



Back to School Update #3 July 31, 2026

Welcome Back Bears!

What a wonderful way to kick off the new school year! Yesterday, our halls were filled with excitement, smiles, a few nervous butterflies, and the energy that makes our school community so special.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Sneak Peek event. It was a joy to see students reconnecting with friends, meeting their teachers, finding their classrooms, and beginning to imagine all that this school year will bring. Whether your child arrives bursting with excitement or feeling a little apprehensive about a new year, please know those feelings are all part of the journey.

As I welcomed each family and walked through the building, I was reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of such a supportive and caring school community. The enthusiasm from our students, families, and staff made it clear that we are ready for another year of learning, growth, and success together.

We can't wait to welcome everyone back for the first day of school and begin a year filled with new opportunities, lasting memories, and plenty of reasons to celebrate.

First Day of School:

The first day of school is Monday, August 3rd. Teachers will welcome all students ready to learn on the first day. **Parents will be allowed to walk students to class on the first day only.** There will be more than enough staff on hand to ensure the youngest to the oldest Barnwell Bear arrives to the correct classroom safely going forward.

We will open the doors for student arrival at 7:10 AM each morning. Carpool will open from 7:10 AM to 7:35 AM. Students are to be in their classrooms by 7:40 AM daily. After 7:40 AM, students will be marked tardy, and parents must sign their student/s in at the front office. Daily dismissal begins at 2:20 PM.

Stay Connected with Barnwell!

To help keep you informed and connected throughout the school year, my principal newsletter will be delivered to your inbox **every other Thursday afternoon**. Each edition will include important school updates, upcoming events, celebrations, reminders, and information to help your family stay engaged with all that's happening at our school.

In addition, please **bookmark our [Barnwell Website](#)** and visit it regularly. Our website is a valuable resource for school announcements, forms, important dates, updates, and other information you may need throughout the year.

Together, these communication tools will help ensure you never miss a thing. We look forward to partnering with you for a fantastic school year

Transportation Arrangements:

Please let your child's teacher know their daily transportation arrangement (car rider, bus, daycare, afterschool program, etc.) before the school year starts.

Changes In Transportation

Any changes in dismissal transportation must be submitted to the student's teacher using our [Dismissal Change Form](#) which is also 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.

School Supplies:

To help ensure a successful start to the school year, families are asked to purchase the items listed on their child's grade-level school supply list and bring or send them to school. [26-27 Barnwell School Supply Lists](#)

Medication Authorization:

If your child requires medication during school hours, please complete the Authorization to Give Medication form [AuthMedForm](#) . You can submit this to the school clinic or reach out to our clinic assistant, Ms. Tonjua Lohnes. For additional information related to School Health Services, please [School Health Services Information](#).

FCS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance at school is critical for all students to learn and grow. District policy this year states that students can have no more than 8 total absences in a school year. **These absences include all personal illness and pre-approved absences.** Our school board does provide the following options for students that cannot be at school:

- **Personal Illness Absence:** This is your typical sick day for illness. Students must be fever-free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. To excuse your child's absence for a sick day simply send a doctor's note or email to your child's teacher upon his/her return to school.
- **Pre-Approved Absence:** Use this option when traveling or for family events. To request a pre-approved absence, please email our Principal at Benning@fultonschools.org one week prior to trip for approval.
- **Participated Remotely:** This option allows students to be counted as present even though they are not physically at school for up to 5 days each semester. All requests for Participated Remotely require prior approval 72 hours in advance by completing and submitting the [Participated Remotely Request Form](#) to an

administrator. Please email your request to either our principal at, (Benning@fultonschools.org) or our assistant principal, Ms. Morris-Diggelmann at (DiggelmannR@fultonschools.org).

Fulton County School Nutrition:

The cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch for those that wish to participate. Breakfast will be served from 7:10 AM – 7:35 AM. Parents are encouraged to prepay for student meals and extra sales (cookies, ice cream, chips, etc.) using **My School Bucks**. To add funds to your student's meal account, visit: www.myschoolbucks.com.

Meal Prices	Student	Adult
Breakfast	\$1.70	\$3.25
Lunch	\$3.10	\$5.25

Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Program is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. A **NEW application must be completed for the 2026-2027 school year**. Applications are available online at <https://www2.myschoolapps.com/>.

- **September 14th** – students will lose last year's status if parents haven't completed a new meal application.

Join our PTO:

Your Barnwell PTO has been actively planning programs and events to enhance our students' experience. To learn more, make a donation, or become a business partner, visit our PTO hub: [Barnwell PTO](#).

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

Bus Rider Information: Bus stop locations and times can be found on our county Transportation Website (<https://www.fultonschools.org/transportation>).

In addition, you can download the "Here Comes the Bus" app. "Here Comes the Bus" is a free, easy-to-use website and app that enables you to see the location of your child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. This ensures that you are informed when the bus is approaching your stop, allowing you to send your child out on time.

No Electronic Devices During the School Day

Reminder to all parents and students that personal electronic devices are not permitted during the instructional day. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Smart glasses
- Other wearable technology

These devices can be a distraction to learning and are not necessary for classroom instruction. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child leaves these items at home or keeps them turned off and stored in their backpack during the school day.

Thank you for helping us create a focused and distraction-free learning environment for all students.

ATTENDANCE OPTIONS:

Attendance at school is critical for students to learn and grow. Our school board provides the following options for students that cannot be at school:

- **Excused Absence:** This is your typical sick day for illness. Students must be fever-free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. To excuse your child's absence for a sick day simply send a doctor's note or email to your child's teacher upon his/her return to school. Any required work that is missed due to an excused absence should be completed within two days after returning.
- **Pre-Approved Absence:** Use this option when traveling or for family events. To request a pre-approved absence, email our Principal at [**\(Benning@fultonschools.org\)**](mailto:Benning@fultonschools.org) one week prior to trip for approval. Any required work that is missed due to a pre-approved absence should be completed within two days after returning.
- **Participated Remotely:** This option allows students to be counted as present even though they are not physically at school for up to 5 days each semester. All requests for Participated Remotely require prior approval 72 hours in advance by completing and submitting the [Participated Remotely Request Form](#) to an administrator. Please email your request to either our principal at, [**\(Benning@fultonschools.org\)**](mailto:Benning@fultonschools.org) or our assistant principal, Ms. Morris-Diggelmann at [**\(DiggelmannR@fultonschools.org\)**](mailto:DiggelmannR@fultonschools.org).

INFINITE CAMPUS ACCESS

Infinite Campus Parent Portal: Our Parent Portal in Infinite Campus allows you to access your child's grades, attendance, and schedule. Visit our county's [Infinite Campus website](#) for more information on our Student Information system with step-by-step guides to accessing your account.

- If you signed up last year, you would use the same credentials to login (no need to sign up again).
- For new families that have not registered to use Infinite Campus, you will be able to do so beginning August 4th. Click [Infinite Campus Sign-Up](#) and enter your email address to receive parent portal activation information.
- **To verify your identity, you will be asked to provide your student's name as entered on birth certificate, date of birth, and student ID number. Contact Basile@fultonschools.org if you do not know your child's student ID number or need assistance with accessing Infinite Campus.**

Here's to an amazing 2026-2027 school year! We are excited to welcome every back to the building on Monday! Have a great weekend!

Takisha Benning
Principal