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# News Release

## **For Immediate Release**

November 4, 2019

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## **News to Know for the week of November 4-8**

### **Special Observances for November**

**November 5** is Election Day. All schools will be closed. Teachers will report for Professional Development Day.

**American Education Week** is celebrated November 18-22. Cosponsored by the National Education Association, National PTA, National School Public Relations Association, and other national education associations, the week is to keep the public aware of what schools are doing. For more information, email: [aew@nea.org](mailto:aew@nea.org) or click [here](#).

### **Fulton County Schools Outshines State on CCRPI and Climate Star Results**

**The annual College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)** is compiled by the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) using scores on a 0 to 100 scale from multiple indicators within five main components: Content Mastery, Progress, Closing Gaps, Readiness and Graduation Rates (high school only). According to data released by the state October 25, Fulton County Schools' overall score in 2019 increased to 83.8, which is 7.0 points above the state average. Fulton County Schools ranked above the state average in all grade levels. "This is a dramatic achievement with gains in all levels and across the district. Our CCRPI and Climate Star rankings reflect great work by our teachers, principals and staff," said Chief Academic Officer, Cliff Jones. Driving the growth was an overall improvement across the district with a total of 67 schools showing increases; 19 schools posting double-digit gains. The biggest gains were accomplished by Cliftdale Elementary School, which increased 23.3 points, and Woodland Middle School with an increase of 21.2 points.

### **FCS to Expand Text4Help to Middle Schools**

**Text4Help**, a program for teens in crisis to anonymously find resources and support, will be expanded to Fulton County Schools (FCS) middle schools. Launched in 2018 in cooperation with Fulton County Government, the program is an anonymous crisis text line aimed at providing a valuable resource for students seeking support or an outlet to share concerns. The program allows teens facing stress or in crisis to reach a licensed clinician who will respond within three minutes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The program was initially launched in FCS high schools now, one year after its launch, the program will be expanded to students in middle schools. Fulton County Government and FCS were the first in the Southeast to launch the Text4Help program.

Fulton County Schools and the Georgia Department of Education will host the **Council of Chief State School Officers, CCSSO, November 11** at Banneker High School. The participants will tour Banneker's SAFE Center and observe classrooms. Over sixty participants are registered from 25 states as far away as Hawaii. This is the first time the CCSSO Annual Policy Forum has included a school visit. The CCSSO purpose is to implement an innovative approach to continuous school improvement that focuses on partnering with local communities to meet the needs of students and families. The CCSSO is primed to learn about Georgia's strategies for continuous improvement. The learning objective for the visit will be to identify the concrete strategies Banneker employed to support the community with improving conditions for learning.

**Cliftondale Elementary** celebrates 10 years of excellence with a Family Gala November 16 at Westlake High School, at 6 p.m. For more information [click here](#).

As part of their Parent University, **Johns Creek High School** PTSA is presenting a three-part conversation that addresses students' mental and emotional wellness. This conversation is based on the documentary "Race to Nowhere," a piece that highlights systemic pressures and how to tackle them. The first session has concluded, and the second and third events will be held on Thursday, Nov. 21 and Friday, Dec. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## **Awards and Honors**

**Evoline C. West Elementary** was given an award at the Georgia STEM/STEAM forum for their leadership and exemplary practices in STEM. The award was presented to Principal Jennifer Burton and her team by the Georgia Department of Education.

**Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, Area Superintendent, South Learning Community; Chelsea Montgomery, Executive Director of Counseling, Psychological, and Social Work; Langston Hughes High Principal Charles Chester; Creekside High Principal Frankie Pollock, and Banneker AP Ramon Garner** have been accepted into the Harvard Institute's Proving Ground Multi-Day Summit held November 19-22. The initiative is part of the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard

University. The learning opportunity will provide strategies toward solving one of the most pressing problems educators face: chronic absenteeism.

**Johns Creek High School** had two major wins at the Bright Spark Invention Challenge competition in October. Junior **Adi Bora** won Best Overall High for his “Independence 1000.” He created his invention to help a fellow schoolmate with cerebral palsy to exercise his hand muscles so he will be able to one day operate a motorized wheelchair. The Independence 1000 is a portable device with a gamified joystick not only can strengthen fine motor skills but can also collect data for the therapy field. Additionally, a team of five seniors created a prototype called the “Life Protector”, a device designed to help prevent hot car deaths in children and pets. **Sagar Patel, Tyler Watson, Daniel Cooper, Ben Kleiner, and Thomas Tostenson**, researched models on the market and based their design on cost and accessibility. The Life Protector serves as a temperature sensor to trigger an alarm when a car interior exceeds 102 degrees. Their plan is for future models to send a phone call to an emergency contact. Bright Spark is the education arm of design consulting firm Bridge Innovate; and the Invention Challenge is a 30-day competition for students in fourth grade through college. Entrants are challenged to create a new service or product that solves an existing problem.

**Riverwood International Charter School's** football team made history on November 1, winning their first 6-A AAAA Regional Championship and reaching a 9-0 record against Grady High School.

Over the weekend, the girls **Cambridge High School** Cross Country became the GHSA 6A State Champions for the third year in a row.

**FCS Nutrition Department** was honored with the 2019 Nexus Award by the Georgia Department of Education. The program was recognized as part of an elite group that has created outstanding nutrition programs in their districts. This award was presented during the annual Director's Conference in Athens, Georgia. Fulton County was recognized at the super system level for those with 24,000 students or more. FCS Board Member, Julia Bernath, presented the Nexus Award to Alyssia Wright, Executive Director of the Fulton County School Nutrition Program.

**Fulton County Schools** facilities management was named a top 2018 performer and selected to receive the Lifetime Commitment MVP Award by Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge (ABBC) as a top-performing participant and leader in property management. The district is one of seven top awarded properties in metro Atlanta who has met its energy and water saving goals two years early. FCS will be recognized again by the organization on Wednesday, Nov. 6 at the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Day Hall. ABBC was launched in June 2011 as one of the inaugural projects of the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge program. Its goal is to reduce energy and water consumption by at least 20 percent in participating buildings across the Atlanta area by 2020. FCS Executive Director of Facilities Services Joseph Clements and Coordinator of Utilities Russell Holly will receive the award on behalf of the District.

**McNair Middle School** sixth grade student **Jaidah Bienaimie** was awarded first place in the 2019 Governor's Red Ribbon Poster contest. Each year, the Georgia Red Ribbon Campaign Kick-off highlights a visual arts segment with an art walk display of all poster contest entries and announcement of winning posters from across the state. This year's poster contest theme was "Life is Your Journey. Travel Drug Free." Supported and accompanied by her McNair visual arts teacher Maurel Denge, Jaidah attended the award ceremony in October at the Mableton House Amphitheatre. She also ended up as the first-place overall winner in all categories: elementary, middle and high school. Winning posters will also be featured in the next year's Governor's Red Ribbon Campaign Planning and Resource Guide, which is distributed to schools and organizations across Georgia.

## **In Case You Missed It**

**Seaborn Lee Elementary** was the first school in South Fulton to receive speed enforcement cameras. The cameras were installed after South Fulton Councilwoman Helen Willis sponsored legislation named after 11 year-old Ren'gia Majors. Majors was killed in a traffic accident in front of Sandtown Middle School in 2018. The measure is aimed at reducing excessive speeding in school zones. All 16 South Fulton city schools will receive the speed enforcement cameras. "I was excited to learn we would be the first school to have the speed enforcement cameras installed," said Principal Kine' Geathers. "The speed enforcement ordinance will allow us to have a safer school and a safer community."

Additionally, every camera in South Fulton will have a marker that reads "In memory of Ren'gia Majors."

**Stonewall Tell Elementary**, a Georgia PBIS Distinguished School, was visited by Swiss educators October 29. The international guests got a tour of the school's STEM garden from Principal Philip Hammonds, greetings from South Fulton Mayor Williams Edwards and the opportunity to engage in dialogue with stakeholders.

## **FCS TV YouTube Video Updates**



### **Fulton County Schools Transportation - Green Buses**

Fulton County Schools  
Transportation department  
is upgrading their fleet!



### **Wellness Festival 2019** Fulton County Schools held their 2nd Annual Employee Health and Wellness Festival and 5K.



### **2019 South Fulton Partners in Education (PIE) Expo**

The South Fulton Chamber  
of Commerce and Fulton  
County schools came

together for the betterment  
of our students.

## **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 the flu to children. According to the CDC, a flu vaccine offers the best defense against getting the 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 the 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, [click here](#).

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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.

