

# News Release

## For Immediate Release

March 11, 2019

## For More Information Contact

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## News to Know for Week of March 11-15

This tip sheet is prepared weekly to help members of the news media plan coverage for the week.

### Educational Observances for March

**(Correction: The above heading was clarified by removing the word "Special" so there is no confusion with the special education events that occurred last week during "Exceptional Children's Week")**

Youth Art Month is an annual observance every March to emphasize the value of art education for all youth and to encourage support for quality school art programs. Through the annual celebration of Youth Art Month, The Council for Art Education provides a forum for acknowledging the imagination, innovation, and creative skills that a visual arts experience can nurture. Across the country, students, teachers and communities direct attention to the value of a visual arts education that develops divergent and critical thinking, multicultural awareness, and technical, communication, and expressive skills.

### Awards and Honors

On March 9, two Fulton County high schools brought home state championships in basketball. Westlake High School defeated Collins Hill High School to win the Region 7-A Girls Championship – their second straight state title. The Westlake Lady Lions also finished the season with a perfect 30-0 record. Tri-Cities High School defeated Tucker High School to win the Region 6-A Boys Basketball Championship, the team's first state championship in school history.

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Creekside High School announces that several students have achieved national recognition. Recently, four students – Johnny Ballard, Da'Jon Bonnee, John Igieobo and Zack Rangel – were announced as Dell Scholarship semifinalists, with two of the students – Bonnee and Igieobo – being named Dell Scholarship winners. The Dell Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship for students performing "in the middle" that provides monetary and support services. Winners receive \$20,000 in scholarship awards, a laptop, textbook credits, and support through guidance and coaching.

Creekside senior, Dae'Shawn Taylor, also is a semifinalist for the Gates Scholarship, a highly selective, full scholarship for high school minority students. Taylor is part of the school's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, an academic approach that helps students possessing a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard, but need more college-readiness skills and training.

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Several Fulton County schools placed in the Bright Spark Design Thinking Competition, a national competition held by Bridge Innovate in Chattanooga. In the annual competition, River Trail Middle School was named “Best Middle School,” Woodland Elementary School received the “People’s Choice Award,” Mountain Park Elementary School received the “United Way Stronger Communities Award,” and Steve Sweigart, staff member at Johns Creek High School, received the “Leadership Impact Award.”

## **Save the Date**

On March 15, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Fulton County Schools’ Administrative Center, approximately 160 students will gather for the fourth annual Student Choice Food Challenge, an event where students come together to taste and vote for potential new school meal recipes. Students will provide feedback through a rating system, and the collected data will help the school system determine which student-approved recipes will be added to school menus.

## **In Case You Missed It**

State Superintendent Richard Woods visited Banneker High School on March 7 to see and hear the school’s “turnaround story.” Once designated as an underperforming school, student achievement has significantly improved in recent years at Banneker. The school’s graduation rate has dramatically increased along with test scores and overall student performance. Recently, Banneker was removed from the state’s failing schools list and was named a “Beating The Odds” school in 2018.

Special guests visited the “3DE Business Magnet Academy” that draws students for a rigorous academic experience focusing on real-world projects and project-based education as well as the school’s new Student and Family Engagement Center, which is considered an exemplar in the state. Guests also learned about a \$5.2 million School Improvement Grant (SIG) that has funded teaching innovations that help students become more college and career ready. **Photo attached.**

## **On the Website: [www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org)**

[Graduation dates announced for Class of 2019](#)

[Spring Kindergarten & Pre-K Registration Dates Set](#)

[2019-20 and 2020-21 school calendars approved](#)

## **On The Tube: FCS-TV**

[Fulton County Schools Science Fair Recap](#)

[Fulton Now! student-hosted news show](#)

[Inside Look: Langston Hughes High School](#)

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**About the Fulton County School System.** The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. More than 95,000 students attend 106 schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City.