



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 October 15, 2026

New Information

A huge **thank you** to our Barnwell families for your excitement, generosity, and incredible support throughout our fundraiser! Your enthusiasm has made this event a tremendous success and helped create a fun and memorable experience for our students.

We are excited to see everyone tomorrow as our Barnwell Bears take on the Fun Run challenge! Students have worked hard over the past two weeks, learning valuable character lessons, building school spirit, and helping us work toward our fundraising goals.

We look forward to cheering on our students as they run, have fun, and celebrate all that we have accomplished together. Thank you for partnering with us and making Barnwell such a special place for our children to learn and grow!

Let's finish strong and make tomorrow an amazing day for our Barnwell Bears!

Barnwell PTO Fun Run is Here!

Our annual Fun Run event will take place tomorrow, Friday, October 16th. Families are invited to join us and cheer on our runners as they celebrate their fundraising efforts and school spirit.

Please see the schedule below for your child's grade-level Fun Run time. If you plan to attend, please report directly to the back field at your child's scheduled time. **There is no need to check in through the front office.** We look forward to cheering on our Barnwell Bears together and appreciate your support in helping make this event a success!

Grade Level	Fun Run Time
PK, K, and 1 st	8:30am
2 nd and 3 rd	9:30am
4 th and 5 th	10:30am

All Pro Dad's Breakfast

Friday, October 16th at 6:45 AM, Barnwell dads and students are invited for breakfast in the cafeteria. Take a chance to connect with your student, their school, and discuss topics that help students to build character. Upcoming topics include Initiative, Thankfulness, and Generosity. (No child should feel left out - Moms or Guardians are welcome too) PLEASE RSVP at

allprodadchapters.com/chapters/4353

November 3rd –Student Remote Learning Day:

Tuesday, November 3rd, will be a Remote Learning Day for all students. Teachers will provide additional information regarding assignments and learning expectations as the date approaches. Thank you for your support and flexibility as we continue to ensure meaningful learning opportunities for all students.

Change of School Assignment (COSA) Information for Families:

Families interested in a **Change of School Assignment (COSA)** for the 2027-2028 school year should mark their calendars! The annual COSA application window will open **October 20th through December 18th, 2026.**

Applying during this window is important, as it helps Fulton County Schools plan staffing, budgets, and resources for the upcoming school year. Additional information and application details can be found on the Fulton County Schools COSA website. Promotional materials and reminders will be shared with families in the coming weeks.

Important COSA Dates & Reminders:

- **Application Window:** October 20 - December 18, 2026
- **Notification Date:** Families will be notified of acceptance or denial on **January 29, 2027.**
- Students approved through COSA may remain at their approved school through the school's terminal grade level (5th, 8th, or 12th grade).
- Families wishing to continue a COSA placement when transitioning to middle or high school must submit a new application during the appropriate application window.

If you are considering a COSA request for your child, we encourage you to review the information and apply during the designated application period. For more information on the COSA please visit the district website [Change of School Assignment - Fulton County School System](#)

Trunk-or-Treat is Coming!

Mark your calendars for a spook-tacular evening of family fun at our annual Trunk-or-Treat event on **Friday, October 23rd**, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (or until the candy is gone!!)

This beloved community event is **free** for all Barnwell families and is a wonderful opportunity to come together, show off creative trunk decorations, and enjoy an evening filled with treats, laughter, and school spirit.

We Need YOU to Help Make the Magic Happen!

- **Host a Trunk** – Decorate your vehicle and help create a memorable experience for our students.
- **Donate Candy** – Help ensure every child leaves with plenty of goodies.
- **Sign Up Here:** *Volunteer or Donate Candy* ([sign up here.](#))

Whether you're volunteering, donating, or simply attending, we hope you'll join us for a fun-filled evening of costumes, candy, and community. We can't wait to celebrate with our Barnwell families!

Red Ribbon Week 2026: Healthy Choices, Bright Futures!

Join us as we celebrate **Red Ribbon Week, October 26th through October 30th**, with a positive focus on making healthy choices that help our students grow, learn, and thrive! Throughout the week, students will participate in fun dress-up days and engaging activities that encourage

healthy habits, kindness, physical wellness, and making good decisions. Together, we'll learn that the choices we make today help create a bright future tomorrow.

Families are encouraged to talk with their children about healthy lifestyles, including getting enough sleep, staying active, eating nutritious foods, being good friends, and asking trusted adults for help when needed.

Please [Click here to view the Red Ribbon Week Dress-Up Day Flyer](#)
Let's work together to promote healthy choices and bright futures for all students!

Book Character Day Parade of Stories!

Get ready to bring your favorite stories to life! We invite all Barnwell students to celebrate our annual **Book Character Day** on **Friday, October 30th**. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their love of reading while celebrating the creativity, imagination, and joy that books inspire.

Here's How to Participate:

➤ **Pick a Character**

Choose a favorite character from a beloved book. Characters may come from children's literature, chapter books, graphic novels, or comic books. Please ensure costumes are school-appropriate with **no masks, prop weapons, or scary costumes**.

➤ **Get Creative**

Have fun planning and creating your character costume. Homemade costumes are always welcome!

➤ **Dress the Part**

Friday, October 30th, students will come to school dressed as their chosen book character and join in the celebration with classmates and staff.

➤ **Share Your Story**

Students are encouraged to bring their book, or a picture of the book cover, and be prepared to share a few details about their character and why they selected them.

We can't wait to see our hallways filled with literary legends, adventurous heroes, curious explorers, and beloved storybook friends! Book Character Day is always a favorite tradition and a wonderful way to celebrate the power of reading, creativity, and imagination. Let's make it a memorable day for all!

Save the Date: Barnwell Family Thanksgiving Feast!

It's that special time of year when we gather to celebrate gratitude, community, and of course, turkey! We are excited to invite our families to join us for our annual Barnwell Family Thanksgiving Feast.

To accommodate all our guests, the feast will take place over two days. Please note that regular lunch visitors will not be permitted on these days. Due to space limitations, each student may invite up to two guests to attend.

Feast Dates:

Tuesday, November 17th: Grades 3-5

Wednesday, November 18th: Grades Pre-K-2

Additional Information:

- Adult meal tickets will be \$6.00 each.
- Students will enjoy the Thanksgiving Feast as part of their regular school lunch and do not need to purchase a ticket.
- Students are limited to two guests.
- Feast times **(different from regular lunch times)** and ticket purchase links will be shared in the coming days.

We look forward to welcoming our families as we celebrate this special tradition together. Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date!

It's BOOK FAIR time!

The Literati **Campfire Magic Book Fair** is coming to Barnwell Elementary on **November 13-20!** Please click the [CLASS BOOK FAIR SCHEDULE](#) to find out which day your students' class will be visiting the book fair. Individual shopping can be done in person at any time throughout the fair.

Families are invited to visit the fair during your student's Thanksgiving Feast Days. You can shop before or after the event. Families attending All Pro Dads on November 13th are also invited to be the first to shop during our special ***early access*** shopping experience with a parent from 7:30AM-8:00AM. Be sure to shop your teacher's wish list bin while visiting the Book Fair. Every purchase supports our school!

All forms of payment are accepted at our in-person Book Fair. If you want to go cashless, you may purchase a digital gift card for your child at [literati.com/gift cards](http://literati.com/gift-cards). Gift cards can be redeemed in person at our fair. Once purchased, check your email for the gift card code. You may print the gift card code, write it down, or let us look it up in the system.

Our online fair will be open from October 16th until the end of our book fair event on November 20th. Visit literati.com/store to find more favorite titles that are only available online! Online orders can be shipped to your home or to school.

Contact Mrs. Shapiro with any questions: shapiro@fultonschools.org Thank you for supporting a lifelong love of reading!

Active Bears in Action!

Our Bears are very physically active and can be spotted around town playing sports, riding bikes, or enjoying the great outdoors. We invite you to send in a picture of your student participating in physical activity or email your student's action-packed picture to lazzarik1@fultonschools.org and it will be proudly displayed on our PE bulletin board.

Our goal is to encourage students to develop healthy habits, set personal fitness goals, and recognize the benefits of regular physical activity. We emphasize personal growth, effort, and improvement rather than competition. For more information, please contact lazzarik1@fultonschools.org.

2026-2027 FCS Capacity and Utilization Plan:

Our Barnwell community may be impacted by the district's potential school consolidation and/or redistricting/rezoning process related to middle school attendance boundaries. The district has shared information in their Board Bulletin communications to families. I strongly encourage you to remain informed as the process continues.

As information that directly impacts our school community is received, I will continue to share it with you. Information regarding upcoming community meetings, dates, and locations can be found on the FCS website at fultonschools.org/redistricting.

Fulton County School Nutrition:

Did you know free & reduced-price meal applications benefit your family and school? Families may qualify for free or reduced-price school breakfast & lunch. A **NEW** application must be completed for the 2026-2027 school year.

If you have not completed a Free and Reduced application for SY26-27, had a change in income, or had an increase in household size, please take this opportunity to complete an application. Free & Reduced Meal Applications are available online at www.myschoolapps.com. Families may obtain a paper application from any school cafeteria. If able, families are encouraged to complete an online application to help expedite the application approval process.

Our cafeteria serves breakfast and lunch for those students that wish to participate. Breakfast is served from 7:10 AM – 7:35 AM. Parents are encouraged to prepay for student meals and extra sales (cookies, ice cream, chips, etc.). Visit www.myschoolbucks.com to sign up and get started.

Lunch Visitors and Lunch Drop Offs:

Parents are invited to join their child for lunch Monday through Thursday. **Please note that lunch visits are not permitted on Fridays.** Parents may only have lunch with their own child and are not permitted to invite or include other students during their visit.

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.

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, Starbucks 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.

Mystery Readers & School Volunteers:

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!

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

FCS Innovation Academy's Annual Skelebration on October 29th

Looking for a fun and family-friendly event? Our friends at **FCS Innovation Academy** invite Barnwell families to attend their annual Skelebration on Thursday, October 29, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM!

Skelebration is a free indoor trick-or-treating experience designed for elementary-aged children and their families. Guests can enjoy festive activities, including haunted hallways, a student-created haunted house, candy stations, and plenty of spooky fun in a safe and welcoming environment.

Whether you're coming for the treats, the thrills, or simply a fun evening with family, Skelebration is sure to be a memorable event. We hope you can join in the fun!

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.

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.

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
All Pro Dad's Breakfast	10/16	6:45 AM – 7:30 AM	Cafeteria
Boosterthon Fun Run	10/16	PK/K/1 st 8:30 AM 2 nd /3 rd 9:30 AM 4 th /5 th 10:30 AM	Backfield
Trunk or Treat	10/23	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Side Parking Lot
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 Feast 3 rd -5 th	11/17	TBD	Cafeteria
Thanksgiving Feast PK- 2 nd	11/18	TBD	Cafeteria
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