

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
Emily Davis, Assistant Principal

August 5, 2022

Follow us on Twitter: [@ShakeragShark](#)

Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:

First Day of School is August 8!

We are excited to welcome back all of our new and returning Sharks on August 8! Please watch our website for current information as well as Shark Bytes, our school newsletter, which goes out every Friday afternoon. This newsletter will contain school-wide and district updates.



- Our school hours are from 7:40 a.m. – 2:20 p.m. Arrival begins at 7:10 a.m. Parents may begin lining up in the carpool lane; however, for supervision reasons, students should not enter the building prior to 7:10 a.m.
- We encourage you to get your children into their normal routines, i.e., arrival/dismissal, as quickly as possible by having them come to and leave school the way they normally would come and go. Dismissal tends to run a little slow the first few days of school as we are triple checking to make sure all of our students get home the correct way. Please help your child learn his/her dismissal routine by remembering their carpool number and/or bus number.
- We will not be accepting lunch visitors until after Labor Day so we can help the students get into their normal lunch routines. Please feel free to begin visiting for lunch during your child's regular lunch time the week of **September 5**.

Teacher Assignments

As shared in your Sneak Peek packets, we are watching our enrollment very carefully, especially in grades K, 1, and 4. As shared, current teacher assignments are tentative pending the potential allocation of additional teachers that will reduce class sizes. We will continue to keep you updated as more information is shared with us throughout the district-wide enrollment count process. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process each year and welcome all of our amazing new families.

Bus Transportation:

As shared, Fulton County Schools is experiencing a shortage of bus drivers. The district is making adjustments to bus routes to ensure the instructional day for students is not impacted. With that being said, our buses will be running a little earlier this year for arrival. There may also be times when the buses will be running a little late for afternoon drop offs due to this shortage and, for us, due to the Bell Road Bridge construction. **Please double check your child's bus information on Sunday to ensure no additional changes were made. If there was a change in bus number, please make sure you communicate that to your child's homeroom teacher so we can ensure everyone gets home the correct way.**

We encourage all parents to download the "**Here Comes the Bus**" app. It is a free app that enables you to see the location of your child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. Click [here](#) for instructions on downloading the app. For bus stop information, please click [here](#) or you can visit their [webpage](#) for more information.

Carpool

We are HIGHLY encouraging students to take the bus to and from school. We anticipate a huge increase in our volume of car riders. Please make sure you plan accordingly to ensure your child arrives at school on time. Students will be marked tardy if they are not in the building when the bell rings regardless of the volume of traffic.

- Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:10 a.m.
- We highly encourage all parents to remain in the carpool line. If there is ever a need to park, please walk your child to and from the building to ensure their safety. Children are not permitted to cross the parking lot without an adult accompanying them. In the mornings, to reduce congestion, no parking will be permitted in the parking lot at the front of the school.
- If your child needs assistance getting out of the car in the morning, please use the parking lot on the side of the building near the cafeteria and walk your child to the front doors. Please do not enter through the cafeteria doors.
- Drive slowly, be attentive, and refrain from using your cell phone while driving through the carpool lane.
- Please do not pass other vehicles.
- Children are only permitted to exit from car doors on the right passenger side. If needed, staff monitors will assist your child from the car. Parents need to stay inside their vehicles.
- To prevent accidents, please **do not double-park** and always park in a marked **parking spot**.
- Always display your carpool number on the passenger side of your dashboard so it can easily be seen by our staff.
- Cars without carpool numbers will be directed to park and go to the front office.

Please be mindful that the construction traffic is also going to impact the morning and afternoon carpool line. We know that the increased traffic may cause added headaches. We ask that you please be patient and plan accordingly as carpool students that are not in the building when the bell rings at 7:40 will be counted as tardy. As a reminder, if your child is riding the bus in the morning, he/she will never be counted as tardy if the bus is late.

Thank You for Lunch!

On behalf of our entire staff, we would like to thank our gracious PTO board/volunteers for the wonderful luncheon they provided this week. It was a great welcome back treat after Sneak Peek. Thank you for helping us kick off the new year.

Georgia Milestones Scores

Georgia Milestones scores are being uploaded into the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). Student scores should be accessible via your child's Infinite Campus portal on August 6. Please click [here](#) for the link with step by step instructions.

TAG Eligibility Update

As of August 2022, iReady reading and math percentiles will now count as gifted eligibility scores in the area of achievement. In past years, they have been used by the TAG Department for screening purposes only. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Curriculum Nights – Mark your calendars!

At Shakerag, we believe that we are one big family working together to support the success of every child. A key to that success is open communication. We hope you will be able to join us for Curriculum Night as teachers will walk you through the class structure/schedule for their grade level and what you need to know to help your child be successful for the year. **This is a night for parents and teachers only! If you must bring your child, he/she will need to sit with you in the classroom for the duration of the evening. (Virtual/Simultaneous options will be available for the classroom presentations.)**

- **Tuesday, August 23 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Pre-K – 2nd Grade Curriculum Night**
- **Tuesday, August 23 at 7:10 p.m. – General PTO meeting in the cafeteria**
- **Thursday, August 25 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – 3rd – 5th Grade Curriculum Night**

A Message from the School Governance Council (SGC):

Our School Governance Council (SGC) Needs YOU!

Two of our amazing parents from our School Governance Council have now joined our staff full-time, leaving us with two volunteer parent vacancies. **We are still in need of one parent volunteer to serve a one-year term.** The School Governance Council meets one time per month for about an hour to help set and monitor the strategic direction of the school. Primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Approve the school's Strategic Plan
- Approve the school's budget recommendations
- Manage the Request for Flexibility process
- Participate in the hiring process when hiring a new principal
- Provide feedback on the principal's performance

If you are interested in joining the School Governance Council, or would like additional details, please email our principal, Christine Lemerond at Lemerond@fultonschools.org.

To read more about our School Governance Council, we invite you to visit our School Governance Council (SGC) website, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#) or via our school website (click [here](#)) under the 'ABOUT' drop-down menu. Our first SGC meeting for this school year is scheduled for **Thursday, August 11 at 8:00 a.m.**

FCS News:

COVID-19 Procedures and Protocols:

As directed by the district, we will be following the protocols listed below as we start the school year. Please note that these are subject to change at any time.

- Masks are **optional** at this time. Masks are recommended for all employees and students, but not required, including on FCS school buses. Teachers and staff will no longer be enforcing the wearing of masks. 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, please review this family expectation with them.
- Parents are required to report student positive cases through the [Parent Portal](#).
- Quarantine rules will follow CDC, state, and County Board of Health guidelines.
- Public health officials strongly encourage individuals directly exposed to COVID-19 to get tested after 3-5 days of exposure.
- Mask wearing is recommended following an exposure for 10 days but is not required.

School Nutrition Updates

The cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch for those who wish to participate. Breakfast will be served from 7:10 - 7:40 a.m. All students are invited to **purchase** food at school, as it is a well-balanced meal. **(Payment for meals resumes this school year.)**

- **Accounts:** Parents are highly encouraged to prepay online for breakfast and/or lunch purchases. Parents may also submit payment in an envelope with your child's legal first and last name and teacher name written on the front. The cost of a breakfast and/or lunch will be deducted from the student's account balance with each purchase. Extra purchases

(e.g., cookies, ice cream) will not be deducted unless permission has been given on the Student Profile (see extras below).

Notices will be sent home to the parents when an account shows a negative balance. If you receive such notice, we ask that you pay the past due balance the following day and include additional funds for future purchases.

Charging on an account with a zero balance is discouraged and parents are asked to keep a pre-paid balance in the account so that it remains current. Students who forget their lunch money may request a charge to be placed on their account. Payment for that charge should be paid the following school day. Contact our cafeteria manager at 470-254-3887 with any questions regarding your account.

Breakfast		Lunch	
Elementary School Student	\$1.10	Elementary School Student	\$2.45
Middle School Student	\$1.25	Middle School Student	\$2.70
High School Student	\$1.25	High School Student	\$2.70
Reduced Price	\$0.30	Reduced Price	\$0.40
All Adults	\$2.00	All Adults	\$4.00
Milk	\$0.75	Milk	\$0.75

**Students may purchase extra milk for \$0.75.*

At Elementary and Middle Schools, the meal price includes up to 1 entrée, 1 fruit side, up to 2 vegetable sides, and 1 milk choice. (All students can decline food groups, as long as there is at least a ½ cup of fruit or vegetable plus 2 other food groups on the tray. For the same price, students may select 3, 4, or all 5 food groups for a complete meal!)

Extras: Parents can request that their child not be able to get extra sales. This will be noted on the student's account.

- **Free & Reduced Meal Applications for the 2022-2023 School Year:** The Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Program is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes Free or Reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of persons living in the house. A **new** application must be completed every school year. If there is an interruption in benefits or the household does not reapply, the household is responsible for payment of meals until the Free and Reduced Application is approved. **Free & Reduced Meal Applications are available in the cafeteria and anytime online beginning August 1, 2022. Visit www.fulton.schoolslunchapp.com to begin the online application process.**

Fulton County receives funding from a variety of federal grants based on the number of children in the district that QUALIFY for Free or Reduced priced meals, regardless if they choose to participate in the meal program. Many federal grant awards are allocated nationally to public school districts based on Free and Reduced percentages such as Title-1, E-RATE, and The National Direct Teacher Loan Cancellation Program.

Bus Drivers Needed!!!

Bus drivers are often the first Fulton County School (FCS) district employees our students see in the morning and the last employees they see when they arrive at their bus stop. We appreciate the dedication of our drivers and the understanding of our parents as we face a historically challenging driver shortage.

FCS has an amazing and dedicated group of over 600 drivers we are actively trying to expand. At this point, we are still looking to fill 200 vacancies and offering several very appealing incentives:

- All employees received a 3% raise for the 2022-23 school year. For drivers with no commercial driving experience the starting hourly rate is now \$21.01. For those drivers with a CDL the hourly rate could be more.
- \$2,000 hiring bonus for new drivers who work throughout the 2022-2023 school year.
- \$2,000 retention bonus for current drivers who stay with FCS throughout the 2022-2023 school year.
- \$500 referral bonus for current employees who recruit a new hire.

As Executive Director of Transportation Vickie Cross likes to say, "Opportunity is honking! So come and join our transportation family." If a candidate has a current Georgia driver's license and has passed an FCS background check, they can begin to work with us, and FCS will support them in obtaining their training and their Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with P and S endorsements!

New changes to the Code of Conduct

Fulton County Schools would like to notify our families, students, and communities about a few of the new changes coming to the 2022-2023 Code of Conduct, especially the new expectations around cell phones and personal communication devices (PCDs). Please click [here](#) for a quick overview.

Parents and students need to sign for receipt of the Student Code of Conduct using the new **digital signature process**. Click [here](#) for the link that contains a step-by-step "**how to**" guide for completing the digital signature process.

- All students above 10 years of age and their parents, guardians, or other person having control or charge of the child is asked to digitally sign acknowledging receipt of the Code of Conduct and Student Handbook.
- Parents and students are able to digitally sign by using their online portal or the app on their smartphone/device.
- The Code of Conduct can be viewed via our website <https://www.fultonschools.org/studentdiscipline>

In the Community:

Bell Road Bridge – Construction

Starting Monday, June 6, Bell Road will be closed due to the Bell Road Bridge project. Please click [here](#) for the detour map.

Have a great 1st Day of School!

