

# Shark Bytes

**Shakerag Elementary**  
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**August 1, 2022**

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

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

## Shark Tales:

### Welcome Back Sharks!

We hope you all had an amazing summer! We can't believe it is already August 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to seeing everyone at Sneak Peek this **Thursday, August 4**. Please continue reading for more details on the start of the school year!

### Sneak Peek

Our annual Sneak Peek is on **Thursday, August 4**. We will have a virtual option at 8:00 a.m., or a face-to-face option for students with last names A-L from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and M-Z from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Teachers will be sending you a welcome email by 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 3 with a link to a MS TEAMS meeting should you prefer to "attend" virtually. All virtual meetings will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Should you not be able to attend any of our sneak peek options, we ask that you please reply to the teacher and ensure they know how your child should be dismissed on the first day of school (i.e., car rider, bus, daycare, etc.)

Upon arrival at sneak peek, please visit our **cafeteria FIRST** to:

- Register as a car rider or obtain bus information (bus information will also be available online at <https://www.fultonschools.org/transportation>)
- Update cafeteria accounts (visit [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com) to sign up and prepay online for your child's account) **Please note that meals are no longer free this year.**
- Pick-up pre-purchased school supply kits (If you did not preorder your school supplies, please click [here](#) for our current school supply list.)

On your way to your child's classroom, please visit our **gym** to:

- Join our PTO
- Purchase Shakerag Spirit Wear
- Buy a 2022-2023 Shakerag Yearbook
- Explore some of our after-school programs and Business Partners

Save time and beat the lines at Sneak Peek by going to [www.ShakeragPTO.org](http://www.ShakeragPTO.org) for additional information, to complete some of the items above, and sign-up online to volunteer.

Once you have completed all of the items listed above, please visit your child's classroom to meet his/her teacher.

### Attention ALL 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Families

Fulton County Schools is requiring all families who are new to the district and/or those entering grades 2, 7 and 10 to submit two proofs of residency prior to the start of the school year. One of the approved utility items and one of the approved residency items must be provided. For instructions on how to update the residency information, please click [here](#). If you need help with your residency verification, staff members will be available to assist at the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade hall.

Utility Items: Current water or electric bill

Residency Items: Current mortgage payment, lease, bank statement, home contract, homeowner's insurance or renter's card, current paycheck stub, driver's license with current address, HOA bill/statement

### First Day of School

- The first day of school is **Monday, August 8**. 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 (you will get this number at Sneak Peek if you do not already have one) 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**.

### Transportation:

As you may have heard, there is a nationwide, statewide, and local driver shortage for school buses. Unfortunately, our Transportation Department is encountering these problems. 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 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.

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.

**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. – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5th Grade Curriculum Night

**Shakerag Summer Learning Choice Boards**

[Click here](#) to access summer learning resources provided by your Shakerag teachers! These resources are grade specific and optional for our Sharks. We wanted to provide students with additional opportunities to keep learning while school is out.

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

**School Governance Council Meeting**

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 are posted to this site for your convenience. Our next SGC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 11 at 8:00 a.m.**

**FCS News:**

**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 his/her 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.schoollunchapp.com](http://www.fulton.schoollunchapp.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.

### **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. We will provide a link with step-by-step instructions in our next Shark Bytes Newsletter.

### **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.

Starting on **July 27, 2022**, parents and students will be able 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>

### **Mental Health Resources**

Summer is a great time for both our students and parents to focus on mental health and relationships. Our on-site partners have incredible offerings available this summer! For more information, please visit the Office of Student Supports website (click [here](#)). Chris 180 is a partner that works with Shakerag. Please click [here](#) for their summer groups.

## **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.

