

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

July 31, 2026

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Visit our website: <https://shakerag.fultonschools.org>

Shark Tales:

WELCOME BACK!!! We were so excited to get to see everyone on Thursday at Sneak Peek. All of the smiling faces and excitement filled our hearts. On behalf of the entire Shakerag staff, I just want to thank you in advance for partnering with us this year to ensure your children experience success. We all look forward to working together to make this the best year yet!



Thank You for Lunch!

On behalf of our entire staff, we would like to thank Kathy Preuss, Aamani Parchuro, Jodie Lin and our gracious PTO board/volunteers for the wonderful luncheon they provided this week. It was a great welcome back treat after Sneak Peek. Thank you for helping us kick off the new year.

Teacher Assignments

Each year the first 10 days of school are critical for our enrollment counts and teacher allocations. Our enrollment counts/attendance is what determines the number of teachers we are allocated. It is critical that we are able to account for all students on Day 1. All class placements are temporary until allocations are finalized following the 10-day count. Right now, we are pretty confident in our numbers for all grades with the exception of 2nd grade. We are keeping a close eye on our enrollments and hope that all of our 2nd grade sharks return for the new year. We will continue to keep you updated should any changes occur during the district-wide enrollment count process. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process each year and welcome all of our amazing new families.

Attention ALL 2nd Grade Families

Fulton County Schools require all families who are new to the district and/or those entering grades 2, 7 and 10 to submit two proofs of residency prior to the start of the school year. One of the approved utility items and one of the approved residency items must be provided. If you were not able to bring this information with you to Sneak Peek, please reach out to our data clerk, Mrs. Gatlin-Cleary at gatlincleary@fultonschools.org. If proof of residency is not provided by the first day of school, your child will be placed on a provisional enrollment for 30 days. On the 31st day of enrollment, if proof of residency has still not been provided, your child will have to be withdrawn from school.

One Utility Item: Current water or electric monthly statement (Note: Gas bills are not accepted)

One Residency Item: Current mortgage bill/statement, Home sales contract, Current apartment/house lease, Section Eight/HUD housing document, Current HOA bill

Both documents must contain parent/guardian name and current address where the student resides.

First Day of School

The first day of school is **Monday, August 3**. Our school hours are from 7:40 a.m. – 2:20 p.m. Arrival begins at 7:10 a.m. Parents may begin lining up in the carpool lane; however, for supervision reasons, students should not enter the building prior to 7:10 a.m.

We encourage you to get your children into their normal routines, i.e., arrival/dismissal, as quickly as possible by having them come to and leave school the way they normally would come and go on day 1. Dismissal tends to run a little slow the first few days of school as we are triple checking to make sure all of our students get home the correct way. Please help your child learn his/her dismissal routine by remembering their carpool and/or bus number (you should have received this number at Sneak Peek if you do not already have them).

We will not be accepting lunch visitors until after Labor Day so we can help the students get into their normal lunch routines. Please feel free to begin visiting for lunch during your child's regular lunchtime the week of **September 7**.

For the latest and greatest back to school information from Fulton County Schools, please click [here](#)!

Transportation

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Bus Route Updates: New Bus Route information should be available through our FCS Transportation Website ([click here](#)) and/or the Here Comes the Bus app.

We ALWAYS highly encourage families to use the bus as their primary way to get students to and from school. Parents should download the **"Here Comes the Bus"** app for the most up to date bus information. It is a free app that enables you to see the location of your child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. Click [here](#) for instructions on downloading the

app. Information will continue to be updated the closer we get to the start of the school year. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CONFIRM YOUR CHILD'S BUS NUMBER AND BUS STOP THIS YEAR AS THERE ARE MANY CHANGES!**



If your child is being dropped off in the carpool line, please be mindful of the traffic, and allow plenty of time. Carpool students that are not in the building when the bell rings at 7:40 a.m. will be counted as tardy. As a reminder, if your child is riding the bus in the morning, and the bus is late, he/she will never be counted tardy.

Early Literacy Screening

The state of Georgia has implemented an early literacy legislation aimed at improving reading skills among our young learners. We want to make sure you are fully informed about what this means for your child. In our back-to-school packets that you received during Sneak Peek, you should have received a letter outlining this new process. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact our MTSS/504 Chair, Amy Cook, at CookA4@fultonschools.org.

Emergency Drill

Throughout the school year, we will conduct a variety of safety drills to ensure students and staff are prepared to respond calmly and appropriately in emergency situations. Each month, students will participate in an evacuation drill to practice exiting the building in an orderly and safe manner in the event of a fire or similar emergency. In addition, shelter drills will be conducted to prepare for severe weather situations, such as tornadoes.

We will also practice lockdown procedures. A soft lockdown is used when there is a situation outside the school building, requiring students and staff to remain inside their classrooms or within the building. A hard lockdown is practiced in the event of an emergency inside the building; during these drills, students will relocate to a designated secure area within the classroom, such as a large closet or safe space.

Twice each year, students and staff will participate in a Centegix safety drill. These drills include visual alerts, such as blinking lights, and automated voice instructions to guide appropriate responses.

All drills are conducted in a developmentally appropriate manner. Teachers will review and explain each type of drill with students at the beginning of the school year to ensure understanding and help maintain a calm, supportive environment. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to our assistant principal, Samantha Weaver, at WeaverS@fultonschools.org.

Curriculum Night – Mark your calendars!

At Shakerag, we believe that we are one big family working together to support the success of every child. A key to that success is open communication. We hope you will be able to join us for Curriculum Night as teachers will walk you through the class structure/schedule for their grade level and what you need to know to help your child be successful for the year. **This is a night for parents and teachers only! If you must bring your child, he/she will need to sit with you in the classroom for the duration of the evening.**

We have received great feedback from families regarding our one-night curriculum night. We know parking is always a challenge, but we hope that one night will help families with children in multiple grade levels.

Thursday, August 20:

If you only have one child, you may choose which session you would like to attend.

- **5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Session 1**
- **6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. – General Information Session and PTO meeting in the cafeteria – We highly encourage all families to attend and hear important updates for the year.**
- **6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. – Session 2**

A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

School Governance Council (SGC) Meeting

Our first School Governance Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 12 at 8:00 a.m.** To read more about our School Governance Council, we invite you to visit our School Governance Council (SGC) website by clicking [here](#).

FCS News:

Cafeteria

In an effort to help our students get into their normal lunch routines, we will not be accepting lunch visitors until after Labor Day. Please feel free to begin visiting for lunch during your child's regular lunchtime the week of **September 7**.

The cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch for those who wish to participate. Breakfast will be served from 7:10 - 7:40 a.m. All students are invited to purchase food at school, as it is a well-balanced meal.

- **Accounts:** Parents are highly encouraged to prepay online for breakfast and/or lunch purchases using MySchoolBucks.com. Parents may also submit payment in an envelope with your child's legal first and last name and teacher name written on the front. The cost of a breakfast and/or lunch will be deducted from the student's account balance with each purchase. Extra purchases (e.g., cookies, ice cream) will not be deducted unless permission has been given on the Student Profile (see extras below).

Notices will be sent home to parents when an account shows a negative balance. If you receive such notice, we ask that you pay the past due balance the following day and include additional funds for future purchases.

Charging on an account with a zero balance is discouraged and parents are asked to keep a pre-paid balance in the account so that it remains current. Students who forget their lunch money may request a charge to be placed on his/her account. Payment for that charge should be paid the following school day. Contact our cafeteria manager at 470-254-3887 with any questions regarding your account.

Breakfast		Lunch	
Elementary School Student	\$1.70	Elementary School Student	\$3.10
Reduced Price	\$0.00	Reduced Price	\$0.00
All Adults	\$3.25	All Adults	\$5.00

**Students may purchase extra milk for \$0.75.*

At Elementary and Middle Schools, the meal price includes up to 1 entrée, 1 fruit side, up to 2 vegetable sides, and 1 milk choice. (All students can decline food groups, as long as there is at least a ½ cup of fruit or vegetable plus 2 other food groups on the tray. For the same price, students may select 3, 4, or all 5 food groups for a complete meal!)

Extras: Parents can request that their child not be able to get extra sales. This will be noted on the students' account.

Menu: A monthly menu is available on our [website](#). The menu will list the items available to purchase for lunch each day.

Free & Reduced Meal Applications for the 2026-2027 School Year: The Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Program is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes Free or Reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of people living in the house. A **new** application must be completed every school year. If there is an interruption in benefits or the household does not reapply, the household is responsible for payment of meals until the Free and Reduced Application is approved. **Free & Reduced Meal Applications are available in the cafeteria and online beginning July 25, 2026. Visit [MySchoolApps - Home Page](#) to begin the online application process.**

Fulton County receives funding from a variety of federal grants based on the number of children in the district that QUALIFY for Free or Reduced priced meals, regardless if they choose to participate in the meal program. Many federal grant awards are allocated nationally to public school districts based on Free and Reduced percentages such as Title-1, E-RATE, and The National Direct Teacher Loan Cancellation Program.

For additional information regarding our School Nutrition programs, please [click here!](#)

Have a great 1st Day of School!

