



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 April 16, 2026

New Information

Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and refreshing Spring Break. It has been wonderful to see our students, families, and staff back together on campus.

A heartfelt thank you to our school community for showing up and showing support at our Spring Walk to School Day and Principal's Coffee Chat. Your presence, smiles, and conversations truly reflect the strong sense of connection and partnership that makes our school such a special place.

We're looking forward to a productive and joyful stretch ahead as we head into the final weeks of the school year. Thank you, as always, for being such an engaged and supportive community!

We also would like to celebrate first grader Chrissy Castings whose artwork was selected to represent Barnwell and Fulton County at the High Museum on Sunday, April 19th. (Click [FCS Art Show at the High](#) to view their artwork.)

[Parent Request Form for 2026-2027](#)

We are beginning the process of planning class placements for the 2026–2027 school year. Class placements are thoughtfully made using multiple factors, including students' academic progress, individual learning needs, and the instructional strengths of our teachers.

While we value parent insight and carefully review each request submitted, placement requests cannot be guaranteed. Please note that we are unable to honor specific teacher or friend requests. Our priority is to ensure each student is placed in the best possible learning environment to support both academic and social growth.

If you would like to share helpful information or considerations about your child, you may submit a [Parent Request Form](#) using the link below. The link will close tomorrow at **11:59 PM Friday, April 17th**.

Thank you for your partnership and trust as we work to create balanced and supportive classrooms for all students.

[Lunch with Students](#)

Parents, please plan accordingly, as we prepare for the end of the school year events and testing. As a result of several events, our school schedule will be altered. **Parent lunch with students will end for the school year next Wednesday, April 22nd**. Thanks in advance for your forward planning and understanding.

Barnwell Market Day—Thursday, April 23rd

We are excited to announce our upcoming Barnwell Market Day, a special event where our student entrepreneurs will showcase and sell their creative products! This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore real-world skills in business, marketing, and customer service while having fun.

Students will have the chance to shop with their class during scheduled times. Items available for purchase will include spring-themed accessories, fun novelty items, and thoughtful Mother's Day gifts.

To help support our entrepreneurs, we ask that you please send your child with small bills—\$1 and \$5 only. No bills larger than \$5, please, as our young sellers may not be able to provide change for larger denominations. Coins are also welcome and appreciated!

Thank you in advance for supporting our student entrepreneurs and helping to make this a fun and successful event for all!

Georgia Milestone Testing

As we begin preparing for the upcoming Georgia Milestones Assessment, we want to share our testing schedule in advance so that you are aware of when your child will be participating in each portion of the assessment.

These testing days are extremely important, and we ask for your support in ensuring that all students are present, on time, and ready to do their very best. Consistent attendance during this window is critical to your child's success.

We kindly ask that you schedule any appointments outside of testing days whenever possible so that students can be present for each session. Being in the building and engaged in testing helps set our students up for success and allows them to demonstrate all they have learned this year. **Testing will begin promptly each day at 8:00 AM.**

Please remind students not to bring any electronic devices to school during testing (i.e., cellphones, smartwatches); all devices will be collected and returned after testing each day should students have them.

Milestone Assessment Testing Dates for 3rd through 5th Grades:

| Content Area | Testing Date |
|---|------------------------|
| ELA Section 1 | April 29 th |
| ELA Section 2 | April 30 th |
| ELA Section 3 | May 1 st |
| Math Section 1 | May 5 th |
| Math Section 2 | May 6 th |
| Science (5 th Grade Only) | May 7 th |

Milestone Resources

We want to share a few helpful resources to support students in feeling prepared and confident. The resources linked below allow students and parents to:

- Become familiar with the format and question types
- Practice using online testing tools
- Build confidence with the testing experience

These resources work best when accessed using the Chrome browser, as this mirrors the platform students will use during the Milestones assessments at school.

Milestone Resources

Parent & Student Resources:

[Parent Q&A English](#)

Understanding Student Reports:

[Parent Guide to Interpreting the Individual Student Report](#)

Study Guides:

[Online Study Guides for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies](#)

Practice Tests

[Experience Online Testing Georgia](#)

Achievement Level Descriptors

[Understanding the Georgia Milestones Achievement Levels](#)

School Governance Elections- April 22nd -April 29th

The School Governance Council voting window opens Wednesday, April 22nd through Wednesday, April 29th.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How Will Parents Vote?

A: Parents will receive a unique link in their email address on file with the district. This link will allow parents to vote directly for their school candidates.

Q: Have students at multiple schools? No Problem!

A: If you have a child at multiple schools, don't worry! Parents will receive unique links to the same email address based on each student. For example, if you have a child at multiple schools, you will receive one email with a unique link that allows you to vote for each SGC.

Elections Email Information:

Sender: **Fulton School Governance Elections**

Subject Line (Parent Email): **FCS School Governance - 2026 Parent Elections**

BBTV News Crew Applications: Due May 4th

Our amazing BBTV morning news show is looking for crew members for the 2026-2027 school year! Students currently in 3rd and 4th grade are eligible to apply for next year's BBTV Crew. BBTV is our daily student led morning news show. Selected students plan, write, and produce segments for the show and work with Mrs. Shapiro, our school media specialist. **BBTV is a year-long commitment. All information for applicants can be found on our BBTV application website: <https://tinyurl.com/BBTVnewsapp>.**

Be sure to carefully read through the Parent Q&A sheet to determine if BBTV will be a good fit and fun for your child. Applicants have THREE tasks to complete by **May 4th**: a parent signature on the Q&A sheet (please print, read carefully, & sign—hard copies are available in the media center), an online form with short answer essay questions and a creative video. No late applications will be accepted. Email Mrs. Shapiro at shapiro@fultonschools.org with any questions.

Join our 2026-27 Reading Bowl Team

We're looking for **RISING** 4th and 5th grade students who **LOVE** to read! Barnwell will be participating in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl next school year! This is a fun game show type competition where students will compete against other schools in the county to test their knowledge of the selected books. At the bowl, contestants will compete to “buzz” in and correctly answer questions about the selected books faster than the opposing teams.

This club is for serious book lovers – you will have to read A LOT! Students will be required to read at least 2 books of their choice from the list over the summer or before our first meeting in September. Click [HERE](#) for more information and the book list. Formal sign-ups will come in August, but all interested readers should begin reading at least 2 books over the summer. Please reach out to Mrs. Shapiro at shapiro@fultonschools.org with any questions.

Census Verification Update – Action Needed by May 31st

To ensure student safety, families are required to complete Census Verification each year. This information confirms your child's demographics, emergency contacts, and authorized individuals for student release, which is critical during emergencies or early dismissals.

Now through May 31st, families can complete census verification through [Infinite Campus Online Registration](#). Please take a few moments to review and update your information by May 31.

Keeping this information accurate helps us:

- Safely release students to authorized individuals
- Communicate effectively during emergencies
- Ensure smooth procedures during dismissals or evacuations.

Thank you for your partnership in helping us keep all students safe.

Fulton Federal Funds Input Request

The Federal Programs Department is requesting parents, community, and staff input into how the district spends federal grant funds (Title I, II, III, IV, and IDEA) and our District Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Please view the [PowerPoint](#) for more information and complete the [feedback form](#) to give your input.

All Pro Dad's Breakfast – April 17th

Friday, April 17th at 6:45 AM, Barnwell dads and students are invited for breakfast in the cafeteria. Take a chance to connect with your student, their school, and discuss topics that help students to build character. Upcoming topics include friendliness and compassion. (No child should feel left out - Moms or Guardians are welcome too) **PLEASE RSVP** at allprodadchapters.com/chapters/4353

Recurring School and Community News

JCHS Senior and Youth Night

JCHS is hosting a Senior and Youth Night on Friday, April 17th. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Early Bird Barnival Tickets!

WHAT: BARNIVAL 2026 event tickets

WHEN: Early Bird pricing through May 6th

WHERE: Pre-ordered tickets will be available to pick up at “Will Call”

Tickets are on sale now, and we recommend starting with 20 tickets per child.

Admission is FREE, with rides, games, food, treats, and more available for purchase inside the event.

Tickets are the only form of currency at BARNIVAL—event vendors will not accept cash or credit cards.

Advance ticket pickup:

Tickets purchased ahead of time will be available for pickup at the “will call” tables starting at 5:15 PM on Friday, May 8th.

Day-of-pricing:

Tickets purchased at the gate will cost \$2.50 each (the same as the single-ticket online price) and can be paid for with cash or credit at the ticket table.

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@fultonschools.org).

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 | 4/17 | 6:45 AM-7:30 AM | Cafeteria |
| Chick-fil-A Spirit Night | 4/21 | 5:30 PM-7:30 PM | Chick-fil-A |
| Student of the Month Celebration – April | 4/22 | 7:00 AM-7:30 AM | Celebration |
| PTO Board Meeting | 4/24 | 7:30 AM-9:00 AM | Adm Conf Room |
| GMAS ELA 1 - Grades 3-5 | 4/29 | School Day | Barnwell |
| GMAS ELA 2 - Grades 3-5 | 4/30 | School Day | Barnwell |
| GMAS ELA 3 – Grades 3-5 | 5/1 | School Day | Barnwell |
| GMAS Math 1 – Grades 3-5 | 5/5 | School Day | Barnwell |
| GMAS Math 2 – Grades 3-5 | 5/6 | School Day | Barnwell |
| GMAS Science – Grade 5 | 5/7 | School Day | Barnwell |
| All Pro Dad's Breakfast | 5/8 | 6:45 AM-7:30 AM | Cafeteria |
| Barnival (Spring Carnival) | 5/8 | 5:00 PM-8:00 PM | Backfield |
| Senior Walk | 5/11 | 1:45 PM-2:15 PM | Barnwell |
| Bruster's Spirit Night | 5/13 | 4:00 PM-7:00 PM | Bruster's Ellard |
| Field Day (Rain Date: 5/18/2026) | 5/15 | PK-2 nd 8:30 AM-10:30 AM 3 rd -5 th 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM | Backfield |
| Class End of Year Celebrations | 5/19 & 5/20 | School Day | Classrooms |
| 5 th Grade Last Lunch, Yearbook Signing & Final Walk | 5/19 | School Day | Barnwell |
| 5 th Grade Moving On Celebration | 5/21 | 8:15 AM-10:00 AM | Backfield |
| Last Day of School | 5/21 | 2:20 PM | ----- |

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