



BARNWELL ELEMENTARY

9425 Barnwell Rd Johns Creek, GA 30022 470-254-4960

Fulton
County Schools
Where Students Come First

A Note from the Principal, Takisha Benning September 10, 2026

New Information

It's hard to believe we have almost completed six wonderful weeks of school! Our Bears are learning, growing, and making each day count. Thank you for helping us get the year off to such a great start.

We have just one more week until Fall Break! While the Georgia weather may not quite feel like fall yet, cooler days are surely on the horizon.

There are lots of exciting activities and special events coming up at Barnwell, and we look forward to celebrating and sharing these moments with our students, families, and school community.

Tomorrow marks the 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001, a day that forever shaped our nation. To show our support and honor the memory of those impacted, our staff and students are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue as we commemorate this important day and reflect on the strength, resilience, and enduring spirit of our nation.

As always, thank you for believing in, trusting, and supporting Barnwell. Your partnership makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Your Presence Matters: 95% to Thrive

We are partnering with the district to launch our attendance awareness campaign centered on the message: "**Your Presence Matters: 95% to Thrive.**" Our goal is for every student to maintain 95% attendance or higher. Over this semester, this means missing no more than four days of school.

Regular attendance is essential to student success. Each day in school provides valuable opportunities for students to strengthen their reading, writing, and math skills while building important habits such as responsibility, perseverance, and commitment. When students miss school, they miss critical instruction and learning experiences that can be difficult to make up. Everyday counts, and consistent attendance is key to academic success.

VIP Grandparents Breakfast—Friday, September 11th (tomorrow)

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. **To RSVP as Guests:** [RSVP VIP Breakfast](#)

To Volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4BADA72DA6F58-65294143-vipbreakfast>

Student Fall Break

Please note that **Fall Break** will take place **Monday, September 21st through Friday, September 25th**. Schools will be closed for students during this time. Families may view the full 2026-2027 Fulton County Schools calendar [here](#).

Lunch Visitors and Lunch Drop Offs

We are excited to welcome lunch visitors starting the week of September 14th. Parents are invited to join their child for lunch Monday through Thursday. **Please note that lunch visits are not permitted on Fridays.**

For the safety and security of our students, all visitors must present a physical driver's license or government-issued photo ID at check-in.

Parents may only have lunch with their own child and are not permitted to invite or include other students during their visit.

As a reminder, we strive to support our school nutrition program and respectfully discourage food from outside vendors (such as Chick-fil-A, McDonald's, or similar restaurants) from being brought in during lunchtime. We appreciate your partnership and support in this effort.

Helping Students Have a Successful Day

To help maximize instructional time and ensure a smooth start to each day, please send your child to school with everything they need, including lunches, water bottles, homework, snacks, and other necessary items.

When students have all their belongings upon arrival, classroom interruptions are minimized, allowing teachers and students to stay focused on learning.

If a student arrives in the cafeteria without lunch, they will have the opportunity to purchase a school lunch. We appreciate your partnership in helping students come prepared each day and thank you for your understanding and support.

Student Pickup & Building Entry

To help maintain a safe and secure environment for all students and staff, a physical driver's license or government-issued photo ID is required for all student checkouts and for entry into the building.

When arriving at the school, please have your ID readily available and be prepared to present it to the camera when ringing the bell for entry. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep our school safe.

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!

Mystery Readers & School Volunteers

We are excited to welcome Mystery Readers beginning the week of September 14th! If you are interested in participating, please contact your child's teacher regarding available Mystery Reader opportunities and scheduling.

All Mystery Readers and school volunteers are required to complete the Fulton County Schools Volunteer Protocol prior to visiting the school. To begin the process, please complete the child abuse reporting training and online volunteer registration application by clicking [here](#).

During registration, please use your legal name exactly as it appears on your government-issued identification. The training is self-paced, and a government-issued photo ID will be required upon arrival at the school.

After completing the volunteer training and registration application, please email Susan Agerton at Agertons@fultonschools.org with your legal name to ensure your application has been approved prior to your visit.

We look forward to welcoming our Mystery Readers and volunteers and thank you for supporting our students and school community!

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](#)

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

Join us as we celebrate Fall Walk to School Day on Wednesday, September 16th! 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.

Jr. Gladiator Basketball Tryouts (Girls & Boys 5th–8th Grade)

The Jr. Gladiator Basketball Tryouts will be held on **Sunday, September 13th at JCHS in the main gym**. Please click [here](#) for more information.

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/>.

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 or pick your child up on time.

Dates to Remember

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
VIP Grandparents Breakfast	9/11	6:45 AM – 7:40 AM	Cafeteria
FCS Community Meeting	9/15	9:30 AM	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	---
Fall Picture Retake Day	10/5	School Day	Barnwell
PTO Board Meeting	10/9	7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Admin Conf Room
School Holiday	10/12	School Closed	---
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	10/16	6:45 AM – 7:30 AM	Cafeteria
Boosterthon Fun Run	10/16	Time TBD	Backfield
Candy for a Cause Collection	11/2	7:10 AM – 7:40 AM	Car & Bus Entrances
Election/Remote Day	11/3	Students/Staff Remote	---
PTO Board Meeting	11/6	7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Admin Conf Room
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	11/13	6:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Cafeteria
Book Fair	11/13-11/20	7:10 AM-2:00 PM	Media Center
Thanksgiving Break	11/23-11/27	School Closed	---

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](#)

[Here Comes the Bus Info](#)

[Dismissal Change Form](#)

[Birthday Celebration Form](#)

Takisha Benning
Principal