



News Release

For Immediate Release
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For More Information Contact
Brian Noyes or Shumuriel Ratliff, Communications Department
470-254-6830 or communications@fultonschools.org

News to Know for Week of September 16-20

Special Observances for September

Fulton County Schools counselors, psychologists, and social workers continue to observe Suicide Prevention Awareness month. The entire FCS staff is wearing yellow ribbons and sharing resources. FCS resources include Text4Help and FCS TipLine.

Save the Date

A Phillip Randolph Elementary will showcase its Spanish language program September 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Curriculum Night. The learning platform for grades K-5 is through Middleberry Languages. Students will have an opportunity to show parents and the community their progress.

Fulton County Schools Transportation Department is holding a Bus Driver Job Fair on Saturday, September 28, 2019, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Lake Forest Elementary School, 5920 Sandy Springs Circle in Sandy Springs. This job fair is open to all drivers, driver assistants, and mechanics with sign-on bonuses available. FCS offers flexible schedules, full-time and part-time shifts, full benefits, pension plan and paid CDL training. Veterans, retirees, and college students are encouraged to attend. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/2lWDmgu>. For questions contact the North Fulton Transportation office at 470-254-0715.

The second annual **School Governance Conference** will be held Saturday, September 21 from 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Riverwood International Charter School. The conference is designed to equip, inspire, and empower council members to lead differently in local school decision-making. Packed with up-to-date information and break-out sessions, the workshops will provide extra support to members to monitor their strategic plans, encouragement to share their stories with community stakeholders and assistance with leveraging

resources to support their school initiatives. Breakfast will be served from 8 – 9 a.m. and the media is invited.

On Saturday, September 21, fifteen FCS marching bands from across the district will showcase their talents in the annual **Fulton County Marching Band Exhibition**. The event begins at 5:45 p.m. at the Cambridge High School stadium. Though the event is not competitive, a panel of content expert evaluators will be on hand to give feedback to directors and students. **Centennial, Langston Hughes, Riverwood, North Springs, Johns Creek, Benjamin Banneker, Westlake, Roswell, Creekside, Northview, Chattahoochee, Cambridge, Tri-Cities, Alpharetta, and Milton High Schools** will participate. Tickets are \$5, and children under five years old are free. There is administrative VIP free admission and VIP parking available with county ID badge. Concessions will be on sale at the stadium. Live streaming via banddirector.com will be available. The official hashtag for social sharing is #fcmbe.

Dolvin Elementary School will host a Bilingual Q&A with Superintendent Mike Looney on Wednesday, October 2 at 10 a.m. in The Commons for all bilingual parents in the Northeast Learning Community (Roswell, Johns Creek and Alpharetta). Translations for Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and Hindi will be provided by Bilingual Community Liaisons. For more information, please contact Martha Holladay, Medlock Bridge and Dolvin Elementary School Bilingual Parent Liaison at 470-254-9700 or Holladay@fultonschools.org.

Awards and Honors

Congratulations to the 114 FCS students who qualified as National Merit Semi-Finalists with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Approximately 16,000 recipients have been announced in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring. From **Alpharetta High School**: Palin

Bhardwaj, Suchetas Bokil, Olivia Colburn, Madhura Gangal, Nikhil Jaganathan, Priya Joshi, Dara Karadsheh, Varun Kasibhatla, Harika Kosaraju, Vivia Lung, Zachary Plimpton, Abhayasimha Sastry, Kaci Xie and Kevin Zhao.

Cambridge High School: Nishant Baglodi, Darcy Jones, Rachael Kang, Taelyn May, Joseph Olejniczak, Ashley Sechrest, Ethan White and Jacob White. **Centennial High School**: Crystal Favorito, Eleri Floyd and Mabel Htay. **Chattahoochee High School**: Brian Amaro, Alexandra Ames, Jillian Armstrong, Anna Chung, Adiva Dutta, Hyoungjin Kim, Yoonsea Kwon, Charles Liu, Suraj Peramanu, Jaehun Seo, Lindsay Sharman and Bryan Zhou. **Johns Creek High School**: Catherine Buntin, Elizabeth Buntin, Andrew Chen, Catherine Chen, Christine Cheng, Yuzhu Dong, Ashley Hong, Bradley Hu, Jenna McPherson, Harshita Nagula, Luca Parker, Heng Qi, Jeffrey Shen, Ivy Xue and Kian Zendeherouh Kermani.

Milton High School: Neil Kochhar, Shreya Kumar, Nicole Lin, Saad Maan, Aryaman Mohapatra, Ryan Ortwein, Zoey Patel, Shreya Ramesh, Alexandra Salyer and Christina Wang.

North Springs High School: Ethan Goldberg, Aviel Pearlman Joline Speck. **Northview High School:** Abdumamad Addis, Venkata Alturi, Aditya Birla, Joanna Chen, Sihyun Chung, Atharva Desai, Aditi Dhillon, Melinda Gong, Saran Her, Christina James, Jun-Ha Jung, Randy Kang, Ishan Karanwal, Junkyu Kim, Anish Manne, Daniel Martinez, Maitraiye Mohan, Aneet Nadella, Haotong Ning, Sean O'Neal, Rory Pan, Akshay Patil, Kapish Potula, Aishwarya Rallabhandy, Neha Rao, Adit Sachde, Cherie Sang, Arjun Smith, Dylan So, Mira Sydow, Steve Tang, Arish Virani, Andrew Wang, Patrick Wang, Samuel Xie, Amy Xu, Ian Yang, Chelsea Yuan, Albert Zhang, Megan Zhang and Jason Zou.

Roswell High School: Maclean Ashmead, Edward Esposito, Saima Firoj, Noah Frank, Rohan Gandhi, Zekun Li, Samantha Singer and Robert Vrolijk.

(Correction to last week's announcement): **The Fulton County School Nutrition Program** is the award recipient of the Atlanta Falcons Hometown Grant for the 2019-2020 school year. The NFL, through Fuel Up to Play 60, will provide \$10,000 in grant money to help support school nutrition initiatives. A congratulatory celebration was hosted by the Atlanta Falcons and the Dairy Alliance September 10 at Liberty Point Elementary School.

Additionally, the **FCS Nutrition department**, headed by Executive Director of School Nutrition, Alyssia Wright, won the Golden Radish award and will be honored at the 2019 Gold Radish Award Ceremony on September 17 at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. Recognized at the top (platinum) level for satisfying all 10 criteria for eligibility, FCS Nutrition is acknowledged for its outstanding leadership of school nutrition representatives working to establish comprehensive farm-to-school programs. This award is given by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Department of Public Health, the UGA Cooperative Extension, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and Georgia Organics. Fulton has participated in the National Farm-to-School initiative since 2011, offering all students access to locally and regionally grown fresh produce. For more information, please contact Alyssia L. Wright at wrightal@fultonschools.org. The ceremony will be livestreamed on Instagram, beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Several departments within **Financial Services** have won national and international awards: the offices of **Contracting** and **Accounting**, under the overall direction of Chief Financial Officer Marvin Dereef. The Contracting department has earned the 2019 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award by the National Procurement Institute, Inc. This award recognizes organizational excellence in public and non-profit procurement. FCS is one of only 12 agencies in Georgia one of only 23 school districts in the United States and Canada to receive this award. The Accounting department has been honored by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA), which has awarded the Fulton County Board of Education for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2018. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the

area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Also, FCS' CAFR has won the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International. This achievement reflects a commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting.

Two FCS art teachers have won state awards. **Sweet Apple Elementary School** art teacher Katie Argentina has won Elementary Art Educator of the Year award, and **FCS Museum** Curator Jena Sibille has been named Museum Educator of the Year by the Georgia Art Educators Association. Both employees will be presented with these honors at the GAEA annual conference in November at Young Harris College.

Alpharetta High School and **Johns Creek High School** have received the Audio, Video, Technology, and Film (AVTF) Gold Medal for Craft Achievement from the Student Television News. The Craft Achievement Award recognizes programs in their pursuit of professional growth and those that have excelled in the craft of film, video, and media production

In order to qualify, programs sent in the URL for their websites that included samples of media production, including but not limited to, short films, animations, cultural pieces, educational programs, public service announcements, commercials, documentaries, entertainment segments, live events, video yearbooks and news productions. Alpharetta and Johns Creek were the only schools in the nation to receive Gold Medals. The schools will be recognized at the STN Convention in Washington, DC in March of 2020.

Cool Kids (and Schools) Doing Cool Things

Langston Hughes High students installed dots in celebration of International Dot Day. Principal Charles Chester, Media Center Director Leona Lawrence and Art Department Chair Mary Breazeale collaborated to make Dot Day a school-wide project. Officially celebrated September 15, Dot Day is a day to encourage people around the world to celebrate creativity, courage, and collaboration. Langston Hughes used the day as an opportunity for social emotional learning. C.B.I. students installed dots that are displayed in the Media Center.

Students at **Lake Windward Elementary (LWES)**, guided by art teacher Katherine Murphy, read The Dot by Peter Reynolds as inspiration to create their own unique dot or mark on the world. LWES students made dots to "Make Your Mark" on the start of the year. The dots were made with melted down paper or plastic cups and decorated the media center windows, creating a positive visual impact on the building. **River Eves Elementary School (REES)** students celebrated the day on September 13, led by art teacher Lauren O'Hara, by creating their own dot artworks and displaying a colorful, collaborative wall mural.

Cambridge High School, Chattahoochee High School and **North Springs Charter High School** art students are currently exhibiting their work at Atlanta Celebrates Open Photography Exhibition at the Abernathy Arts Center. The Open Photography Exhibition is part of the larger ACP Festival,

now in its 21st year and is a free pin-up show for everyone – professionals and amateurs of all ages. Exhibition viewing runs from September 10 through 27 with awards and closing on September 28. Prizes are awarded in a variety of categories on the last day. High school entrants are ages 13-18 with one high school winning the grand prize of \$500 toward their Art/Photography program. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2IOP50J>

In Case You Missed It

Creekside High School Principal Frankie Pollock embedded himself as a student. You can see photos from his student experience and a summary video at the school twitter @Creekside_High. Principal Pollock will share lessons learned from his experience in an article.

FCS Superintendent Mike Looney recently appeared as the keynote speaker on September 11 at the Sandy Springs-Perimeter Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, which spotlighted education. The Chamber partnered with Sandy Springs Education Force, a major provider of grants and supplemental programs in Sandy Springs area Fulton County Schools. After quickly securing a partner out of the audience for Spalding Drive Elementary School, Dr. Looney brought to light several important points that illustrated some common misconceptions. First, he said students need to be reading on grade level not by third grade, but by *first* grade. And second, if they are not reading on grade level by then, they will likely not read on grade level throughout their school career. Therefore, he is committed to meet the challenge to determine what is needed to make this happen across the district so all students can be successful.

Flu Season Update - Georgia is experiencing the onset of an early flu season with confirmed cases already reported by local health providers. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics have stressed the importance of children receiving flu vaccines and the danger of flu to children. According to the CDC, a flu vaccine offers the best defense against getting flu and spreading it to others. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states that the flu can cause 10 days of fever and lead to serious complications even for healthy kids. Therefore, we are sharing this information to remind everyone to take precautions and to work together to help prevent the spread of flu. To ensure the safety and health of students, staff and parents, we encourage you to take proactive measures that can help reduce the spread of flu and other communicable illnesses. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2lPZauv>.

The **Partners in Education (P.I.E.) Expo** took place September 12 at Atlanta Technical College. All principals and staff in the South Fulton Learning Community met with community partners and Board President Linda Bryant and Board member Kimberly Dove to engage participants. Superintendent Looney was the keynote speaker at the luncheon that followed the expo, presented by the South Fulton Chamber's education committee. He told partners "We need you to help us connect the dots for our students."

Wolf Creek Elementary celebrated Community Day September 14 with games, arts and crafts, food and more. Principal Dionne Glass encouraged the community to support the event and partner with local schools.

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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 93,500 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.

