

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

August 7, 2026

Follow us on Twitter: [@ShakeragShark](#)

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

Shark Tales:

We had an AMAZING first week of school!

I would like to extend a very special welcome to the newest members of our Shakerag family, both students and staff. As I walked through the halls this week, it felt as though we had never left. I was overjoyed by the smiles, excitement, and enthusiasm throughout the building, as well as how quickly our students settled back into their routines.

At Shakerag, we value the strong partnership we share with our families. Thank you for entrusting us with your children each day. If I can ever be of assistance, please feel free to email me at lemerond@fultonschools.org, and I will do my best to help.

We are off to a fantastic start, and I know it is going to be a GREAT year of learning, growth, and success for all!
~ Christine Lemerond, Principal



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. 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.

School Nutrition Updates

CONGRATULATIONS to our amazing School Nutrition team for receiving a 100 on their recent health inspection!

Shakerag Elementary Flag Crew 2026-2027:

Are you interested in serving on our 2026–2027 Flag Crew? Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade are invited to apply for this important leadership opportunity. Flag Crew members are responsible for helping raise and lower the school flag each day and must be dependable, respectful, and committed to their duties. Students selected for Flag Crew will serve for one semester, and a new group of students will be chosen for the following semester. Crew members must arrive at school by 7:20 a.m. on their assigned days to help their team raise the flag. If this opportunity interests you, please click [here](#). We look forward to reviewing your interest! Flag crew members will be personally notified once selections have been made.

Sign-Up to Audition for the 2026 Winter Musical: 🐾 Aristocats: Kids! 🐾

Get ready for a JAZZY show this year! All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are eligible to audition. Audition sign-ups are NOW OPEN! [Click here to sign-up](#) or visit the [Shakerag Music Website](#) for more information. Sign-Ups will CLOSE Tuesday, August 11 at 8:00pm. [Contact Mrs. Housholder](#) if you have any questions.

Science Olympiad

Do you have a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade student interested in joining a team of young scientists and engineers? If so, they should join our Science Olympiad team. Science Olympiad is filled with science experiments, engineering, and learning new things about science. Click [here](#) for more information about Science Olympiad and our upcoming tryouts.

Always have your ID with you!

This is just a friendly reminder that ALL VISITORS must have a photo ID with them when entering our campus.

Carpool

Thank you for your help in making sure carpool runs smoothly. We have had very few tardies, so that is a great start! Please remember that students will be marked tardy if they are not in the building when the bell rings regardless of the volume of traffic. Here are a couple of reminders about carpool at Shakerag.

- Please stay in your car at all times.
- The front parking lot is blocked off in the morning to ensure a smooth flow of traffic. All students should be dropped off using the carpool lane. If you have a meeting and/or appointment during arrival, please park in the side parking lot.
- Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:10 a.m.
- Pull all the way up to the front of the carpool line before stopping.
- Drive slowly, be attentive, and refrain from using your cell phone while driving through the carpool lane.
- Please do not pass other vehicles.

Thank you for working with us to have a safe and successful school year.

Cell Phones/Other Electronic Devices... to include SMART Watches

With the passing of House Bill 340, we need help and support from our parents in enforcing our policy on cell phones and other electronic devices, to include SMART watches. These items can be a distraction in school and disruptive in other nonstructured

environments. Below, you will find our policy. If a child displays a device and/or is wearing a SMART watch, the teacher will collect the device, contact the parent, and then send it home at the end of the school day. If it happens again, the device will be turned into the front office, and a parent will have to come to school to pick it up. We truly appreciate your help with this. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal, at weavers@fultonschools.org.

The following can be found in the Shakerag Family Handbook:

Cell Phones/Other Electronic Devices

In alignment with House Bill 340 and Fulton County Board Policy IFBGA, a student shall not use, display, or turn on personal electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, smart watches, tablets, etc.) at any time on school property to include the school bus. No such devices may be used at any time on school system operated vehicles, or during an emergency drill or evacuation. These limits on the use of personal communication devices do not apply to students whose special needs require the use of such a device to enhance speech or hearing. Students who are found with such devices in the "on" position, in use or displayed except as permitted above, shall have the device confiscated by a school administrator. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook for specific rules relating to the use of electronic equipment.

Items such as smart watches, iPods, iPads, Kindles or other tablets, electronic games, etc., should not be brought to school. These items will be collected by the teacher, and the parents will be asked to pick them up.

TAG Eligibility Update

The Fulton County School System screens all students for eligibility for gifted services (TAG) twice a year and uses a systematic approach to identify highly capable students who may qualify for gifted services. Please click [here](#) for more information on the TAG Eligibility Process.

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**

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.

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 process. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact our MTSS/504 Chair, Amy Cook, at CookA4@fultonschools.org.

Spotlight On Special Areas:

What's Happening in Art with Ms. Munson this Month

Please click [here](#) for this month's Art Newsletter.

What's Happening in ASL with Ms. Pennywell this Month

Please click [here](#) for this month's ASL Newsletter.

What's Happening in Music with Ms. Housholder and Mr. Denney this Month

Please click [here](#) for this month's Music Newsletter.

What's Happening in PE with Coach Smith this Month

Please click [here](#) for this month's PE Newsletter.

FCS News:

Fulton County Schools Student Code of Conduct Handbook

Fulton County Schools' Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook is available online in a PDF format (click [here](#)). Once you have read the electronic version and have reviewed the contents with your student(s), please take a moment to complete the **Acknowledgment of Receipt Form** by using the provided link to access Infinite Campus' [Parent Portal](#). Please download the [instructions on how to complete the Acknowledgment of Receipt Form](#). **All parents and students (over 10 years old) MUST sign this form found within your INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNT**. If you would like a paper copy of the Handbook, you or your student can pick one up in the front office. The deadline to sign the Student Code of Conduct is August 28.

Transportation

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.

Cafeteria

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.
- 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. After the 3rd notice, the child will be offered a special lunch (cheese sandwich and a milk) until payment is made on their account.
- **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.

Café News - Birthday Treats

Class birthday treats may be purchased for students to enjoy during lunch. Parents need to fill out the ice cream form from our website by clicking [here](#) and submit the form to your child's classroom teacher at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the celebration. If there are multiple children with the same birthday, only one birthday treat will be served on that day. **No outside food, goody bags, or class gifts are permitted for distribution to students.** Make sure you have enough funds or add funds to your child's account through MySchoolBucks (click [here](#)) in your child's GENERAL lunch account to cover the cost of the treats for the number of students in the class.

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](#).

A Message from the PTO:

Make Waves with the Shakerag PTO!

Thank You & Shop Spirit Wear!

Thank you for helping us Make Waves at Sneak Peek! We loved seeing so many Shark families stop by the Shakerag PTO table. Whether you shopped for spirit wear, joined the PTO, or simply stopped to say hello, thank you for supporting the PTO.

Ready to show your Shark pride? There's still time! Browse and customize your favorite Shakerag Spirit Wear online: <https://1stplacespiritwear.com/schools/GA/Johns%20Creek/Shakerag%20Elementary%20School>

Let's make waves all year long and fill our halls with Shark pride!

Join the Shakerag PTO!

Join or renew your membership and help us create an incredible year for our students, teachers, and school community.

The grade level with the highest percentage of PTO memberships by August 27 will win a Popsicle Party!

Every membership counts, so invite your friends and classmates to join in. The more families who participate, the bigger the waves we can make together!

Your membership and donations help provide classroom resources, educational programs, family events, teacher appreciation, campus improvements, and so much more.

Join today and help your grade level ride the wave to a Popsicle Party!

In the Community:

Tutor Shop

The Tutor Shop is an academic after school program located at Shakerag. Please click [here](#) for additional details.

Have a great weekend!

