

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
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August 19, 2022

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Shark Tales:



Curriculum Nights

On August 23 and August 25, we will hold our annual Curriculum Nights. These nights are intended to provide an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, establish effective communication, and learn more about each teacher's classroom routines, procedures, and expectations for the year. We will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in your child's homeroom and end at 7:00 p.m. (consider arriving by 5:45 p.m. to ensure adequate time to park/walk to your child's classroom). Also, all parents are invited to attend our first PTO meeting of the year on August 23 at 7:10 p.m. in our cafeteria. **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.)**

Special Areas and Special Programs:

Our special areas and special programs teachers will be available to share more details about their individual programs and answer any questions you may have at this time. Please note this is not a time for individual conferences. Those should be scheduled at a separate time with the teacher.

Below you will find the specific schedule for each night.

- **Tuesday, August 23**
5:30-6:00 p.m. (Cafeteria): PE- Coach Smith/ Music – Ms. Petty/ Art – Mr. Avery/ TAG- Mrs. Sawyer/ ESOL- Mrs. Kulamer and Mrs. Zhou/ Special Education- Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Sigman
6:00-7:00 p.m. (Classrooms) Pre-K – 2nd Grade Curriculum Night (Update: 4th Grade Ms. Kim and Ms. Watkins)
7:10 p.m. (Cafeteria) General PTO meeting
- **Thursday, August 25**
5:30-6:00 p.m. (Cafeteria): TAG- Ms. Weisberg/ ESOL- Mrs. Kulamer and Mrs. Manaktala/ Special Education- Mrs. Spinda-Foley, Mrs. Wise, and Mrs. Tindall
6:00-7:00 p.m. (Classrooms) 3rd – 4th Grade Curriculum Night (Update: 4th Grade Ms. Babb and Ms. Brown)
6:00-7:00 p.m. (Cafeteria) 5th Grade Curriculum Night

Teacher Assignments

Today was the final day of our Student Enrollment Adjustment Time (SEAT count). The district will be making final decisions on any allocation adjustments in the next week or so following this final count. As soon as we receive confirmation on any changes, we will communicate with any grades that might be impacted. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process each year.

Media Center and P.A.L.S. Volunteer Opportunity

The media center is ready for readers! If you are interested in volunteering in the media center, please email Archana Ramaswamy at ramaswamy.archana@gmail.com. Media Center help includes sorting and shelving books and helping students find books. P.A.L.S. includes helping teachers with copying and laminating. Both opportunities are a great way to get involved. As a perk, volunteers are allowed to check out up to 10 books at a time. ***Please make sure to take the quick, mandatory Volunteer Training required of all parents wishing to volunteer at the school. A link can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).**

Newcomers Coffee

If you are NEW to Shakerag... Welcome to the family! Please mark your calendar for our Newcomers Coffee on Wednesday, September 14, at 8:00 a.m. in the media center.

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 on the TAG Eligibility Process.

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](#) or via our school website (click [here](#)) under the 'ABOUT' drop-down menu. Our latest Strategic Plan as well as other relevant SGC information is posted to this site for your convenience. Our next SGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, at 8:00 a.m.

FCS News:

Student Success Skills

All FCS parents/guardians will continue to have access to all Student Success Skill lessons that are in the FCS RethinkEd lesson database. Directions for establishing an account and accessing all Student Success Skills lessons and home discussion guides in RethinkEd can be found by clicking [here](#). Students in grades 3-5 will be taking a pre-survey during the screening window of August 29 – September 9. As a school, we will use this information to guide our lessons and classroom conversations as we support our children in becoming socially and emotionally aware and confident. Please contact Michelle Paras, School Counselor, at ParasM@fultonschools.org with additional questions.

Bus Transportation:

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.

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.

- Now that students must purchase meals again, the **charge policy** will be returning. When a child’s account balance reaches a negative \$10, they will be offered a special lunch (cheese sandwich and a milk) until payment is made on their account. You may send in cash, or a check written out to “Shakerag Elementary Café” with your child in the morning with their name and teacher’s name on the envelope. You may also pay online at www.mypaymentsplus.com.
- **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.

Café News - Birthday Treats

Class birthday treats may be purchased for students to enjoy during lunch. Parents need to contact the cafeteria manager Santanav@fultonschools.org and the classroom teacher at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the celebration. If there are multiple children with the same birthday, only one birthday treat will be served on that day. **No outside food, goody bags, or class gifts are permitted for distribution to students.**

New changes to the Code of Conduct

As you may have seen across multiple communications, Fulton County Schools has established some changes in the Code of Conduct, especially the new expectations around cell phones and personal communication devices (PCDs). We continue to see several SMART Watches on campus. Please help us enforce this new policy by having your child(ren) leave all cell phones, smart watches, and personal communication devices (PCDs) at home. 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:

Calling all Girls interested in joining Girl Scouts!

The Girl Scouts of Oakwood Circle Service Unit will be hosting their Annual Girl Scout Troop Organizational Meeting on Saturday, August 20 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Johns Creek United Methodist Church (11180 Medlock Bridge Road Johns Creek, GA 30097) in the Media Center. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Cub Scout Pack 1000

Cub Scout Pack 1000 will have an information and sign-up meeting on Wednesday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Johns Creek Presbyterian Church's youth garage, 10950 Bell Road, Johns Creek. Come learn how you can start your son or daughter on the path to Eagle. If you have questions and can't make it, please email pack1000cubscouts@gmail.com!

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 wonderful weekend!