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# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## News to Know for Week of May 13-17

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

### Special Observances for May

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month** and FCS employees are participating in various ways. Why care? Because one in five people will be affected by mental illness in their lifetime. Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and mental illnesses are common and treatable. Link [here](#) to see the various learning supports offered by the school system that assist with students' social and emotional development in order to graduate ready to pursue and succeed on their chosen path.

**Open Enrollment** has begun and FCS has identified 58 schools that can accept transfer students next school year through Georgia's Quality Basic Education Act (also called House Bill 251). Approved in 2009, the Intra-District School Choice section of the law allows parents of students enrolled in a public K-12 school to enroll in another school within the district if space allows. The application deadline is Wednesday, May 15, at 4:30 p.m., and parents will be notified of their child's transfer status by June 30. The transfer application is currently available online. To view specific schools open to transfer, please visit the [website](#).

### Save the Date

**The new Innovation Academy** is holding [information sessions](#) this week. Join new Principal Tim Duncan at any of the following locations to learn more about this collaborative environment: Chattahoochee High School, 5230 Taylor Road, Johns Creek, GA, on May 13 (6:30-8:00 p.m. in the auditorium) Milton High School, 13025 Birmingham Hwy, Milton, GA, on May 14 (6:30-8:00 p.m. in the auditorium) Roswell High School, 9310 Scott Road, Roswell, GA, on May 15 (6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium), North Learning Center, 450 Northridge Parkway, Atlanta, GA, May 16 (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.). Students will experience a world-class design-thinking program and a rigorous curriculum that results in projects, portfolios, certifications and mentorships. Students and families are invited to learn more. Please RSVP to let us know you are planning to attend. EventBrite link: <https://bit.ly/2Vf0mUa>.

**Seaborn Lee Elementary School** presents "The Wiz Kids" May 15 and 16 at 6 p. m. The program, a presentation of the Fine Arts Department, will be presented in the school's Bulldog Café. Tickets will be available in the front office and at the door on the night of the shows.

**Heritage Elementary School** will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> grade moving up ceremony May 15 at 1:30 pm. **Banneker High School** seniors who attended **Heritage Elementary** will give each 5<sup>th</sup> grader something tangible as they move

up, a key to success. The seniors will encourage the 5<sup>th</sup> graders with congratulatory signs and banners. Other high school students who attended Heritage Elementary have also been invited to attend. For more information contact Anitra Morris at 470-254-9474.

**Ridgeview Middle School** is celebrating its 2019 Georgia Light House School to Watch Award on Thursday, May 16 from 9:15-10:45 a.m. The award assembly begins at 9:15 a.m. in the gym followed by IB Projects Showcase at 9:55 a.m. in various classrooms. The award is given by the National Forum and recognizes schools for academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity and organizational effectiveness. Please RSVP to Principal Opie Blackwell at [blackwello@fultonschools.org](mailto:blackwello@fultonschools.org) or 470-254-7710.

**Woodland Elementary School** will hold its annual STEM Day Thursday, May 16. All students in Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade compete against their grade level in a school-wide Science Olympiad competition. The students will enjoy grade level events including Operation Egg Drop, Bridge Building, Chopper Challenge, Aerodynamics, Space Lander and more. The top three winners from each event will receive medals.

An FCS **Transportation Hiring Event** for bus drivers, transportation assistants and mechanics, will be held Friday, May 31 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at North Springs Charter High School, 7447 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs. Look for more information soon on our website.

An FCS **Custodial Hiring Event** will be held Thursday, May 30 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. FCS offers great pay, benefits, retirement and a sign-on bonus for new hires. Applications are already available online via the [homepage banner link](#). The website will provide more information soon.

## **Cool Kids and Schools Doing Cool Things**

**Hapeville Charter Career Academy** is among the first class of Amazon Future Engineers. A group of seniors from the academy were featured at an award ceremony where they were saluted for completing the AP Computer Science Class. They also showed off their completed computer science projects. To see the full story click [here](#).

**Roswell High School's** (RHS) Hornet Battalion JROTC Leadership Team will be competing in the National Leadership Bowl Championship in Washington, D. C. June 21-25, after advancing through two phases of online competition. The team is composed of Ian Hughes, Phillip Beudert, Enrique Marques and Ethan Rodabaugh. The event is held on the campus of The Catholic University of America and is sponsored by the U. S. Army Cadet Command, JROTC Headquarters, conducted by the College Options Foundation. The Hornet Battalions earned top scores out of 1,350 Army JROTC teams that competed from around the world. The team is one of only 40 Army JROTC Leadership Bowl teams in the nation to advance to final competition.

**Stonewall Tell Elementary** received a 2019 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF). The \$2,500 grant will be used for the school's Parent Resource Center.

## **Strategic Plan – deadline May 17**

Fulton County Schools are committed to supporting our people and culture as an important pillar of our Strategic Plan 2022. At the end of each school year, we ask our families and staff to share their input to understand how we are doing. Your feedback will also help us to identify possible next steps we should take to meet our goals. Please help us capture your experience by [taking this 10-minute survey](#). Your responses will be reported anonymously.

## **Anti-vaping Video Public Service Announcement Contest Has a Winner!**

The **Anti-Vaping Video PSA contest** winner will be announced Friday, May 17. Entrants were asked to show their creativity and educate others about the dangers of vaping and Juuling. Stay tuned to see our winning videos.

### **Purposity: An app for good**

Download Purposity today to help us meet the specific individual needs of our students quickly! Once you create an account, select Fulton County Schools and you'll get one notification a week. Click the link, read the story and decide if you'd like to help, right from your phone in a few clicks. Prices of requested items are clearly displayed. The shopping and shipping is taken care of and the exact item needed is shipped to the partner nonprofit. Already, 80 students in FCS have been assisted with significant needs. Download the App today and start helping our community <https://www.purposity.com/>

### **Awards and Honors**

**Three Fulton County Schools Seniors** were named **2019 Georgia Scholars** by Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods. Congratulations to **Corey Braum, Cambridge High School; Caroline Brolly, Milton High School,** and **Aaron Woolfolk, Westlake High School.** Georgia Scholars are students who have carried exemplary course loads during their four years of high school; who performed excellently in all courses; who successfully participated in interscholastic events at their schools and in their communities; and who have assumed active roles in extracurricular activities sponsored by their schools. Each Georgia Scholar receives a seal for his or her diploma.

**Eight Fulton County High Schools** were ranked in the top 50 of U. S. News and World Report's High School ranking. In the publication's new, revamped edition of the rankings of more than 17,000 schools nationwide, the following FCS high schools made the top of the list: Northview (5), Chattahoochee (9), Alpharetta (11), Cambridge (14), Johns Creek (15), Milton (22), Roswell (26) and Centennial (50). Rankings take a holistic approach to evaluating schools, looking at six factors: college readiness, reading and math proficiency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rates. Specifically, college readiness measures participation and performance on AP and IB exams.

**Banneker High School** was awarded International STEM certification by Advanced Ed. Dr. Ava Debro, who led Banneker's STEM team, said "It was a challenging but rewarding process. It was also validation that we were doing the right work." Dr. Duke Bradley, Banneker Principal, said "Earning STEM certification is a wonderful achievement for Banneker High School. We've been on a four year journey to create more meaningful learning opportunities for our students and to ensure their academic competitiveness. This inches us a lot closer to that goal."

**Banneker High School and its Family Engagement (SAFE) Center** received the United Way of Greater Atlanta's Partnership Champion Award at the State of the Children event May 9. This award goes to the organization that has most effectively teamed up with other organizations to strategically address systems-level issues using a collective impact model. Nominees are organizations who aligned their work with the Child Well-Being Index and were pioneers in recognizing the power of the partnerships and collaboration.

**Dunwoody Springs Elementary School** student government leaders spent an evening learning about local government and how it works. Led by School Counselor Susan McLane, students attend a Sandy Springs City Council meeting to experience positive leadership in action.

**Evoline C. West Elementary** had two students to place in the South Fulton mascot art contest. **Zaria Tai** was selected as 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner and **Gianni Burton** was selected as 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner of the 2019 Cleaner Greener South Fulton Mascot contest. A special presentation to all winners is planned for May 28 at 7 p.m. at the South Fulton City Council meeting.

**Riverwood International Charter School's** junior Chandler McCleskey won a "Future Leaders of America" scholarship from the Fulton County Law Week Committee. He will attend a Washington Workshop Seminar from June 22-28. McCleskey accepted the award at the annual Fulton County Law Week ceremony on May 1 at the Fulton County Juvenile Court reception hall. This six-day program offers an opportunity for students in 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade to study American government and history from across the country, increase citizen participation in the electoral process while increasing students' knowledge of contemporary events. Various informative, onsite dialogue sessions with leaders from both the federal government and private sectors will be provided.

**River Trail Middle School Robotics Team** won State Championship Teamwork Challenge for a second year in a row. The team, which consists of sixth through eighth graders, placed first in the 2019 VEX Robotics state championships at Alchovy High School in Newton County. They were then invited to participate in the World Championships in Louisville, KY in April, in which 15 other schools from Georgia competed against 400 teams from over 35 countries including China, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Finland, Chile, Turkey and more across the globe.

**River Trail Middle School seventh grader Vaishnavi Tammali** recently won the 2019 Georgia Girls Scholastic Championship May 4-5 conducted by the Georgia Chess Association and will go on to represent the state of Georgia in the 2019 National Girls Tournament of Champions held in Florida during first week of August. She has competed in both middle grades and adult competitions.

## **In Case You Missed It**

**Fulton County Schools (FCS)** held its first ever Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Signing Day May 9. Approximately 25 FCS seniors who are entering a career pathway after graduation signed letters of intent for careers in Teaching as a Profession, Architecture, Construction, and Engineering. Rodney Sampson, an investment ecosystem builder and 20 year entrepreneur, was the keynote speaker. "We do signing days for athletics and academics," said Yalanda Bell, Executive Director of CTAE. "This year, we decided to include students who are beginning their career paths." [Read more about the event here.](#)

**Alpharetta High School** boys won the **6A State Championship** in track this weekend. **Cambridge High School** girls finished second in the **6A State Track Championship**. **Centennial High School** won the first ever **Adapted Track Team State Championship**. **Cathryn Gray** won three individual state championships to lead the team. Congratulations to all three schools on an amazing weekend for Fulton County Schools.

**Spalding Drive Elementary** held a celebration/ceremony in which they received the \$1,000 prize for highest participation in Sandy Springs Education Force's STEAM Showcase (Reading Buddy program) back in March.

## **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

[A Day in the Life with Shannon Flounnory](#)

[Teacher Feature Episode 3](#)

[Board Matters Episode 7](#)

[Fulton Now](#)

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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.