



News Release

For Immediate Release

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News to Know for November 18-22

Special Observances for November

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 or click [here](#).

Save the Date

The 5th Annual “Cooking Cops” event takes place November 19 from 10 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. at Seaborn Lee Elementary. Fulton County Schools (FCS) police will serve lunch to students. Participating FCS officers are Vargus Owens, Frederick Ivey, Diane Moody, George Walker, Vernessa Daniels, and Lt. M. Palmer.

The **Woodland Middle School Embassy Community Hub** will have its grand opening November 20 at 5 p.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at Woodland Middle. The community hub is a center that will offer trauma and mental health services, money management, counseling, GED programs, laundry services, clothing and food distribution and other resources to the community.

South Fulton STEM School will hold its construction celebration on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 2 -3 p.m. at 155 Shaw Drive, Fairburn. It is located adjacent from Campbell Elementary School. Superintendent Mike Looney and the Fulton County Board of Education will be present. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

Crabapple Middle School will hold its groundbreaking on Friday, Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. at 10900 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Superintendent Mike Looney, the Fulton County Board of Education, and faculty and staff of Crabapple

Elementary School will be present. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

Innovation Academy will hold its construction celebration on Friday, November 22 at 2:30 p.m. at the site location, 125 Milton Avenue, Alpharetta, the site of the former Milton High School campus in downtown Alpharetta. Superintendent Mike Looney and the Fulton County Board of Education will be present. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

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 deals with 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

Tri-Cities High School Theatre took home the Bronze prize at the GHSA 6-A State Competition in theater for their performance of "Once on this Island". Students Phyllise Tolliver and Courtney Trowers received Special Actor Awards and Mikah Sadiki-Yisrael was named Best Actress in the State at the One-Act Play competition (GHSA's theater awards) for her role as Erzulie.

A special congratulations goes out to the student-led crew and production team: Jaion Henderson, Nyla Smith and Oceana Franklin. Josiah Mitchell and Tony Ferrell transported, installed, engineered and mixed the sound system for the competition. Congratulations to Jade Lambert-Smith, Director of Theater, at Tri-Cities High School for heading the team.

Riverwood International Charter School varsity volleyball player and senior Kaylah Jackson was selected to play on 5A All-State First Team. Under the direction of Coach Nikia Bynum-Isler, Jackson qualified through a selection process for Georgia's top team. Votes for nominees are based on coaches' observation when their team competes against other schools, overall stats, skill level, and player impact on the game, utilizing the MaxPreps sports website to measure player stats and team success.

Cool Kids (and Schools) Doing Cool Things

Westlake High School received a surprise donation from the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation and StubHub. The partnership presented Principal Jamar Robinson and Band Director Cedric Young with \$84,000 in musical equipment. Board President Linda Bryant, Area Superintendent Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, and Dr. David Vandewalker were on hand for the presentation. The community collaboration also treated Westlake students to a performance from Westlake graduate Blanco Brown. Brown's hit, "The Git Up," is topping the charts all over the world. Brown and StubHub's Jay Harren answered questions from students on how to make it in the music industry. Westlake Drum Major Raquel Russell said, "The music program at Westlake allows me to be who I am. When I'm in the band room all stress leaves my

body. We accomplish more than just learning how to play an instrument. We gain discipline.”

Riverwood International Charter School’s Community Based Instruction (CBI) program is supporting students with disabilities. CBI students who once had to travel miles outside their local school zone to receive specialized education and peer support services are now the beneficiaries of a thriving program at the school. The program aims to provide a variety of hands-on learning opportunities for high school-aged students with special needs to acquire life skills needed for today’s world. Even facilities were designed and built with special needs in mind to ensure campus accessibility, appropriate classrooms, home-living centers, sensory/therapy rooms, and restroom facilities.

All 14 CBI students have a full day at Riverwood. Subjects include music, art, speech, current events, cooking, exercise and electives such as adapted PE, mail delivery and recycling. Weekly trips provide opportunities to learn life and work-related skills from visits to the post office, Walmart, Target, Perimeter Mall, and local restaurants. A recent trip to Microsoft offered a chance to hear about a day in the life of a Microsoft employee and learn how to program robots.

Local organizations have welcomed the CBI students and their quest for skill-building experience. Fulton’s North Learning Center and Old Navy in Sandy Springs have served as transition work sites. On the school campus, CBI students can work at The Daily Grind (coffee café/business operations), and participate in Cheer Pals (cheering at pep rallies and games) and the Best Buddies (one-to-one, student to CBI student pairing) programs to help them integrate into the school community.

In Case You Missed It

Langston Hughes High School will receive free 10G hotspots from 100 Black Men of America and the 1Million Project Foundation. Langston is among many schools in the metro Atlanta area and the third in Fulton County Schools to become a recipient of the Sprint-powered WiFi hotspots for students needing reliable connectivity. FCS Chief Information Officer Serena Sacks thanked 100 Black Men and the 1 Million Project Foundation for their collaboration and generosity. As a long-established community partner with a focus on education, 100 Black Men of America will expand their partnerships at schools, like Langston, where they already mentor students who will receive devices. Langston Principal Charles Chester said, “We are excited about this great partnership with 100 Black Men of America and the 1Million Project Foundation. Their commitment to our school community will help to remove a barrier to continue learning to the homes of many of our scholars. This will allow access to instructional technology, online research, teacher email contact, and other supplemental options for learning. We have a very bright future through this partnership, and we’re grateful!”

Master Chef Daryl Shular instructed culinary arts students from the Fulton College and Career Academy. The Hospitality Education Foundation of Georgia

(HEFG) brought the Navigate Training to Fulton County Schools in partnership with United Way. Navigate is a hospitality career development program under the direction of the HEFG. It targets high school seniors who are interested in pursuing careers in the hospitality industry. The program's most unique opportunity is the effective corporate partnerships with entities such as United Way and Compass Group. It is the vehicle that connects qualified students with the rising need for job placement in the hospitality industry.

Tri-Cities High School cluster schools held their annual "State of the Cluster" event last week. Principals of the six schools in the Tri-Cities High cluster welcomed stakeholders to Paul D. West Middle School where each leader shared information on their academic progress. The evening meeting underscored the district's commitment to collaboration. Board Members Gail Dean and Kimberly Dove offered support.

The cluster includes **Tri-Cities High, Paul D. West Middle, Conley Hills Elementary, Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary, Hapeville, and Parklane Elementary Schools.**

Text4Help, a program for teens in crisis to anonymously find resources and support, will be expanded to Fulton County Schools middle schools. Launched in 2018 in collaboration 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.

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 dangers of the 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 the flu and other communicable illnesses. For more information, [click here.](#)

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.

