

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Emily Davis, Assistant Principal

August 12, 2022

Follow us on Twitter: [@ShakeragShark](#)

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:

Welcome Back!

We had an amazing first week of school! I would like to send out a special welcome to any new members of our Shakerag family, both students and staff. As I walked the halls and visited classrooms, it felt like we had never left. I am overjoyed by the smiles and enthusiasm. If I can ever be of assistance, please feel free to call (470.254.3880) or email me (lemerond@fultonschools.org), and I'll do my best to help. It is going to be a GREAT year of learning!



Label Personal Items

Please label all personal items with your child's First and Last Name and teacher's name. We have had lunch boxes, backpacks and water bottles that have been found with no identification on them. This will help our staff get these items back to the correct student.

Teacher Assignments

As we wrap up the first week of school, our enrollment is leveling out. We have another big count day on Monday and will continue to work with the district through next week as they finalize teacher allocations. At this time, we are still closely monitoring grades K, 1, and 4. Current teacher assignments are tentative pending the potential allocation of additional teachers that will reduce class sizes. We will continue to keep you updated as more information is shared with us throughout the district-wide enrollment count process. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process each year and welcome all of our amazing new families.

Media Center and P.A.L.S. Volunteer Opportunity

The media center is ready for readers! If you are interested in volunteering in the media center, please attend a short training on Tuesday, August 16, at 10 a.m. Media Center help includes sorting and shelving books and helping students find books. P.A.L.S. includes helping teachers with copying and laminating. Both opportunities are a great way to get involved. As a perk, volunteers are allowed to check out up to 10 books at a time. ***Please make sure to take the quick, mandatory Volunteer Training required of all parents wishing to volunteer at the school. A link can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).**

Curriculum Nights – Mark your calendars!

At Shakerag, we believe that we are one big family working together to support the success of every child. A key to that success is open communication. We hope you will be able to join us for Curriculum Night as teachers will walk you through the class structure/schedule for their grade level and what you need to know to help your child be successful for the year. **This is a night for parents and teachers only! If you must bring your child, he/she will need to sit with you in the classroom for the duration of the evening. (Virtual/Simultaneous options will be available for the classroom presentations.)**

- Tuesday, August 23 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Pre-K – 2nd Grade Curriculum Night
- Tuesday, August 23 at 7:10 p.m. – General PTO meeting in the cafeteria
- Thursday, August 25 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – 3rd – 5th Grade Curriculum Night

Newcomers Coffee

If you are NEW to Shakerag... Welcome to the family! Please mark your calendar for our Newcomers Coffee on Wednesday, September 14, at 8:00 a.m. in the media center.

TAG Eligibility Update

As of August 2022, iReady reading and math percentiles will now count as gifted eligibility scores in the area of achievement. In past years, they have been used by the TAG Department for screening purposes only. Please click [here](#) for more information on the TAG Eligibility Process.

A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

Our School Governance Council (SGC) Needs YOU!

Two of our amazing parents from our School Governance Council have now joined our staff full-time, leaving us with two volunteer parent vacancies. **We are still in need of one parent volunteer to serve a one-year term.** The School Governance Council meets one time per month for about an hour to help set and monitor the strategic direction of the school. Primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Approve the school's Strategic Plan
- Approve the school's budget recommendations
- Manage the Request for Flexibility process

- Participate in the hiring process when hiring a new principal
- Provide feedback on the principal's performance

If you are interested in joining the School Governance Council, or would like additional details, please email our principal, Christine Lemerond at Lemerond@fultonschools.org.

School Governance Council Meeting

We invite you to visit our School Governance Council (SGC) website, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#) or via our school website (click [here](#)) under the 'ABOUT' drop-down menu. Our latest Strategic Plan as well as other relevant SGC information is posted to this site for your convenience. Our next SGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, at 8:00 a.m.

FCS News:

Student Success Skills

All FCS parents/guardians will continue to have access to all Student Success Skill lessons that are in the FCS RethinkEd lesson database. Directions for establishing an account and accessing all Student Success Skills lessons and home discussion guides in RethinkEd can be found by clicking [here](#). A paper copy will also be sent home in Friday folders. Please contact Michelle Paras, School Counselor, at ParasM@fultonschools.org with additional questions.

Bus Transportation:

We encourage all parents to download the "Here Comes the Bus" app. It is a free app that enables you to see the location of your child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. Click [here](#) for instructions on downloading the app. For bus stop information, please click [here](#) or you can visit their [webpage](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Procedures and Protocols:

As directed by the district, we will be following the protocols listed below as we start the school year. Please note that these are subject to change at any time.

- Masks are **optional** at this time. Masks are recommended for all employees and students, but not required, including on FCS school buses. Teachers and staff will no longer be enforcing the wearing of masks. Please make sure your child knows and understands your desires as a family. If you would like for them to continue to wear a mask, please review this family expectation with them.
- Parents are required to report student positive cases through the [Parent Portal](#).
- Quarantine rules will follow CDC, state, and County Board of Health guidelines.
- Public health officials strongly encourage individuals directly exposed to COVID-19 to get tested after 3-5 days of exposure.
- Mask wearing is recommended following an exposure for 10 days but is not required.

School Nutrition Updates

The cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch for those who wish to participate. Breakfast will be served from 7:10 - 7:40 a.m. All students are invited to **purchase** food at school, as it is a well-balanced meal.

- Now that students must purchase meals again, the **charge policy** will be returning. When a child's account balance reaches a negative \$10, they will be offered a special lunch (cheese sandwich and a milk) until payment is made on their account. You may send in cash or a check written out to "Shakerag Elementary Café" with your child in the morning with their name and teacher's name on the envelope. You may also pay online at www.mypaymentsplus.com.
- **Free & Reduced Meal Applications for the 2022-2023 School Year:** The Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Program is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes Free or Reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of persons living in the house. A **new** application must be completed every school year. If there is an interruption in benefits or the household does not reapply, the household is responsible for payment of meals until the Free and Reduced Application is approved. **Free & Reduced Meal Applications are available in the cafeteria and anytime online beginning August 1, 2022. Visit www.fulton.schoolslunchapp.com to begin the online application process.**

Fulton County receives funding from a variety of federal grants based on the number of children in the district that QUALIFY for Free or Reduced priced meals, regardless if they choose to participate in the meal program. Many federal grant awards are allocated nationally to public school districts based on Free and Reduced percentages such as Title-1, E-RATE, and The National Direct Teacher Loan Cancellation Program.

Café News - Birthday Treats

Class birthday treats may be purchased for students to enjoy during lunch. Parents need to contact the cafeteria manager Santanav@fultonschools.org and the classroom teacher at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the celebration. If there are multiple children with the same birthday, only one birthday treat will be served on that day. **No outside food, goody bags, or class gifts are permitted for distribution to students.**

Bus Drivers Needed!!!

Bus drivers are often the first Fulton County School (FCS) district employees our students see in the morning and the last employees they see when they arrive at their bus stop. We appreciate the dedication of our drivers and the understanding of our parents as we face a historically challenging driver shortage.

FCS has an amazing and dedicated group of over 600 drivers we are actively trying to expand. At this point, we are still looking to fill 200 vacancies and offering several very appealing incentives:

- All employees received a 3% raise for the 2022-23 school year. For drivers with no commercial driving experience the starting hourly rate is now \$21.01. For those drivers with a CDL the hourly rate could be more.
- \$2,000 hiring bonus for new drivers who work throughout the 2022-2023 school year.
- \$2,000 retention bonus for current drivers who stay with FCS throughout the 2022-2023 school year.
- \$500 referral bonus for current employees who recruit a new hire.

As Executive Director of Transportation Vickie Cross likes to say, "Opportunity is honking! So come and join our transportation family." If a candidate has a current Georgia driver's license and has passed an FCS background check, they can begin to work with us, and FCS will support them in obtaining their training and their Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with P and S endorsements!

New changes to the Code of Conduct

Fulton County Schools would like to notify our families, students, and communities about a few of the new changes coming to the 2022-2023 Code of Conduct, especially the new expectations around cell phones and personal communication devices (PCDs). Please click [here](#) for a quick overview.

Parents and students need to sign for receipt of the Student Code of Conduct using the new **digital signature process**. Click [here](#) for the link that contains a step-by-step "**how to**" guide for completing the digital signature process.

- All students above 10 years of age and their parents, guardians, or other person having control or charge of the child is asked to digitally sign acknowledging receipt of the Code of Conduct and Student Handbook.
- Parents and students are able to digitally sign by using their online portal or the app on their smartphone/device.
- The Code of Conduct can be viewed via our website <https://www.fultonschools.org/studentdiscipline>

In the Community:

Linda McCain's Community Meeting

Our school board member, Linda McCain, will be hosting a community meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at Northview High School (10625 Parsons Rd, Johns Creek, GA 30097). All are welcome to join.

Calling all Girls interested in joining Girl Scouts!

The Girl Scouts of Oakwood Circle Service Unit will be hosting their Annual Girl Scout Troop Organizational Meeting on Saturday, August 20 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Johns Creek United Methodist Church (11180 Medlock Bridge Road Johns Creek, GA 30097) in the Media Center. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Bell Road Bridge – Construction

Starting Monday, June 6, Bell Road will be closed due to the Bell Road Bridge project. Please click [here](#) for the detour map.

Have a wonderful weekend!