



A Note from the Principal, Takisha Benning August 13, 2026

New Information

Dear Barnwell Families,

What a wonderful second week of school! Our Barnwell Bears are settling into their routines, building relationships, and doing a great job learning and demonstrating our schoolwide expectations.

This week, we held our grade-level PBIS Town Hall meetings, where we reviewed what it means to be Kind, Respectful, and Positive throughout our school. Our teachers have also spent these first two weeks intentionally getting to know their students, building classroom communities, and establishing routines and expectations.

Beginning Monday, we are excited to transition to whole-school recess! Students will have opportunities to enjoy interacting and building relationships with peers beyond their individual classrooms. Teachers will continue to actively supervise and reinforce safe, respectful play as students enjoy this added opportunity for connection and fun.

Thank you for an amazing start to the school year and for your continued partnership. We are proud of how quickly our Bears are settling in and look forward to another great week of learning, growing, and making connections!

Upcoming Student Holidays & Breaks:

In observance of Labor Day, Fulton County Schools will be closed on **Monday, September 7th**. Students will return to school on Tuesday, September 8th. Families may view the full 2026-2027 Fulton County Schools calendar [here](#).

Please also note that **Fall Break** will take place **Monday, September 21st through Friday, September 25th**. Schools will be closed for students during this time.

Early Literacy Informational Letter

Last year, the state of Georgia introduced new early literacy legislation aimed at improving reading skills among our young learners. All kindergarten through third grade students will be screened using Amira. We want to make sure you are fully

informed about what this means for your child. Please click the link for detailed information. [Early Literacy Parent Notification Letter.pdf](#)

Code of Conduct Parent Signature Needed

Fulton County Schools Code of Conduct is now ready for parents to review and sign in Infinite Campus. All parents MUST sign this form. Parents can find the form in the infinite campus parent/student portal.

Here is a [\(link\)](#) with instructions on how to complete the Acknowledgment of Receipt Form. Please complete this by **August 31st**. For new families, contact Ellen Basile (Basile@fultonschools.org) for step-by-step instructions on how to access the Parent Portal if you need assistance.

Optional Student Device Protection Plan:

Barnwell families, the Optional Device Protection (ODP) enrollment window is open through September 25th. The Device Protection Plan helps families reduce the cost of accidental damage, repairs, or replacement of student devices. Without coverage, repair and replacement costs can be significant. [Device Protection flyer](#)

Coverage is available for \$50 per student for the school year, with a reduced rate of \$25 for students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The plan includes protection against accidental damage and provides reduced deductibles for covered incidents.

We encourage all families to consider enrolling to help protect their student's device and ensure uninterrupted access to learning throughout the school year. The enrollment deadline is September 25th. For additional information or assistance, please contact the Fulton County Schools Technology Support Center at 470-254-4357.

Protect your student's device today and avoid unexpected repair or replacement costs later!

School Health Services Update

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, Fulton County Schools' Department of District Health Services remains committed to keeping students healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Our school nurses and clinic staff work closely with families and schools to support student health needs throughout the year. We appreciate your partnership in helping us provide the best care for all students. For important health policies, procedures, and medication guidelines, please review the information shared by the district.



[2026-2027 DHS School Health Services Parent Information Letter - English.pdf](#)



[26-27 DHS School Health Services Parent Information Letter - Spanish.pdf](#)

Jr. Gladiator Football Season Begins! - Saturday, August 22nd

Get ready, Barnwell! The Jr. Gladiators Football Season kicks off on Saturday, August 22nd at Johns Creek High School.

- **4th/5th Grade Team:** Game Time: 2:00 PM
- **3rd Grade Team (K through 3rd Grade):** Game Time: 3:45 PM

Come out and support our Barnwell students as they take the field and represent our school community. We encourage families, friends, and staff to attend and help create an exciting game-day atmosphere for our young athletes.

Let's build the buzz and show our Gladiator pride! We hope to see a sea of Barnwell supporters cheering on our teams at Johns Creek High School.

Curriculum Night – Thursday, August 27th

Mark your calendars to attend our Curriculum Night on Thursday, August 27th during the following times:

Date	Time	Grade Levels
Thursday, August 27 th	4:45 PM- 5:30 PM	Program Class
Thursday, August 27 th	5:15 PM – 6:00 PM	3 rd thru 5 th
Thursday, August 27 th	6:15 PM – 7:00 PM	PK thru 2 nd

Please note the grade levels and times listed. Presentations will begin with the older grade levels and then move to the younger grades.

All Pro Dad's Breakfast – Friday, August 28th

On Friday, August 28th at 6:45 AM, Barnwell dads and students are invited to enjoy breakfast together in the cafeteria. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your students, engage with the school community, and discuss topics that help build strong character and leadership skills.

At Barnwell, we want every child to feel included. Moms, guardians, and other caring adults are welcome to attend as well.

PLEASE RSVP at allprodadchapters.com/chapters/4353

Barnwell Back-to-School Picnic! - Friday, August 28th

We are excited to invite all Barnwell families to our Back-to-School Picnic on Friday, August 28th, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on the back field/playground area!

This special event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Barnwell families, enjoy time together, and celebrate the start of a great school year. There will be games, fun activities, and plenty of opportunities to build community with fellow students, families, and staff.

We look forward to spending an evening together and strengthening the connections that make Barnwell such a special place. We hope to see your family there!

Fall Picture Day – Please Mark Your Calendars!

This year, we have partnered with a smaller photography vendor, *Spoiled Rotten Photography*, to provide a more personalized and secure photography experience for our students. To accommodate this change and ensure a smooth process for everyone, we will be holding Fall Picture Days over **two** separate days.

Please note that the first picture day will take place immediately following the holiday weekend.

Picture Day Schedule	Grade Levels
Tuesday, September 8 th	3 rd , 4 th , and 5 th
Wednesday, September 9 th	PK, KK, 1 st , and 2 nd

Please mark your calendars and plan accordingly. Fall pictures are especially important, as these are the photographs that will be featured in the 2026-2027 Barnwell Yearbook.

Additional information regarding picture ordering will be shared as we get closer to picture day. Thank you for your partnership and support. We look forward to capturing our students' smiles!

Save the Date! VIP Grandparents Breakfast—Friday, September 11th

We're excited to welcome our Very Important People—Grandparents and Special Guests—to join us for a heartwarming morning at our VIP Grandparents Breakfast! This special event is a wonderful way to celebrate the important role grandparents and special guests play in our students' lives. Enjoy breakfast, smiles, and quality time together!

Please note: Due to space limitations, we kindly ask that only two guests per student attend. More details to come—please mark your calendars now!

Get Ready for Fall Walk to School Day! —Wednesday, September 16th

Join us as we celebrate Fall Walk to School Day! It's a fun, healthy, and eco-friendly way to start the day. Grab your walking shoes, bikes, or scooters and invite your friends, and let's make it a day to remember!

Principals Coffee Chat—Wednesday, September 16th

Please mark your calendars for the Principals Coffee Chat on Wednesday, September 16th from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM in the Media Center. This informal gathering offers a wonderful opportunity to connect, share your thoughts, ask questions, and receive updates on our initiatives for the school year.

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.

PTO Information

Join our PTO:

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

Recurring School and Community News

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.

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 **MySchoolBucks**. Visit www.myschoolbucks.com to sign up and get started.

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://www.myschoolapps.com/>.

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.

Dates to Remember

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
PTO Board Meeting	8/14	7:30 am-9:00 am	Adm Conf Room
Room Parent Meeting	8/14	9:30 am-10:25 am	Cafeteria
5 th Events Committee Mtg	8/14	10:30 am-11:00 am	Adm Conf Room
Curriculum Night Program Class	8/27	4:45 pm-5:30 pm	Classrooms
Curriculum Night 3 rd -5 th	8/27	5:15 pm-6:00 pm	Classrooms
Curriculum Night PK-2 nd	8/27	6:15 pm-7:00 pm	Classrooms

All Pro Dad's Breakfast	8/28	6:45 am-7:30 am	Cafeteria
Welcome Back Family Picnic	8/28	5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Back Field
Labor Day	9/7	School Closed	---
Fall Picture Day (3 rd -5 th)	9/8	School Day	Barnwell
Fall Picture Day PK-2 nd	9/9	School Day	Barnwell
VIP Grandparents Breakfast	9/11	6:45 am-7:40 am	Cafeteria
FCS Community Meeting	9/15	9:30am	Media Center
Fall Walk to School Day	9/16	7:10 am-7:40 am	---
Principal Coffee Chat	9/16	8:00 am-9:00 am	Media Center
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	9/18	6:45 am-7:30 am	Cafeteria
Fall Break	9/21- 9/25	No School Students	---

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 - Diggelmann@fultonschools.org
- Alysia Muse, Curriculum Support Teacher - Musea@fultonschools.org
- Chelsea Garcia, School Counselor – GarciaC2@fultonschools.org
- Helen Herring, Instructional Support Teacher – Herringh@fultonschools.org
- Takisha Benning, Principal – Benning@fultonschools.org

Quick Links

[Attendance Options](#)

[Bus Stop Information](#)

[Here Comes the Bus Info](#)

[Dismissal Change Form](#)

[Birthday Celebration Form](#)

Takisha Benning
Principal