



News Release

For Immediate Release
September 23, 2019

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 23-27

Special Observances for September

Fulton County Schools counselors, psychologists, and social workers continue to observe Suicide Prevention Awareness month. Throughout the school system, FCS staff is wearing yellow ribbons and sharing resources. FCS resources include Text4Help, an app that connects students anonymously to licensed mental health professional, and [FCS TipLine](#) for reporting safety information.

Save the Date

Correction: 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 **Ison Springs Elementary School** (not at Lake Elementary School as previously announced), 8261 Ison Road, 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 Transportation office at 470-254-0715.

Westlake High School will host an HBCU College Fair on September 28, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Over 40 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, government and Armed Forces representatives will be there looking for well-rounded students. For registration information visit www.gotocollegefairs.com.

Seaborn Lee Elementary School and **Stonewall Tell Elementary School** will hold celebrations in honor of grandparents on September 27. Seaborn Lee invites students' grandparents to join them for lunch beginning at 10 a.m. for Pre-K and ending at 12:50 p.m. for fifth graders while Stonewall

Tell will host an ice cream social from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. It will be a “sweet” celebration!

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 areas). Translations into Spanish, Korean and Mandarin will be provided by bilingual community liaisons. For more information, contact Martha Holladay, Medlock Bridge and Dolvin Elementary School bilingual parent liaison at 470-254-9285 or Holladay@fultonschools.org.

As part of its Parent University, **Johns Creek High School** PTSA has planned October events that address students’ mental and emotional wellness. Beginning with a presentation on Wednesday, Oct. 16 by Dr. Jeanine Jannot, author of “The Disintegrating Student.” Later that month, the PTSA will present a three-part conversation on the documentary “Race to Nowhere,” that deals with systemic pressures and how to tackle them. These events will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 23; Thursday, Nov. 21; and Friday, Dec. 6.

Awards and Honors

Fulton’s graduation rate has increased from 2018! Data released by the Georgia Department of Education shows an increase in Fulton County Schools’ graduation rate of 0.4 percentage points making it 87.2 percent for 2019. The district outpaces the state average of 82.0 percent by 5.2 percent. **Chattahoochee High School** posted a graduation rate of 97.9 percent and a 2.5 percent increase, the highest in the district. **Banneker High School** had the largest one-year gain, increasing their graduation rate by 5.8 percentage points from 75.9 percent in 2018 to 81.7 percent in 2019.

Hopewell, Northwestern, and Crabapple middle schools received the Rising Star Award from Junior Achievement, the nation’s largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. The only other organizations recognized in this category were Fortune 500 companies, such as Delta, State Farm, SunTrust, UPS, and Wells Fargo. These schools saw a 10% increase in the number of parent volunteers who attend and assist with simulation trips at the Junior Achievement Discovery Centers. Additionally, Hopewell received the Impact Award for exceeding 100 parent volunteers. This special award was only given to four other organizations, and Hopewell was the only public middle school recognized in this category. For additional information, please contact Crystal Flowers, Director of Certified Learning and Teaching at flowersc1@fultonschools.org.

Two **Taylor Road Middle School** teachers have been designated as the teaching team that best represents Georgia in modeling effective co-teaching by the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children. Co-teachers Kelly Standridge and Lindsey Meekhoff have a strong understanding of students with disabilities along with a great love for teaching and student success. They say their effectiveness can be attributed to prioritizing a joint planning timer, focus

on differentiation and specially designed instruction, and dedication to ensuring all students' success. For more information, contact Susan Baker, Interdisciplinary Coordinator, DHH/OI/VI Services for Exceptional Children at bakersm@fultonschools.org.

Cool Kids (and Schools) Doing Cool Things

Seaborn Lee Elementary School participated in the Pinwheels for Peace Project to reflect symbols of calm, serenity, and freedom from conflict. This art installation project was started in 2005 by two art teachers and has grown from 500,000 pinwheels to four million pinwheels. Principal Kine' Geathers encouraged Art Teacher Amber Falconer and staff to help students create and plant pinwheels at the front of the school. The pinwheels are blowing in the wind and are a public art exhibit.

Heards Ferry Elementary School students kicked off STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Day with an interactive assembly featuring Ronnie Thomas of Fun Weird Science. Thomas presented exciting experiments that highlighted basic chemistry concepts.

Fourteen **Riverwood International Charter School** students and 15 **North Springs Charter High School** students were selected for the Class of 2019-2020 in Youth Leadership Sandy Springs (YLSS). The program is open to sophomores and juniors who live or attend school in Sandy Springs. The students will learn to work together in the year-long program designed to enhance and enrich their understanding of the city. They will have the opportunity to explore various industry sectors including environment, city government, non-profit, law enforcement, business, and public safety issues. YLSS is the junior leadership program of the non-profit organization, Leadership Sandy Springs.

Art students from **Cambridge High School**, **Chattahoochee High School**, and **North Springs Charter High School** are currently exhibiting their work at the Atlanta Celebrates Open Photography Exhibition at Abernathy Arts Center. The 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 through September 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, visit <https://bit.ly/2lOP50J>

In Case You Missed It

Westlake High School football team members surprised **Stonewall Tell Elementary** students with high fives and school supplies to encourage them and get them excited about the weekend game. "We brought all the seniors that went to this school," said Coach Bobby May. "We thought it was a good opportunity to give back to the community that helped raise them and bring

some excitement." Westlake's game with Grayson High School was the Game of the Week on 11Alive News.

This month, **Webb Bridge Middle School** students promoted awareness of Childhood Cancer and Suicide Prevention by wearing yellow. Wellness has now been integrated into the school's daily Compass (guidance) classes every nine weeks. Licensed professionals from LRJ Foundation, a mental health awareness and education-based organization, are helping implement new interactive content to build students' emotional intelligence.

Abbotts Hill Elementary School has provided a new unique opportunity for students to address conflicts holistically and solve problems through implementing Restorative Practices. These counselor-facilitated peace-making strategies are taught in a safe place called "The Peace Room," a specially designed room by Chattahoochee High School Senior (and former Abbotts Hill) student Briahna Stabler as part of her Directed Studies Class.

River Trail Middle School students and staff are engaging in invigorating dialogues around what it means to be a "River Trail Wolf," working from a behavior matrix of Respect, Problem Solving, and Kindness. To communicate these ideas to the school, students have formed a club that is producing short video demonstrations of what it looks like to epitomize model behavior.

Thanks to generous support from **Vickery Mill Elementary School's** PTA, the school opened a STEM Lab this year. Students visit the lab once a week for hands-on, collaborative lessons integrating science and math standards into a real-world situation.

For your information

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 us 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>.

###

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.

