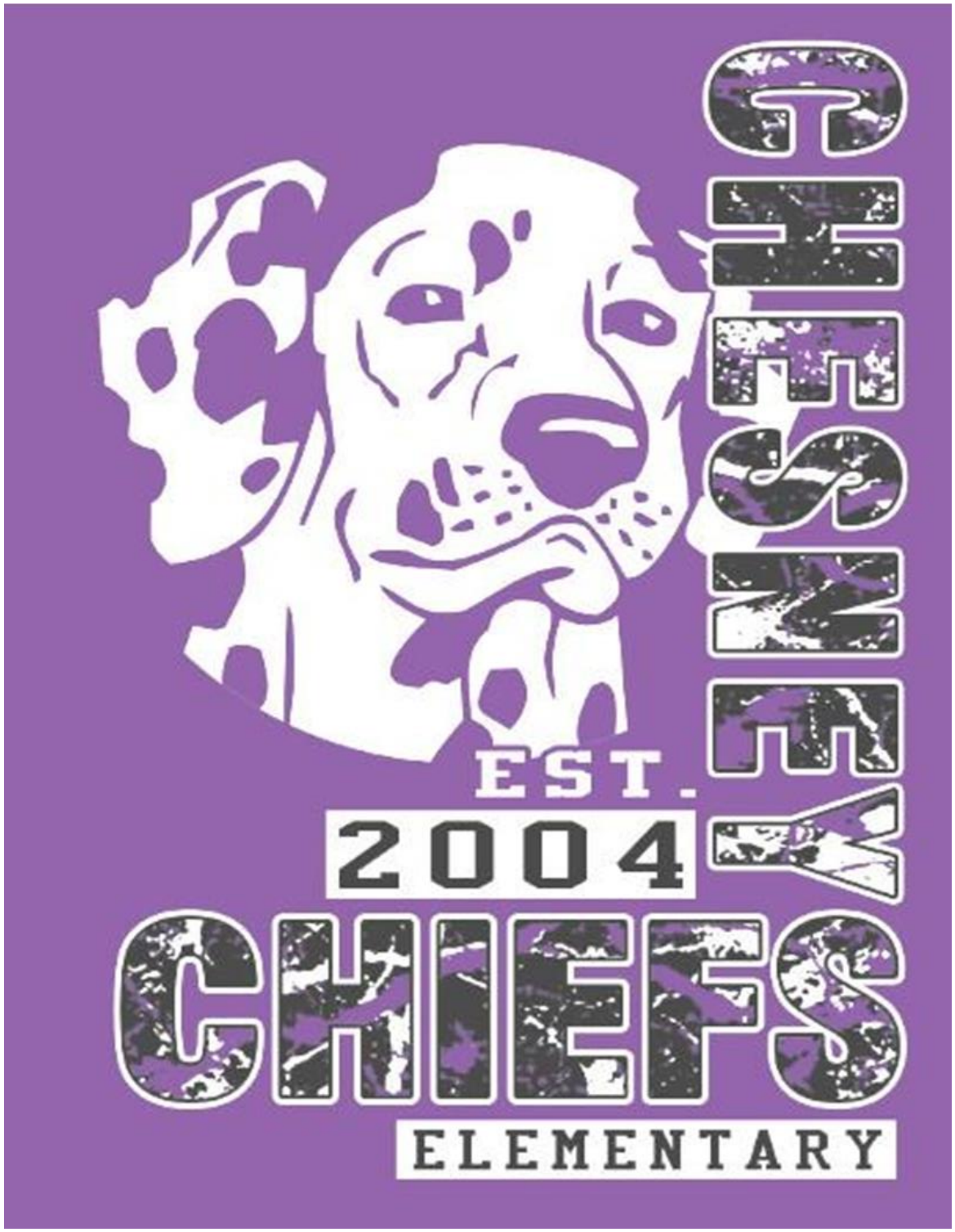
Chesney Elementary School Parent Handbook 2026-2027



CHARLES BRANT CHESNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3878 OLD NORCROSS ROAD, DULUTH, GEORGIA 30096
PHONE: (678) 542-2300

"Learning and Leading Like Champions"

DR. ALEXANDRA ESTRELLA
SUPERINTENDENT

DR. TARECE JOHNSON
DISTRICT V

DR. RICARDO QUINN
Principal

GREG DUMAS
Assistant Principal

ALICIA LYMAN
Assistant Principal

JO MERCADO
Assistant Principal

LESLIE LIPMAN
Assistant Principal

July 31, 2026

Dear Parents of Chesney Elementary School Champions,

Welcome to Chesney Elementary! We certainly hope this communique finds you prosperous and in good health! We're so excited to launch into the 2026-2027 school year with you and your child. Success awaits your child at CES!

Our school theme for this school year is **"Focused Forward...Together,"** and it represents a profound commitment to your children and a reflection of the incredible partnership we share with our families. For us, **"Focused Forward"** means keeping our eyes firmly fixed on high strategic goals, intentionally driving student growth, and ensuring our daily instruction is purposeful, data-informed, and future-ready for every child. The **"Together"** piece underscores our unwavering belief that a child's success is a collective effort between home and school. We achieve our greatest impact when our dedicated teachers, staff, and families work in total alignment. By collaborating closely, supporting one another, and operating as a unified front, we ensure that every single student at Chesney Elementary feels seen, valued, and challenged. Ultimately, this shared vision speaks to the relentless spirit of our entire school community. We are fully committed to going the extra mile, innovating, and pouring our passion into ensuring your child not only succeeds but truly thrives. By approaching every challenge with creativity and resilience, we will always seek the best solutions to serve and elevate our incredible CES Champions—your children.

As we provide the best learning opportunities for your child this year, we ask for your support in reviewing the following information:

- Students should be dropped off in the car rider lane no earlier than 8:20 a.m. There is no adult supervision for students before this time. **For the safety of all students, we kindly ask that all cell phone use be discontinued upon entering the car rider lane.**
- Car riders may only be dropped off and picked up at the designated location, which is the side entrance to the school. Students arriving after 8:50 a.m. **must be walked into the building by an adult.**
- **Students should not be dropped off or walked in from the upper parking lot. <u>Drop offs occur only in the designated car rider area.</u>**
- **There will be no student check-outs after 2:50 p.m. in order to provide a safe and timely dismissal for all students.**
- Changes in afternoon transportation should be made in advance. Telephone or email requests for changes in student transportation arrangements will not be honored. Please send a written note with a phone number from the parent or guardian. The note should be brought to the Front Office by the child to be signed and verified by a school official. If no note is received, the teacher will follow regular transportation procedures for the child. If a change must occur during the day, you will need to fax the school a written note indicating the change and include a picture copy of your picture ID in the fax. After you have faxed the note, please call the school to ensure that the fax was received.
- School dismissal is at 3:20 p.m. Car riders must be picked up before 3:50 p.m. After this time, car riders will be taken to the Front Office for parent contact. **For the safety of all students, we kindly ask that all cell phone use be discontinued upon entering the car rider lane.**
- The GCPS Transportation Department works with local schools to ensure bus safety for all students. To help your child have a successful experience, please review the following information:
    1. Make sure your child knows his/her bus stop location and time of pick-up.
    2. Allow extra time during the first few weeks of school for your child to be dropped off at his/her bus stop. Bus drivers will carefully verify the names of all student bus riders and review bus safety rules.
    3. Gwinnett County Public Schools Transportation Procedure: For student safety, students can only have 1 transportation dismissal tag (bus rider, car rider or day care rider.) If a student has another form of transportation and does not ride the bus EVERY DAY, a written parent note must be provided for each day the student will ride the bus. The student will then receive a bus pass.

We are truly looking forward to an impactful 26-27 school year. To maximize instructional time with your child, teachers check their emails after student dismissal at 3:50 p.m. ParentSquare is the school's main form of communication for teacher contact. On behalf of the CES faculty and staff, I thank you for trusting us to provide your child with the best education possible. Let's have a CHAMPIONSHIP year TOGETHER!

Your proud principal and teammate,
Dr. Ricardo R. Quinn
Principal

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31 de julio de 2026

Estimados padres de los Campeones de la Escuela Primaria Chesney,

¡Bienvenidos a Chesney Elementary! ¡Esperamos sinceramente que esta comunicación los encuentre prósperos y gozando de buena salud! Estamos muy emocionados de comenzar el año escolar 2026-2027 con ustedes y su hijo/a. ¡El éxito espera a su hijo/a en CES!

Nuestro tema escolar para este año escolar es **"Enfocados Hacia Adelante... Juntos,"** y representa un profundo compromiso con sus hijos y un reflejo de la increíble asociación que compartimos con nuestras familias. Para nosotros, **"Enfocados Hacia Adelante"** significa mantener nuestros ojos firmemente fijos en metas estratégicas altas, impulsar intencionalmente el crecimiento de los estudiantes y asegurar que nuestra instrucción diaria sea intencionada, basada en datos y preparada para el futuro para cada niño. La parte de **"Juntos"** subraya nuestra creencia inquebrantable de que el éxito de un niño es un esfuerzo colectivo entre el hogar y la escuela. Logramos nuestro mayor impacto cuando nuestros dedicados maestros, personal y familias trabajan en total alineación. Al colaborar estrechamente, apoyarnos mutuamente y operar como un frente unificado, aseguramos que cada estudiante en Chesney Elementary se sienta visto, valorado y desafiado. En última instancia, esta visión compartida habla del espíritu implacable de toda nuestra comunidad escolar. Estamos totalmente comprometidos a ir más allá, innovar y poner nuestra pasión para asegurar que su hijo/a no solo tenga éxito, sino que prospere verdaderamente. Al abordar cada desafío con creatividad y resiliencia, siempre buscaremos las mejores soluciones para servir y elevar a nuestros increíbles Campeones de CES, sus hijos.

Mientras brindamos las mejores oportunidades de aprendizaje para su hijo/a este año, les pedimos su apoyo para revisar la siguiente información:

- Los estudiantes deben ser dejados en el carril de pasajeros en automóvil no antes de las 8:20 a.m. No hay supervisión de adultos para los estudiantes antes de esta hora. **Por la seguridad de todos los estudiantes, les pedimos amablemente que se suspenda el uso de teléfonos celulares al ingresar al carril de pasajeros en automóvil.**
- Los pasajeros en automóvil solo pueden ser dejados y recogidos en el lugar designado, que es la entrada lateral de la escuela. Los estudiantes que lleguen después de las 8:50 a.m. **deben ser acompañados al edificio por un adulto.**
- **Los estudiantes no deben ser dejados ni acompañados desde el estacionamiento superior. <u>Las entregas ocurren solo en el área designada para pasajeros en automóvil.</u>**
- **No habrá salidas de estudiantes después de las 2:50 p.m. para proporcionar una salida segura y oportuna para todos los estudiantes.**
- Los cambios en el transporte de la tarde deben hacerse con anticipación. No se aceptarán solicitudes telefónicas o por correo electrónico para cambios en los arreglos de transporte de los estudiantes. Por favor, envíe una nota escrita con un número de teléfono del padre o tutor. La nota debe ser llevada a la Oficina Principal por el niño para ser firmada y verificada por un funcionario escolar. Si no se recibe ninguna nota, el maestro seguirá los procedimientos de transporte regulares para el niño. Si debe ocurrir un cambio durante el día, deberá enviar un fax a la escuela con una nota escrita que indique el cambio e incluya una copia de su identificación con foto en el fax. Después de haber enviado el fax, por favor llame a la escuela para asegurarse de que se recibió el fax.
- La salida de la escuela es a las 3:20 p.m. Los pasajeros en automóvil deben ser recogidos antes de las 3:50 p.m. Después de esta hora, los pasajeros en automóvil serán llevados a la Oficina Principal para contactar a los padres. **Por la seguridad de todos los estudiantes, les pedimos amablemente que se suspenda el uso de teléfonos celulares al ingresar al carril de pasajeros en automóvil.**
- El Departamento de Transporte de GCPS trabaja con las escuelas locales para garantizar la seguridad de los autobuses para todos los estudiantes. Para ayudar a su hijo/a a tener una experiencia exitosa, por favor revise la siguiente información:
    1. Asegúrese de que su hijo/a conozca la ubicación de su parada de autobús y la hora de recogida.
    2. Deje tiempo adicional durante las primeras semanas de escuela para que su hijo/a sea dejado en su parada de autobús. Los conductores de autobús verificarán cuidadosamente los nombres de todos los estudiantes que viajan en autobús y revisarán las reglas de seguridad del autobús.
    3. Procedimiento de Transporte de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Gwinnett: Por la seguridad de los estudiantes, los estudiantes solo pueden tener 1 etiqueta de salida de transporte (pasajero de autobús, pasajero en automóvil o pasajero de guardería). Si un estudiante tiene otra forma de transporte y no viaja en autobús TODOS LOS DÍAS, se debe proporcionar una nota escrita de los padres por cada día que el estudiante viaje en autobús. El estudiante recibirá entonces un pase de autobús.

Esperamos sinceramente un impactante año escolar 26-27. Para maximizar el tiempo de instrucción con su hijo/a, los maestros revisan sus correos electrónicos después de la salida de los estudiantes a las 3:50 p.m. ParentSquare es la principal forma de comunicación de la escuela para el contacto con los maestros. En nombre de la facultad y el personal de CES, les agradezco por confiar en nosotros para brindarles a su hijo/a la mejor educación posible. ¡Tengamos un año de CAMPEONES JUNTOS!

Su orgulloso director y compañero de equipo,
Dr. Ricardo R. Quinn
Director

Gwinnett County Public Schools
2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

3 Independence Day Observation (Systemwide Holiday)
21 Administrative Staff Meeting
27-31 Required Pre-planning/ Staff Development [#1-5]

JULY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

3-4 Required Pre-planning/ Staff Development [#6-7]
5 First Day of School

AUGUST 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

7 Labor Day (Systemwide Holiday)
18 Digital Learning Day #1

SEPTEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

12 -16 Fall Break (School Holidays)
28-29 Early Release Elementary and Middle School

OCTOBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

3 Digital Learning Day #2
23-27 Thanksgiving Break (School Holidays)

NOVEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

16-18 Early Release for High School Exams
18 End 1st Semester [Day 87]
21-31 Winter Break (School Holidays)

DECEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1 Winter Break (School Holidays)
4 Teacher Planning/Staff Development [#8] (Student Holiday)
5 Begin 2nd Semester [Day 88]
18 MLK Jr. Day (Systemwide Holiday)

FEBRUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

12-16 Student/Teacher Holidays (School Holidays)

MARCH 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

3-4 Early Release Elementary and Middle School
19 Digital Learning Day #3

APRIL 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

5-9 Spring Break (School Holidays)

MAY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

24-26 Early Release for High School Exams
26 Last Day of School [Day 180]
27-28 Teacher Post-planning/ Staff Development [#9-10]
31 Memorial Day (Systemwide Holiday)

Note: GCPS will make up any inclement weather days by using Digital Learning Days, and/or extending the school day or year.

JUNE 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

12-Month Employee Holidays 2026-27

July 3	Independence Day
Sept. 7	Labor Day
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving
Dec. 23-31	Winter Break
Jan. 1	Winter Break
Jan. 18	MLK Jr. Day
April 9	Spring Holiday
May 31	Memorial Day
June 18	Juneteenth

First and Last Days of School
Teacher Planning/Staff Development/Student Holiday
Student/Teacher Holiday
Digital Learning Day

2026-2027

Student & Parent Handbook

CHESNEY ELEMENTARY

3878 Old Norcross Road

Duluth, Georgia 30096

Main Phone: 678-542-2300

Fax: 678-542-2304

Website: **https://www.gcpsk12.org/chesneyes**

Follow us on Twitter:
https://twitter.com/ChesneyChamps

CHESNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Motto

“Learning and Leading Like Champions”

Vision

Chesney Elementary will become a world-class school **C**ommitted to **E**xcellence for all **S**tudents.

Mission

The mission of Chesney Elementary is to develop successful life-long learners and productive citizens by maintaining high expectations for personal responsibility and academic excellence in an environment that fosters the joy of teaching and learning.

Beliefs

We believe that

- every child can learn.
- every child has a special gift or talent and it’s the educator’s and parent’s responsibility to help them discover it.
- learning should be fun and engaging.
- it is our job to empower creative thinking.
- every educator, parent, and child should have high expectations.
- being positive has significant benefits and is quite contagious.
- a safe environment is essential to maximize student learning.
- collaboration and communication are key to supporting our children’s education.
- every child belongs to the Chesney Elementary family.

Chesney Elementary School Parent Handbook 2026-2027

CHESNEY CALENDAR:
Stay current via the Chesney Elementary School Calendar. The calendar can be found by visiting our website: **https://www.gcpsk12.org/chesneyes**

After accessing the website, locate the school calendar by clicking on the tab labeled "Calendar" tab. Click on it and the Chesney Elementary School Calendar will appear. Please visit the calendar every week. Dates and times are subject to change. The calendar will be updated to reflect any weekly changes.

SCHOOL HOURS:
Students: 8:50 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

ARRIVAL:
Students may enter the building at 8:20 a.m. A bell will ring signaling building entry. Car riders may be dropped off at the East side of the building when the 8:20 bell rings. Wait until the 8:20 bell before letting your children out of the car. There will be teachers on duty to supervise this arrival. **For your child's protection, students may not arrive at school before 8:20 a.m. There is no adult supervision before this time.**
Students should not be dropped off in front of the school OR the bus lane. All students arriving via car must use the car rider lane.

ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS:
Regular school attendance is essential to student achievement. Parents are responsible for notifying the school when their child is absent. A written note must be provided. Students arriving after 8:50 a.m. are tardy. All absences and tardies are recorded and annotated in student attendance. Students arriving after 8:50 a.m. must be accompanied by parents to the reception area and signed in for the day.
Students who arrive after 12:10 p.m. are counted as absent for the day. Parents of students who have excessive tardiness and absences will be contacted by a counselor to develop a plan designed to improve student attendance. Excessive tardiness and absences will result in a referral to the counselors, school social worker, and school administrators. If you move during the school year, please contact the Registrar.

EARLY CHECK-OUT OF STUDENTS:
If you need to check your child out early, please park and come directly to the front office. Your child will be called to the office to meet you as you sign him/her out. **For security reasons, please *do not go* to your child's classroom. The office will need to see proof of identification**. If you do not have picture Identification students will not be released to you.
To maximize classroom instruction, there will be no checkout after 2:50 p.m.

DISMISSAL:
Cars are not permitted in the bus lanes between 8:10 – 8:50 a.m. and 3:00 – 3:50 p.m. Walkers are dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Car riders are dismissed beginning at 3:20 p.m. In the afternoon, drive into the car rider lane on the east side of the school and wait in your car. Parents should not wait for the dismissal of children by classroom doors but are asked to remain in their cars outside the building to alleviate congestion in the hallways. As the students are dismissed, they are to wait inside the building. The adults on duty will supervise the loading of each vehicle. If you do not have a car rider number assigned to you, please pick up your card from the front office.
Buses and daycare vans are dismissed beginning at 3:20 p.m. The call for the second load of buses will occur as the buses arrive. Buses will be loaded from the front of the building. Daycare vans will load on the north side of the building.

Please Note: It is very confusing to young children to alternate between daycare, parent pick-up, and buses. Your child is more confident with a dependable routine. Should you need to change directions, write a note with a phone number indicating the change in your child's transportation home on the morning of the change. The child should bring this note to the front office by 9:00 a.m. to be signed and verified by phone by a school official. In the event of an emergency, a parent or guardian may FAX [(678) 542-2304] a note to the office before 2:45 p.m. **No changes can be made by phone after 2:45 p.m. and/or on a day-to-day basis.**

Students are expected to ride the bus to which they have been assigned and to get off at their assigned bus stop. ONLY in the event of an emergency, as determined by the principal or their representative, will a student be allowed to

ride a different bus. Notification of this emergency must be sent to the school in a written note signed by the parent/guardian. The school administrator may provide a bus pass granting permission.

TRANSPORTATION:
County Transportation Phone Number is: (770) 338-4800. All students are encouraged to ride the bus. Riding the school bus is a privilege and improper conduct on the bus, especially fighting, will result in that privilege being denied.

CLOSING OF SCHOOL DUE TO WEATHER:
If inclement weather causes the delay or closing of school, it will be announced on the radio on station WSB 750 AM, the district's website: **www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us** as well as local television stations. **Chesney is closed if it is announced that "Gwinnett County Schools" are closed. Please do not call the school.** These stations will have the most up-to-date information by 6:00 a.m.

SCHOOL VISITATION:
ALL visitors are required to go to the reception area to sign in and receive a visitor's badge. **Anyone** not wearing a visitor's badge will be asked to go to the reception desk. As a courtesy to the teacher, please notify your child's teacher 24 hours in advance when you would like to make a classroom visit. **Requests for classroom observations must be approved by the principal and if approved will be limited to no more than 45 minutes under the supervision of an administrator.** It is important that teachers maximize the use of instructional time with students. Parents are not permitted to conference with teachers when students are in the classrooms. At the discretion of the principal, visitation may be limited throughout the school year.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES:
Breakfast is served in our cafeteria from 8:20 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. There is no charge for student breakfast. Absolutely no charges are allowed for breakfast meals. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered daily for $2.50 and adult lunches for $4.00 You may send cash or a check (with a phone number on it) to cover the cost of meals. You may also pay on ParentVue with a check, debit, or credit card.

When a student forgets or loses money, he/she may charge lunch for that day. Payment is expected the next day. Charge letters are sent home and emailed several times weekly.

Eligible students receive meals free or at a reduced price. Applications should be completed each year and are available in the front office or in the cafeteria.

Chesney cafeteria considerations:

- **No "fast food" or carbonated drinks are to be brought into our school.**
- **Students are not allowed to use microwaves.**
- **Staff cannot heat items for students.**

No parent lunch visitation during August, during weeks of testing, and as designated by the school.

ICE CREAM PURCHASES:
Ice Cream is purchased from the school for $2.00 on Fridays and not to be included with meal payments. This is a separate function from the cafeteria and monies are collected by school personnel.

CELEBRATIONS:
Chesney Elementary students will have two parties each school year – a Winter party and an End of Year party. Parties should remain in the classroom and should not include outside vendors.

For student birthdays, parents may purchase ice cream for the class at $1 per student. This ensures that the school can protect students with allergies. Please communicate with your child's teacher in advance if you intend to purchase ice cream for a birthday. Our students' safety comes first. In addition, birthday parties are not allowed at school, and invitations may not be given out at school. Balloons, flowers, etc. may not be delivered to children at school or taken home on the bus.

SCHOOL CLINIC:
The clinic is provided for school-related illnesses or injuries. It is not meant to take the place of your personal physician. If your

child becomes sick or injured while at school, the school clinic worker will contact the parent.

Please note that **accurate and current information is critical in case of emergencies.** Please ensure that the office and your child's teacher always have accurate, current work, home, and emergency telephone numbers.

No child is to carry medication on his/her person. All medication must be housed in the clinic. Parents need to obtain a medication form for any medicine dispensed over an extended period.

Please do not send your child to school sick or with a note requesting that the teacher send the child to the clinic to be checked. It is the responsibility of the parents to see that children receive medical care.

STUDENT DRESS CODE:
Students and school visitors are expected to dress in a manner appropriate for school.

- Shoes are to be worn at all times. Shoes with wheels are not permitted.
- Bare midriffs, halter tops, tube tops, fishnet football jerseys (alone), and spaghetti straps (less than 2 inches wide) are not permitted.
- The length of shorts and skirts should be below the fingertips.
- Clothing with inappropriate language and/or pictures is not permitted.
- Hair color or haircuts that distract from the learning of other students are not permitted.
- Hats, bandanas, sunglasses, visors, etc are not to be worn unless a specific day is set aside for this purpose.
- Students who do not meet the dress code will change into clothing kept in the clinic. For repeated violations, the student will be asked to call home so that parents may bring clothing to school.

GIFTED EDUCATION:
The Gwinnett County Public Schools gifted education program serves students in grades K – 12 by providing academic challenges for those who are intellectually advanced. Chesney Elementary School provides gifted and enrichment services via the gifted clustered and enrichment classroom model. The classes offer accelerated learning and enriched academic curriculum experiences that focus on and extend Gwinnett County Public Schools' Academic Knowledge and Skills.

Students are identified and placed in gifted education based on criteria established by the Georgia General Assembly and the Georgia State Board of Education. Students who transfer from gifted education programs within the state of Georgia have reciprocity into the Gwinnett program providing the original placement was correctly completed. Students who transfer from out of state must meet Georgia requirements. Parents should notify the school when registering their child that he/she was identified as a gifted education student in their previous school.

STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAMS:
PERFECT ATTENDANCE:
Students with no absences or tardies during the school year will be recognized by their classroom teacher at the end of each semester and the end of the school year. Any tardies or absences, excused or unexcused will eliminate the student from earning a perfect attendance award.

SEMESTER STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM:
Our goal is to recognize every Chesney student sometime during the school year. Students receive recognition awards for:

- Principal's Honor Roll
- Good Citizenship
- Honor Roll
- Perfect Attendance
- Most Improved Student

GRADING PROCEDURES:
Curriculum Night is scheduled during the first full month of school. At this time, the teachers will explain specific grading policies and procedures. Progress reports are sent out at the end of the four grading periods (every 9 weeks).

The Gwinnett County curriculum is called the Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS). The AKS can be found on the GCPS website. Each student is expected to master the AKS for his/her grade level before being promoted to the next grade level. SST and Special Education services will include speech, interrelated resource services, and self-contained classes.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT:
Gwinnett County provides assessment throughout your child's elementary experience.

Kindergarten	• GKIDS • ACCESS for ELLs • KREP • iReady Screener
First grade	• iReady Universal Screener • ACCESS for ELLs
Second grade	• iReady Universal Screener • ACCESS for ELLs
Third grade	• iReady Universal Screener • Georgia Milestones • District Assessment • GAA for Adapted Curriculum Students • ACCESS for ELLs
Fourth grade	• iReady Universal Screener • Georgia Milestones • District Assessment • GAA for Adapted Curriculum Students • ACCESS for ELLs
Fifth grade	• iReady Universal Screener • Georgia Milestones • District Assessment • GAA for Adapted Curriculum Students • ACCESS for ELLs

Please make sure that your child is on time and present on testing days.

MEDIA CENTER:
Students will be allowed to check out books for two weeks. Kindergarten students may have two books at a time and all other students may have four books at a time. Students will not be permitted to check out a new book until all overdue books have been returned. In the event a book is lost or damaged, students will be asked to pay for the book to be replaced.

HOMEWORK:
Home study is a necessary part of each pupil's educational program. Each student will be expected to spend some time in addition to scheduled class instruction to achieve satisfactory work. Some assignments are long-range in nature and require planned study time for their completion. A general rule for determining the amount of time your child should spend doing homework is 10 minutes multiplied by his / her grade level. Remember this is only a guide. Homework times may vary based on planned study time for projects. Your child's teacher can tell you if your child's homework study time needs to be adjusted.

MAKE UP WORK:
Assignments missed during a short or long-term absence must be made up upon return. Students have three (3) school days to make up all their work. If parents feel that the student can work at home, a message requesting make-up work must be received before 9:00 a.m. Make-up work requested before the aforementioned time can be picked up after 2:30 p.m. Requests for make-up work received later in the day (after 9:00 a.m.) will be honored the following day.

EFFECTIVE STUDY HABITS:
Parent Support and Tips:

- Have students relax/ snack/ play after arriving home from school.
- Have a consistent time for the student to complete his or her homework.
- Have a consistent place that can be monitored by an adult where the student can complete his or her homework.
- Allow the student to work on his or her homework on their own (support once the student has worked on his or her own and has demonstrated effort).
- Work with the student once he or she feels like they have completed their work (Please note that the teacher uses the student's work to determine support and instruction).
- Encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes daily.
- Let your child know that he or she has done a great job!

STUDENT REPORT CARDS & AKS:
Parents will receive formal progress reports on student progress each semester. These report cards will reflect the student's proficiency in their grade level Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS).

Students who are experiencing difficulty with their grade levels' AKS could be considered for retention in the spring and will be placed on an Academic Contract signed by the parent or guardian. A child can be placed on a contract at any time throughout the school year.

OUR CURRENT GRADING SCALE FOR GRADES 2nd – 5th IS AS FOLLOWS:

Unsatisfactory Progress	= **U**	Below 70
Satisfactory Progress	= **C**	70 – 79
Above Average Progress	= **B**	80 - 89
Excellent Progress	= **A**	90 or above

Kindergarten and first-grade students' progress is reported as:
E – Excellent
S – Satisfactory
N – Needs to improve
U – Unsatisfactory

Students are promoted to a higher grade or retained based on academic achievement (grades), mastery of their grade level Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS), grades and based on State assessment results. The school's Student Support Team (SST), with teacher input, will determine if the student possesses the Academic Knowledge and Skills necessary to be reasonably successful at the next grade level. The decision of the SST Committee will be final.

GRADES:
Each grade level will have the following:
- At least 2 grades per week in math
- At least 1 grade per week in reading
- At least 1 grade per week in writing
- At least 1 grade per week in science
- At least 1 grade per week in social studies
- At least 5 — 9 grades per quarter in health
- Classroom assignments: 50%
- Summative Assessments*: 50%

*5% of District Assessments included in Summative Assessments.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:
Chesney students in grades 3rd, 4th, and 5 are offered enrichment and remediation opportunities through a variety of before and after-school offerings taught by our teachers. Some of those opportunities may include:
- Cheerleading
- Art Club
- Music Club
- Math Club

- Reader's Rally
- Intramurals

Your child will be invited to participate in grade-level appropriate activities.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE:
It is especially helpful to have at least a 24-hour notice when a student withdraws. This gives the teacher time to average grades and determine if all textbooks and library books have been turned in and fees have been paid. If such notice is not provided, we may be unable to give the parent the withdrawal information necessary for entrance into another school.

SPIRIT DAY:
Spirit Days are held on Fridays. On these days, students and staff members may wear Chesney spirit wear.

TEXTBOOKS:
The school district provides textbooks for all students. Every student is responsible for his / her textbooks. Textbooks and other school materials must be paid for if lost, stolen, or damaged. Students may also access their textbooks online via "My eClass."

FRIDAY FOLDERS:
Each Friday, every student at Chesney brings home a "Friday Folder." This folder will be of great value to you as a parent. Located inside will be: graded papers completed by your child, school letters and announcements of upcoming events and your child's conduct report for the week, and for Grades K-5: Agenda Books. Please go over the papers with your child. Sign the folder and return it to school each Monday.

CHESNEY BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:
Our faculty believes that self-discipline is the goal of every student. We know that every child can learn if a positive classroom climate is established that includes maintaining firm, fair, and consistent management practices. The Chesney family also believes that positive discipline results from personal relationships and building community rather than any one particular technique or system. Chesney is a school that utilizes Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Students have the opportunity to be recognized for demonstrating expected behaviors. Our Chesney rules are:

- **Be Ready** to learn in all settings of the school
- **Be Responsible** for yourself and your materials
- **Be Respectful** of other people and property

MESSAGES TO TEACHERS:
Calls will be received by the school between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Instructional times cannot be interrupted for incoming calls. A message will be given to a teacher upon your request. In an emergency, the office staff will take information during regular office hours. ParentSquare is a school-wide parent communication tool. Messages can be sent directly to teachers. A response can be expected within 24 to 48 hours.

PARENT–TEACHER CONFERENCES:
Our school system provides student/parent conferences twice annually. In addition to these two planned conference times, parents, teachers, students, and administrators may initiate additional conferences.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS:

- **October 28th & 29th 2026**
- **March 3rd & 4th 2027**

The students will be dismissed at 12:50 p.m. on all early release days. Please make certain that all transportation & child-care arrangements PRIOR to these days, and that your student knows what that arrangement is. Please contact the teacher by email or ParentSquare so they are aware of how your child will go home on these days.

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS:
Office staff will accept messages for students only in the event of an emergency. Students are not permitted to use cell phones. Cell phone usage and access are not authorized during the instructional block (8:00-3:15). A failure to follow such guidelines may result in a disciplinary consequence and/or a parent's retrieval of the phone from the school. A school official will call the student's home if an emergency exists.

COUNSELING:

We have professional school counselors. These counselors work with all children at every grade level. Counselors support the academic environment by providing classroom lessons in areas such as problem-solving, study skills, decision-making, and drug awareness. Our school counselors also work with students in small groups as well as individually at the request of the student, the teacher, or the parent. Counselors are available for consultation with all Chesney parents on topics such as family changes and crisis, academic achievement, and social issues. Please ask your child which counselor works with his / her class and call the front office to speak to the correct counselor.

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

The Stewart B. McKinney / Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act ensures the educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. It provides legal protections for children and youth in homeless situations to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school and preschool programs. In accordance with this law, Gwinnett County Public Schools affords homeless children and youth equal access to the same free, appropriate public education. Homeless children and youth will have access to education and other services that he/she needs to have an opportunity to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Please contact the school for further information.

STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES:

Chesney Elementary School is committed to providing an environment free of sexual harassment and all forms of harassment and discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, or disability. If a student believes he or she is being mistreated on account of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability, the student should report concerns to the principal, teacher, and more importantly Chesney Elementary School Title IX Coordinator, Greg Dumas.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY:

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency requires that each public school have an Emergency Safety Plan. These plans detail each staff member's responsibility as well as specific evaluation routes, safe rooms in the event of dangerous weather, and how to hold safety drills each month. These plans are developed with the safety of all children in mind. The plans have been created with input from the school faculty and CES community. All faculty and staff members are required to review the plans to ensure that each person is aware of their duties during an emergency. As part of our school safety plan, fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills are held at intervals throughout the school year.

SCHOOL-WIDE EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

The faculty and staff at Chesney are committed to providing students with a safe, secure, and enjoyable school. We purposefully teach how leaders behave and grow to become contributing citizens. Our local school behavior plan is based on the GCPS Student Conduct Behavior Code. You may access the GCPS Student Handbook via the Chesney Elementary School website and/or the school district's website.

Our strategies for teaching proper behavior show students:

- Which behavior is inappropriate and why
- How to develop strategies to solve problems
- How to assume responsibility for their own actions

Student expectations:

- Be respectful of people and property
- Be responsible for your behavior and your learning
- Be ready to learn

Student expectations throughout the building:

Hallway

- Walk on the right side of the hallway
- Keep eyes and body facing forward
- Keep voice at a golden level (silent)
- Keep hands and feet to yourself

Restroom

- Keep voice at a golden level (silent)
- Keep the restroom clean
- Use the restroom quickly and go straight back to class

Cafeteria

- Keep voice at a golden level (silent) when music is on and at spy talk (whisper) when music is off
- Clean up all trash and crumbs from the table and floor
- Follow teacher cues for dismissal

Playground

- Stay in the assigned area on the playground
- Use playground equipment appropriately
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Follow teacher cues for dismissal

USE OF THE INTERNET:

Students at Chesney Elementary School have access to many instructional tools such as computers, video, audio, and the internet. Access to these tools is a privilege. Parents and teachers share the role of guiding students towards responsible use of these tools. Student use of instructional technology tools must support mastery of Gwinnett County Public School's Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS).

Student Expectations for Technology Use:

- Students will use Internet resources for school assignments only. Students may not browse the Internet at school.
- Students will use instructional technology tools in a respectful manner that will not harm equipment or endanger people.
- Students will respect work created by others including teachers, students, and administrators. Students may not delete or change anyone else's work.
- Students will not share passwords.
- Students will not change the setting for any equipment.
- Students will observe copyright laws. Using the words, ideas, images, or data of another person as the student's own is considered plagiarism.
- Students will report any misuse of instructional technology tools to a staff member.

A violation of these expectations will result in a student's loss of access to the instructional technology tools and/or disciplinary action by both Chesney Elementary and Gwinnett County Public Schools System Behavior Code. An Acceptable Use policy must be signed by both the parent and the student before s/he will be allowed access to technological tools. This form can be found on ParentVue.

Chesney is a Distinguished Title I School

Information about Title I is available in our Title I Parent Handbook and can be viewed on our website at: **www.chesneyelementary.org**

KNOW WHEN YOUR ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE Don't wait until the last minute for homework, projects, tests, book reports, etc. **WRITE NEATLY** You will spend less time recopying work, if you copy it neatly and carefully the first time. Always write your name, your teacher's name, and the date on your papers.	**ORGANIZE YOURSELF** Use your student assignment notebook daily. Be prepared with classroom materials—notebook, textbook, paper, pencils, etc. Have a quiet place to work with a desk or table for writing. Keep your notebook, desk, and home study area neat. Keep a notebook or part of a binder for each subject.
SHARE YOUR SCHOOLWORK WITH YOUR PARENTS Discuss what you have learned in school with your parents. Not only will this reinforce the things you have learned, but it might give you different ideas about the topic. Show your parents your Friday Folder each week.	

Chesney Elementary School Parent Handbook 2026-2027

Tentative Testing Schedule CES 26-27

26-27 Assessment Calendar

Please use this for summer planning purposes. The official calendar will be posted publicly on the GCPS Website any changes to testing dates will only be updated there. Test Coordinators will have the most up-to-date information in the test specific Outlook calendars.

Test Date First day of Window	Test Date Last day of Window	Test Name
8/10/2026	8/21/2026	iReady Fall Assessment -Reading & Math Inform -Literacy Tasks (K-3)
10/5/2026	10/9/2026	District Asessment 1st Semester Interim
10/27/2026	NA	PSAT/8/9 PSAT/NMSQT
11/30/2026	12/18/2026	iReady Literacy Tasks (K-3)
12/14/2026	12/18/2026	District Assessment Midyear Assessments
12/15/2026	12/18/2026	1st Semester District Assessment Finals

TBD
changed since 5/6/26

Test Date First day of Window	Test Date Last day of Window	Test Name
1/5/2027	1/20/2027	iReady Winter Assessment -Reading & Math Inform
1/11/2027	2/25/2027	ACCESS
2/24/2027	3/5/2027	Gwinnett Writes--Elementary, Grade 4 Middle School, Grades 6 & 7
3/8/2027	3/12/2027	District Assessment 2nd Semester Interim
3/15/2027	3/18/2027	Gwinnett Writes--High School, Grade 9
3/16/2027	NA	SAT School Day
3/22/2027	4/30/2027	GAA
4/26/2027	5/7/2027	EOG Spring Main
		EOC Spring Main
5/3/2027	5/14/2027	AP Exams
5/3/2027	5/26/2027	Senior 2nd Semester District Assessment Finals
5/10/2027	5/21/2027	iReady Spring Assessment -Reading & Math Inform -Literacy Tasks (K-3)
5/19/2027	5/26/2027	End of Year District Assessment
5/21/2027	5/26/2027	2nd Semester District Assessment Finals

(1) ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 – administered to all Multilingual Learners (MLs). The state window is published above.

(2) GAA 2.0 – The Georgia Alternate Assessment is designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the regular Georgia Milestones assessment program, even with maximum accommodations.

(3) Georgia Milestones Assessment System. The state window is published above.

Be sure to check the Chesney ES website for updates.

PARENT NOTES