masterpiece online.

➤ **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!

[All Pro Dad's Breakfast – March 20th](#)

Friday, March 20th 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: Patience, Friendliness, and Compassion. (No child should feel left out - Moms and Guardians are welcome too!) PLEASE RSVP at allprodadchapters.com/chapters/4353

[Middle School Parent Night for AMMS – March 24th](#)

Autrey Mill Middle School will host their Rising 6th Grade Parent Night on Tuesday, March 24th at 6:00 PM.

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.

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](#).

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@fultonshools.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
5 th Grade Fiesta	3/6	2:30 PM-4:00 PM	Cafeteria
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
Girl Scout Mom/Daughter Lunch	3/20	During regularly scheduled lunch	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