



# BARNWELL ELEMENTARY

9425 Barnwell Rd Johns Creek, GA 30022 470-254-4960

Fulton  
County Schools  
Where Students Come First

*A Note from the Principal, Martin Neuhaus*      *September 9, 2021*

## New Information

### School-Home Partnership

As we begin our 2<sup>nd</sup> month of school I want to reiterate our appreciation and gratitude for our partnership with our Barnwell community. As many of you know teaching is hard...and teaching during a pandemic is even harder! Despite the many challenges the last two years have brought, our teachers and staff love what we do each day – your children are amazing and we are grateful for the opportunity to help make a positive difference in their lives.

As principal, I know that the most powerful tool we have to ensure our students are learning and growing is to partner with all our parents. I appreciate all our parents that have reached out to partner with our teachers this year. Thank you for reading all our emails, following all our safety protocols, checking your child's agenda each evening and preparing your child to do their best each day. Your support and positive energy is important and helps set the tone for success each day.

On a separate note, I can't say enough about our amazing PTO. Currently our PTO is in the process of fulfilling over **\$20,000** in teacher wish lists. That's not a misprint – that's over \$20,000 of supplies, equipment, software, and support for our teachers! This is simply amazing and very much appreciated by our entire Barnwell family. **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported our PTO this year (it's never too late, click [here](#) to donate), and especially to Michelle Erste and Sogol Zebarjadi for stepping up to lead our PTO this year. Together, we are **BarnwellSTRONG!**

### Social Skills Small Groups – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Barnwell's on-site mental health partner from [The Summit Counseling Center](#), Elizabeth Ngo, will be offering small group social skills instruction to students in 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade this semester. All parents/guardians interested in nominating their children can reach out to our school counselor, Mrs. Wilkerson ([wilkersonsj@fultonschools.org](mailto:wilkersonsj@fultonschools.org)) by September 27<sup>th</sup> for more details. Please click [here](#) to view the flyer.

### COVID Information/Procedures

The latest [Epidemiology Report](#) from 9/7 has Johns Creek at a **324.0 Incidence Rate**, up 14.8% from the previous report and well above the 100 threshold and another increase from the last report. This means that we will continue to be under a mask mandate for *at least* the next three weeks (to remove the mask mandate we need two consecutive weeks with an Incidence Rate below 100).

**As a reminder, please fill out the [Covid Reporting Form](#) and keep your child home until contacted if:**

**You/your child are (1) Covid Positive; (2) exposed to someone Covid-positive at home, or (3) have taken a Covid test because of symptoms.**

If any of these apply, it is imperative that you complete the [Covid Reporting Form](#) and wait for further instructions from Fulton County *before* sending your child back to school. This may take 24-48 hours as the nurses are responding to parents in the order they are submitted to the portal. More information is available on our county Covid website (<https://www.fultonschools.org/coronavirus>).

### **Student Success Skills Inventory (Opt-Out email due 9/14)**

The Student Success Skills Inventory will be used to measure student growth across success skill standards as a result of ReThink Ed lessons. Students will complete the 15-20 item inventory between September 13, 2021 – September 24, 2021 and will take about 15 minutes to complete. The inventory will be pushed out to students in **grades 3-5** using the Illuminate platform. Parents can choose to opt their student out of the inventory. To opt out, parents must submit a written request to opt out to the school principal by September 14<sup>th</sup>. The Inventory will be given on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fall Individual Picture Day – September 14<sup>th</sup>**

Lifetouch will be taking individual fall pictures on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to pre-order a picture packet, please click [here](#). You will need your student's ID or the picture day ID event #EVTk76742.

### **Barnwell's Best Award!**

Each week our team recognizes a staff member that exemplifies Barnwell's BEST – someone who leads by example, sharing their positive energy and enthusiasm with our school family. This week's Barnwell's BEST Recipient is **Olga Lapteva, IRR Teacher**.

Congratulations to **Olga Lapteva** for being one of Barnwell's BEST!



## **Recurring School and Community News**

### **SGC Waiver Request Feedback Window 9/2- 10/1**

Our School Governance Council (SGC) is requesting district approval on two waivers for the 2022-23 school year and wants feedback from all Barnwell families. These waivers allow us flexibility in using allocated funds as well as implementing our Daily TAG program. We have used these waivers successfully for the last three years and are required to resubmit them again to comply with the new [Value-Added Flexibility](#) process. The two waivers we request are:

1. **Itinerant Conversion:** This waiver allows us to convert an itinerant position (a part-time position that we earn based on student enrollment). We have used this waiver previously to add additional classroom teachers or to supplement our TAG/EIP positions. This Itinerant Conversion waiver is an [Opt-In](#) waiver meaning all interested schools are eligible to apply.
2. **Daily TAG Model:** This waiver allows us to serve qualifying students in TAG on a daily basis (50 minutes each day) rather than a weekly basis (250 minutes one day). Students in TAG (as well as those receiving ESOL, EIP and/or Speech services) are served daily during our WIN (*What I Need*) time. This allows **ALL** students to receive daily instruction from their classroom teachers in all subjects while still receiving the special services required. This [Daily TAG Model](#) waiver is unique to Barnwell.

Please provide your input on both waivers on our [SGC Waiver Feedback Form](#) now through 9/30. Our SGC will consider all parent feedback prior to determining if we want to move forward with these waiver requests.

### **Reading Bowl**

We're looking for 4th and 5th grade students that **LOVE** to read! Barnwell is participating in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl! This is a fun game show type competition where students will compete against other schools in the county to test their knowledge of the selected books. At the bowl, contestants will compete to "buzz" in and correctly answer questions about this year's books faster than the opposing teams.

**This club is for serious book lovers – you will have to read A LOT!** Click [here](#) for more information, the book list, and parent permission slip. The Club will meet weekly on Thursdays after school beginning September 16<sup>th</sup> in the Media Center from dismissal-3:30 PM. The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl will take place on January 29, 2022.

### **Yearbook Photos**

Yearbooks are now available to purchase! Please visit [Balfour.com](#) and find Barnwell Elementary to purchase a yearbook. Don't wait, order now! Once we sell out, we cannot order more!

The Yearbook Committee wants to see your photos from ANY SCHOOL EVENT! Other examples of photos to send are Sporting Events, Girl/Boy Scouts, photos with friends from school, etc. Uploading is free and easy! Please use the FREE Image Share app to upload them directly onto our secure site. If you have a smartphone, you are officially now a yearbook photographer!

TO UPLOAD PHOTOS FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE:

- Search for Balfour Image Share in your app marketplace
- Download the app and create an account
- Enter our project number: **222281** (no upload code needed)

Please enter details (event, grade, teacher name, etc) when prompted so we can place photos in the correct place in the book! Please direct all questions to Paige Wuyek at [paige.wuyek@gmail.com](mailto:paige.wuyek@gmail.com)

### **Support our PTO!**

Our PTO has almost reached their \$40,000 goal for this year's Bear Campaign! Thank you to all the families for your support so far. As a reminder, the PTO supports the school in a variety of ways, from events to software upgrades, to improvements around the building. This year's goal is to get back to our great community events and take extra care of our outdoor spaces for additional safety!

Click [here](#) to see the many ways our PTO supports all our students and teachers, then click [here](#) to join our PTO in helping make this year our best year ever! 100% of your donation benefits Barnwell students and staff and is tax-deductible.

If you do not have a login, contact Michelle Erste at [erste@gmail.com](mailto:erste@gmail.com). Have questions about the Bear Campaign or want to become a business partner? Contact Lissa Webber, VP of Fundraising at [lissa.webber@gmail.com](mailto:lissa.webber@gmail.com).

### **2020-21 Georgia Milestones Test Scores**

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has released the 2020-21 Milestones test scores for the state of Georgia. The assessment is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state-adopted content standards in the core content areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

In March, the Georgia Department of Education waived promotion/retention consequences tied to Georgia Milestones for the 2020-2021 school year and temporarily lowered the EOC course grade weight to .01%. “Parents and guardians are encouraged to view results in the context of this unique school year,” said Chief Information Officer Dr. Emily Bell. “Although the district encouraged parents and students to take the milestones assessment, due to low participation, these results do not reflect a statistically relevant state of data.”

For our current 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who did take the test, parents can view results for their students in SLDS (Statewide Longitudinal Data System). Individual student reports can also be downloaded from SLDS. Parents can access SLDS through the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#).

### **September is Attendance Awareness Month**

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the year – about 18 days or two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten and even Pre-K, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance, and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Please click [here](#) to see how to improve attendance for your child.

As a reminder, our school board provides the following options for students that are not able to be at school:

**Excused Absence:** This is your typical sick day for illness. Students must be fever-free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. To excuse your child’s absence for a sick day simply send a note or email to your child’s teacher upon his/her return to school. Any required work that is missed due to an excused absence should be completed within a few days after returning.

**Pre-Approved Absence:** Use this option when traveling or for family events. To request a pre-approved absence email Principal ([neuhausm@fultonschools.org](mailto:neuhausm@fultonschools.org)) one week prior to trip for approval. Any required work that is missed due to a pre-approved absence should be completed within a few days after returning.

**Participated Remotely:** This is a new option that allows students to be counted as present even though they are not physically at school for up to 5 days each semester. All requests for Participated Remotely **requires prior approval 72 hours in advance** by completing and submitting the [Participated Remotely Request Form](#) to either our Assistant Principal Ms. Morris ([morrisra@fultonschools.org](mailto:morrisra@fultonschools.org)) or Principal ([neuhausm@fultonschools.org](mailto:neuhausm@fultonschools.org)).

In order to be counted as present for each Participated Remotely day, students **must complete 45 minutes of iReady Reading and 45 minutes of iReady Math each day before midnight**. Failure to complete these requirements will result in an unexcused absence. Any required work that is missed during the day must be completed within 48 hours.

### **Items Delivered to School**

Please know that we do not interrupt classes to bring forgotten items to your child during the school day. If you need to drop off an item after school has started, it will remain in the front office. We will email the teachers and they will send the students if/when there is a break in the day to retrieve their forgotten item. Items will not be delivered to your child’s classroom. Please help your child prepare for their day the night before so that they have everything needed for the day when they arrive at school.

### **Parent Visitors**

As explained in our multiple [Back to School Updates](#), we will NOT have any Visitors/Volunteers in our instructional spaces (classrooms, cafeteria, etc.) between 7:00 and 3:00 PM during the first nine weeks of school.

## **Code of Conduct**

Our Student Code of Conduct is available on our county website ([click here for electronic copy](#)). All parents are asked to acknowledge receipt through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Please visit the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal website](#) to sign-off on this yearly requirement or for more information on accessing the Parent Portal. Hard copies of the Code of Conduct are available in our front office for interested parents.

## **Junior Gladiators Girls Basketball Tryout Information**

Tryouts are conducted over two sessions at Johns Creek High School (JCHS). All players interested in playing on a team MUST be in attendance with the tryout form completed on the first night of tryouts unless other arrangements have been made. Please click [here](#) for more information and click [here](#) for the tryout form.

### **Quick Links:**

[Attendance Options](#)

[Bus Information](#)

[Car Rider Information](#)

[Dismissal Form](#)

[Summit Counseling at Barnwell](#)

Martin