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 29, 2026

New Information

Don't forget to fall back this weekend! Daylight Saving Time ends so be sure to turn your clocks back one hour and enjoy that extra hour of sleep!

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful Barnwell community for an incredible turnout at our Trunk-or-Treat event! It was such a joy to see our Bears and families come together for an evening filled with costumes, candy, laughter, and fun.

Special thanks to our PTO, volunteers, and staff who helped make the event a success. We are grateful for the continued support and school spirit that make Barnwell such a special place!

Book Character Day Parade of Stories!

Tomorrow, we are excited to celebrate Book Character Day at Barnwell! We can't wait to see our Bears bring their favorite storybook characters to life as we celebrate our love of reading!

A few friendly reminders as you prepare costumes for tomorrow: **No masks, props, or scary costumes, please.** We want to ensure a fun, safe, and enjoyable celebration for all students.

We look forward to a day filled with creativity, imagination, and a little storybook magic!

Candy for a Cause: Supporting Our Military Heroes!

Have extra Halloween candy? Donate it to a great cause! Barnwell Elementary is collecting candy to support Blue Star Military Support Group, which assembles and sends care packages and cards to troops deployed overseas.
What: Candy Drop-Off
When: Monday, November 2nd
Time: During morning arrival
Where: Carpool and bus canopy entrances

Send in your candy donations and help us share a little sweetness with those serving away from home. Every donation helps us make a difference!

November 3rd –Student Remote Learning Day:

Tuesday, November 3rd, will be a Remote Learning Day for all students. Teachers will provide assignments for students to complete in math, reading, and science **or** social studies. Additional information and instructions will be shared by your child's teacher. Thank you for your support and flexibility!

All Pro Dad's Breakfast – November 13th

Friday, November 13th 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 thankfulness, generosity, and positivity. (No child should feel left out - Moms or Guardians are welcome) PLEASE RSVP at allprodadchapters.com/chapters/4353

FCS Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Break

All Fulton County Schools will be closed for Thanksgiving Break, November 23rd – November 27th. Please click here for the FCS 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Change of School Assignment (COSA) Information for Families:

Do you know a family who would love to be part of our amazing Barnwell school community? **Help us spread the word!** We are proud of the students, staff, families, and opportunities that make Barnwell special.

Families interested in joining Barnwell through a **Change of School Assignment (COSA)** for the **2027–2028 school year** should mark their calendars. The annual COSA application window is **October 20 through December 18, 2026**.

Applying during the designated window is important, as it helps Fulton County Schools plan for staffing, budgets, and resources for the upcoming school year.

If you know a family who may be interested in making Barnwell their school community, please encourage them to reach out to us to learn more about Barnwell and next steps for the COSA process.

We would love the opportunity to welcome new families to Barnwell!

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

Food Drive – November 9th – 13th

The season of giving is upon us! Barnwell is excited to partner once again with North Fulton Community Charities for our annual food drive, November 9th –November 13th!

We invite our Barnwell families to join us in spreading kindness and supporting neighbors in need. Every donation, big or small, can make a meaningful difference!

Please click here to review the flyer for a list of the charity's most-needed items. Items will be collected each morning in your student's homeroom. Thank you for helping us teach our Bears the importance of generosity, compassion, and giving back to our community.

Barnwell Family Thanksgiving Feast!

We are excited to welcome our families to the Barnwell Family Thanksgiving Feast!
Please mark your calendars:

- **Tuesday, November 17th:** Grades 3–5
- **Wednesday, November 18th:** Pre-K–2

A few important reminders:

- Each student may invite **up to two guests**.
- Adult meal tickets are **$6.00 each**.
- Students will enjoy the feast as part of their regular school lunch and **do not need a ticket**.
- Feast lunch times are **different from students' regular lunch schedules**, so please be sure to review your child's assigned feast time before arriving. 26.27 Thanksgiving Feast Lunch Schedule.pdf
- Due to the special feast schedule and space limitations, **regular lunch visitors will not be permitted on November 17th or November 18th**.

We look forward to sharing this special Barnwell tradition with our families and celebrating a season of gratitude together!

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. 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.

Book Fair Volunteers Needed!

Our Book Fair is coming, and we would love your help! Parent volunteers help make this exciting event a wonderful experience for our students. If you are available to lend a hand, please sign up **here** for a volunteer time using the link below.

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

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.

Important Lunch Reminder:

We love welcoming families to join their children for lunch! As a reminder, when visiting for lunch, please refrain from bringing food from outside restaurants or vendors into the cafeteria. In accordance with district nutrition guidelines and in support of our school nutrition program, **outside restaurant food is not permitted during student lunch periods.**

Parents are invited to join their child for lunch Monday through Thursday. **Please note that lunch visits are not permitted on Fridays.**

Helping Students Have a Successful Day:

To help minimize interruptions to the school day, please send your child with everything they need, including lunch, water bottles, homework, and snacks. If your child does not have lunch, they may purchase one from the cafeteria.

Thank you for helping us keep the focus on learning!

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 volunteers must complete the FCS Volunteer Protocol before visiting Barnwell. Complete the required training and registration here, then email Agertons@fultonschools.org with your legal name to confirm approval. Please bring your government-issued photo ID when you 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

AMMS Lion Stage Players Seussical Jr at Johns Creek High School:

Tickets On Sale Now - Seussical Jr. performed by Autrey Mill's Lion Stage Players! The Lion Stage Players present *Seussical Jr.* on November 14th & 15th at the Johns Creek High School Theatre, a family-friendly show starring Horton, the Cat in the Hat and all of Whoville. Tickets are $15 (plus a service fee) autreymillms.seatyourself.biz

5K for Heroes: Run, Walk & Support!

Join the JCHS Soccer community for the annual 5K for Heroes on Saturday, November 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the JCHS Colosseum! Whether you choose to run, walk, or donate, it's a great opportunity to come together, support the teams, and make a difference in our community.

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
Candy for a Cause Collection	11/2	7:10 AM – 7:40 AM	Car & Bus Entrances
SGC Council Meeting	11/2	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Admin Conf Room
Election/Remote Day	11/3	Students 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
Food Drive	11/9-11/13	---	Barnwell
Book Fair	11/13-11/20	7:10 AM - 2:00 PM	Media Center
Thanksgiving Feast 3rd-5th	11/17	Schedule in Newsletter	Cafeteria
Thanksgiving Feast PK- 2nd	11/18	Schedule in Newsletter	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