

October 14, 2009

Dear Parents:

Effective Tuesday, October 20, 2009 and continuing through May 5, 2010, Banneker High School will extend its regular school hours by one hour each Tuesday and Wednesday except on Early Release Wednesdays. Students will be dismissed at 4:40 with buses delivering students to their regular bus stops. However, on Early Release Wednesdays, students will still leave at 12:40 p.m. This change has been difficult to secure and has taken the support of some very key people including our transportation department, Area Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and Superintendent. This change has been made to provide Banneker High School with additional time to support the preparation of its students in mastering required assessments/tests. We will also use this time to accelerate our students who are preparing for college entrance tests. The research is clear; the more time we spend on tasks preparing students based on their data, students will have better results. Therefore, we will not permit check-outs Tuesdays and Wednesdays unless an extreme emergency situation occurs and a **parent** comes to the school to verify the emergency. Check-outs must occur, as usual, before 3:15 p.m.

This procedure will, in no way, hinder or stop after school athletics, clubs, or other activities. Our students who are in work programs and leave during the day will continue to leave as scheduled. All after school activities will still continue with later starting times Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We will continue to provide a 6:15 p.m. sweep bus to support after-school activities Monday through Thursday and a 5:15 p.m. sweep bus Monday and Thursday.

When proposed to our Local School Advisory Committee, PTSA members, and Student Government Officers, this plan was enthusiastically received because each group recognized the need to support our students. They also appreciated our securing transportation home using regular bus stops. We are also most grateful to the teachers who have committed to support the students in these tutorials. All students at each grade level will be assisted in an area of need.

We now wish to thank our parents for supporting this effort and supporting our students in taking full advantage of this opportunity. Please make adjustments accordingly to accommodate this change. We expect improved academic results and AYP!

Sincerely yours,

Will Bradley, Principal  
Banneker High School

**Parents Please Note:** Title I will host a CRCT/GHSGT Clinic for parents of our North & South County Title Schools. **Mimosa Elementary School is the site (North County) for the scheduled date of Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Paul D. West is the site (South County) for the scheduled date of Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.** Parents will get an opportunity to be informed on what they need to know about the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) & the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) and how best to help their child with test-taking skills. Educational doctors and nurses will be ready to assist. Breakfast will be provided. **Please contact Pam Baisden, Parent Involvement Specialist, at [BaisdenP@fultonschools.org](mailto:BaisdenP@fultonschools.org) for further information.**