

# Shark Bytes

**Shakerag Elementary**  
Celebrating Learning. Inspiring Leaders.  
Christine Lemerond, Principal  
Margaret Mathas, Assistant Principal

**May 14, 2021**

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Visit our website: [www.shakeragelementary.com](http://www.shakeragelementary.com)



## Shark Tales:

### Learning Hardship Request Deadline

Per district guidance, **today, Friday, May 14** was the last day for families to request a learning environment change. Learning Hardship Requests will no longer be accepted or approved.

### Attention all 5th Grade Families

We can't wait to celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> Graders. Please [Click Here](#) to review a special invitation for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders. [Click Here](#) to complete an important survey by **today, Friday, May 14** that will help us plan for this special day.

### Help Us Redefine Our Vision

As we approach our 25th anniversary, and hopefully begin to come out of a global pandemic, what better time than now to review where we have been, where we are now, and where we hope to go in the future. Please take a few moments to answer the questions included in this survey ([Click Here](#)). If you have been at Shakerag beyond this past year, please reach back and reflect on times pre-COVID. Your feedback will help us revisit and rewrite our mission. Thank you so much for your help and support.

### Field Day Week: May 17-21

Greetings from Mr. Smith and Ms. Lynch in PE at Shakerag! We are excited to kick-off our 2021 Field Day Week this Monday, May 17! Things have been a little different this year, and so will Field Day. After collaborating with fellow PE teachers in the area, we will be having a school-wide competition with half of the school representing the red team and the other half the blue team. Each class will be divided equally into red and blue by their homeroom teachers. They will wear that color t-shirt (red or blue) on their PE days next week (May 17-May 21). On your second day of PE next week, please bring an extra pair of clothes and shoes as there might be some water fun planned.

Throughout the week, each class will be given points for finishing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will update the points each day on the morning announcements and post them to our website. We will reveal the winners the following Monday morning after the last day of competition. May the best Sharks win!!!

Are you a virtual shark? We didn't forget about you! We will be sending out a virtual packet, similar to last year, that will give you a variety of activities to choose from on your PE days the week of May 17-May 21. You can compete with your friends or family. We encourage you to send in videos and/or pictures of you having a great time while completing the competitions. You can email them to Coach Smith at [smithjm@fultonschools.org](mailto:smithjm@fultonschools.org).

### Vision Screenings for Students in Grades 3 and 5

On **Wednesday, May 19**, in partnership with Sight Savers America, Fulton County Schools will be offering FREE Vision Screenings for all students in Grades 3 and 5. Please [click here](#) for more details. If you have any questions, please email our Assistant Principal, Ms. Mathas at [MathasM@fultonschools.org](mailto:MathasM@fultonschools.org).

### FCS Mask Update

As Fulton County continues to move forward with caution under the guidance and direction of the CDC and the Fulton County Board of Health, at the elementary level, effective Monday, May 17, masks will be highly recommended, but not required for students and staff when **outside**. All other safety protocols will remain in effect for the duration of the school year. Teachers and staff will no longer be enforcing the wearing of masks while outside beginning May 17. Please make sure your child knows and understands your desires as a family. If you would like for them to continue to wear a mask while outside, please review this family expectation with them. Please [click here](#) for additional information.

### Attention All Math Students Currently in a Semester 1 Math Class:

Several of our remote students who began an advanced math course (1<sup>st</sup> semester of the grade above) in January, picked up their Volume 1 and Volume 2 math workbooks for the next grade level as part of the advanced curriculum. These workbooks will continue to be used next year. We are asking that you keep your math workbooks over the summer and have your children bring them back to school in the fall. This is just for **remote** advanced math students. If you have any questions, please contact our Curriculum Support Teacher, Jill O'Neill, at [oneillj@fultonschools.org](mailto:oneillj@fultonschools.org).

### 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade: Music Class Talent "Show-and-Tell"

Do you sing? Take dance lessons? Play a cool instrument? To celebrate the end of the year, we would like to invite our wonderful Shakerag Sharks to share their musical talents with their classmates! Next week (May 17 - May 21), students will be invited to participate in a "Talent Show and Tell" during their regularly scheduled music class. Participation is encouraged but not mandatory, and students can perform live in class or even "pre-record" their talents at home using the [3rd Grade](#)

[FlipGrid](#), [4th Grade FlipGrid](#), or [5th Grade FlipGrid](#) links here. Click [here](#) for more information, or email Miss Petty, [pettys@fultonachools.org](mailto:pettys@fultonachools.org), if you have questions!

### Thank you to so many for Teacher Appreciation Week!

We would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations that helped us celebrate our teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week: Longhorns, Marlow's, Pearl Lian, Lazy Dog, Sub Zero, Taqueria Tsunami, Starbucks and Great Harvest Bread Company, Wendy's, and Papa John's. We are truly grateful for their support!!

### Thank You Again PTO!

We want to send a huge thank you to our PTO for spoiling us again with lunch today. A special thank you to Ms. Cleary and Ms. Gadne for organizing these great events for us. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

### 2021-2022 School Year

At the April 22 FCS Board Meeting, it was announced that all students would be returning to face-to-face instruction in August. While we are extremely excited about this news, there are some virtual options available for students in grades 3-12. Please [click here](#) for additional details regarding virtual learning opportunities for the 2021-2022 school year.

### Student Devices

Students in grades 2-5 who are returning to Shakerag or moving up to River Trail will be able to keep their assigned technology device this summer. Please store your device and charger in a safe place. [Click here](#) for more information on care and storage. If you are withdrawing from Shakerag, or transferring to another Fulton County School, please contact Sydney Johnson at [johnsonsd12@fultonschools.org](mailto:johnsonsd12@fultonschools.org). She will help you with the withdraw/transfer process and make arrangements to collect your child's device and charger prior to May 27.

### Enrollment Intent for the 2021-2022 School Year

As we begin to plan for the 2021-2022 school year, having an accurate student count is very important. We are asking parents to help us now, in order to ensure we know who will be in our building next year. If your child will **NOT** be returning to Shakerag next school year, please contact Sydney Johnson at [johnsonsd12@fultonschools.org](mailto:johnsonsd12@fultonschools.org) for information regarding the withdrawal process. If you have a child that will be **NEW** to Shakerag next year, please visit our website by clicking [here](#) to register your child. Spring registration began on March 31. We are asking parents to register sooner rather than later! Thank you for your help as we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

### Media Center

All books are now due in the Media Center. Please settle your child's account if you have received notices of fines for lost books. Fines can be settled on OSP (Online School Payments). OSP can be found on the Shakerag Elementary School website or [click here](#).

Do you have a library card for the Ocee Branch of the Atlanta Fulton Public Library System? Please encourage your child to read over the summer and to visit the public library regularly. They have many fun and free reading programs so check them out! Happy Reading!

## A Message from the Shakerag PTO:

### 2021-2022 School Supply Kits

School supply kits for 2021-2022 are now available to order online. Visit [schoolboxkits.com](http://schoolboxkits.com) and select Shakerag from the list of schools. Each grade-level kit contains all the supplies requested by the teachers in that grade level, except headphones. If your child needs headphones, please select the option to add headphones to your kit. All orders must be placed by **July 11th**, so the kits can be delivered to the school.

### PTO Volunteers

Your Shakerag PTO needs **YOU!** The PTO is currently recruiting volunteers for the 2021-2022 board and we sure would hate for you to miss out on the ability to serve your awesome school, community and our amazing teachers and kids! A list of open positions with brief descriptions can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/shakeragpto>. Whatever your interest level may be, we are confident we can find the perfect fit for you. Please email us at [shakeragpto@gmail.com](mailto:shakeragpto@gmail.com) with your interest and/or any questions you may have, and we will be happy to discuss it with you. We look forward to hearing from you and having you be a part of the Shakerag PTO fun!

## A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

We invite you to visit our School Governance Council (SGC) website, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Our latest Strategic Plan, as well as other relevant SGC information, is posted to this site for your convenience. We held our final SGC meeting of the school year yesterday, May 13. We would like to share our appreciation for several of our members who just completed their terms on our council: Mr. Elanjian, Mr. Gupta, and Ms. Duhe. Thank you so much for your participation and support!

## A Message from the Foundation:

The Foundation at Shakerag Elementary School is currently in need of a **Secretary** for the 2021-2022 school year. The foundation is a separate 501 (c) 3 organization formed to benefit the school through fundraising activities and community engagement. The community outreach collection of school supplies and coats for Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School, spirit nights, teacher appreciation gift cards, business partnership program, and employee matching contributions are just a few of this year's activities. This position is a limited time commitment with a big impact to the school. We would love to welcome you to the foundation as our Secretary. The Foundation at Shakerag Elementary School is also looking to expand its members. We currently have a 7-person organization. As a member at large, you would participate in meetings, approximately once a month, and volunteer if needed for any upcoming fundraiser activities hosted by the foundation. Please contact Karen James at [jamesk@fultonschools.org](mailto:jamesk@fultonschools.org) for more information.

## FCS News:

### Mental Health Awareness Month

With the end of the school year rush upon us and the lingering effects of the pandemic, May is an appropriate time to observe Mental Health Awareness Month. Now, more than ever, it is critical to reduce the stigma around mental health struggles, as stigmas often prevent individuals from seeking help. The 2021 theme is "Tools 2 Thrive," and Fulton County Schools has partnered with Mental Health America to provide practical tools that can help everyone, regardless of their personal situation, improve their mental health and increase resiliency.

This week's focus is on Dealing with Anger and Frustration. In challenging times, you may find that you have little patience with other people or get upset over minor things. Anger and frustration are complicated emotions that often stem from other feelings, like disappointment, fear, and stress. Taking some extra steps to decrease your overall tension can prevent your feelings (and the reactions that they cause) from spiraling out of control. Listen to the following podcasts for more information. [I Get Mad at Little Things](#) or [How to Tell Someone You're Mad](#).

### Fulton County Schools Summer Reading

Visit the [FCS Summer Reading website](#) for information on suggested reading lists for K-2, 3-5, middle school, and high school that include fiction and nonfiction materials. (See tabs at the top of the homepage); Information on how to access myON, for free, from May 3<sup>rd</sup> until July 31<sup>st</sup> (scroll down on the main page); Fulton County Library – links to search for print materials and access to digital resources. (Scroll down on the main page).

### Fulton County Schools COVID-19 Information Site

The FCS COVID-19 site provides updates regarding resources, cases, positive trend rates, and pediatric reports. For the latest information on COVID-19 in Fulton County, please click [here](#) to access the site.

### Fulton County Board of Health COVID-19 Reporting Site

The Fulton County Board of Health and Fulton County Schools have developed an on-line portal for FCS parents/guardians to report student COVID-19 related cases. The portal has been updated to include Spanish, Korean, and Chinese language options. FCS parent/guardians will find a dropdown at the top right for translations. **Please make a report to the FCBOH when your student is COVID-19 positive, has a pending COVID-19 test result, or has been in direct contact with a COVID-19 positive person.** Also, please use this resource for official reporting rather than alerting the school and/or teacher. If you must engage the school/teacher, please do so after you have made an official report to the FCBOH. Lastly, to ensure the protection of our school community, please **do not** allow your child to attend school or school-sponsored events when he/she is ill and/or has any of the above COVID-19 concerns. **Please click [here](#) for more details and consider posting this document in a visible location, i.e. the refrigerator, for easy access.**

[www.fultonschools.org/ReportCOVID](http://www.fultonschools.org/ReportCOVID)

## In the Community:

### Rolling into Summer Bike Drive

North Point Community Church will be collecting new and gently used bikes **May 2-14**. Bikes will then be available for families in Fulton County Schools on May 22 at Banneker High School. For more information, [click here](#) or read about it in this [news article](#).

### The Y Afterschool Programs for the 2021-2022 School Year

Y afterschool programs provide a safe, nurturing environment where children are inspired to achieve their full potential. Their programs offer creative and engaging ways for kids, grades Pre-K - 5, to stay active and connected during afterschool hours. We know safety is top-of-mind for parents now more than ever. You can rest assured knowing that child safety is the Y's first priority. For more information about Y Afterschool and Registration, please [click here](#) to go to their website or [click here](#) for the program flyer.

## Tutor Shop

The Tutor Shop Afterschool Program has begun, and they are still accepting student applications. The program is offered on the Shakerag campus from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. Please click [here](#) for additional details and registration information. Enrollment for next year has begun!

## Kid Chess

Kid Chess is offering Online Summer Camps! Join one of their (free) open house sessions to see their platform and ask questions. They cannot wait to be back in person, but until then, students can enjoy the Kid Chess Online program! For more information, [click here](#).

**We hope you all have a FABULOUS weekend!**

### Remember to...

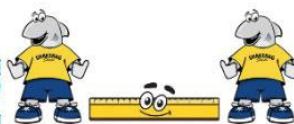
Wear Your Mask...



Wash Your Hands...



Keep Your Distance...



Sanitize...

