

Shark Bytes

Shakerag Elementary
Christine Lemerond, Principal
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August 18, 2023

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Visit our website: www.shakeragelementary.com

Shark Tales:



Curriculum Nights

On August 22 (PK-2nd) and August 24 (3rd – 5th), 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 and walk to your child's classroom). Also, all parents are invited to attend our first PTO meeting of the year on both nights 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.**

Special Areas and Special Programs:

Our special areas and special program teachers will also be available from 5:30-6:00 p.m. 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(s).

Below you will find the specific schedule for each night.

- **Tuesday, August 22**
5:30-6:00 p.m. (Cafeteria): PE – Coach Smith/ Music – Ms. Housholder/ Art – Mr. Avery/ ASL – Ms. Pennywell/ K-2 Literacy – Ms. Wilson/ TAG- Ms. Sawyer and Ms. Carrier/ ESOL- Ms. Kulamer/ Special Education- Ms. Lee and Ms. Tindall
6:00-7:00 p.m. (Classrooms) Pre-K – 2nd Grade Curriculum Night
7:10 p.m. (Cafeteria) General PTO meeting
- **Thursday, August 24**
5:30-6:00 p.m. (Cafeteria): TAG- Ms. St John/ ESOL- Ms. Kulamer, Ms. Kwon and Ms. Manaktala/ Special Education- Ms. Spinda-Foley, Ms. Lee, Ms. Sigman, and Ms. Wise
6:00-7:00 p.m. (Classrooms) 3rd – 4th Grade Curriculum Night
7:10 p.m. (Cafeteria) General PTO meeting

Teacher Assignments

As shared in your Sneak Peek packets, we are watching our enrollment very carefully. We are focused on 2nd Grade. Current teacher assignments are tentative pending the potential allocation of additional teachers. 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.

Newcomers Coffee

If you are NEW to Shakerag... Welcome to the family! Please mark your calendar for our Newcomers Coffee on Tuesday, August 29, at 8:00 a.m.

Student Success Skills Pre-Survey

All FCS parents/guardians will continue to have access to all Student Success Skill lessons that are in the FCS ReThink Ed lesson database. Directions for establishing an account and accessing all Student Success Skills lessons and home discussion guides in ReThink Ed can be found by clicking [here](#). Students in grades 3-5 will be taking a pre-survey during the screening window of August 28 – September 1. 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.

Attention all 4th and 5th grade students: Shakerag Chorus 2023

You are invited to join our annual Shakerag Elementary Chorus! Chorus rehearsals will take place every Wednesday afternoon from 2:30-3:30 PM. There is no audition to join! If you are interested, please complete your [Dismissal Change Form, Digital Contract, and Membership Payment](#) to join. Our first rehearsal will be August 30, 2023!

Donations for ASL

Our STEM lab (ASL) is in need of cardboard tubes (any size) and bottle caps for upcoming STEM lab projects. If you have any of these items your family would like to donate, please have your child drop them off to Ms. Pennywell at the front office or during ASL.

Culver's Spirit Night

Thank you to Widad Saad and our wonderful Foundation for organizing our first Spirit Night on Wednesday and Thursday nights. We also want to thank Culver's ([3135 Peachtree Pkwy, Suwanee, GA 30024](#)) for their partnership with our school.

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.

Attention ALL 2nd 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. If you did not have a chance to complete this process at sneak peek, please stop by the front desk between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to show your **original documents** to our data clerk, Mrs. Gatlin Cleary. We must see the original and then we will keep the copy to scan and upload to your child's permanent record. If proof of residency is not provided by the first day of school, your child will be placed on a provisional enrollment for 30 days. On the 31st day of enrollment, if proof of residency has still not been provided, your child will have to be withdrawn from school.

One Utility Items: Current water or electric monthly statement (Note: Gas bills are not accepted)

One Residency Items: Current mortgage bill/statement, Home sales contract, Current apartment/house lease, Section Eight/HUD housing document, Current HOA bill

Both documents must contain parent/guardian name and current address where the student resides.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Gatlin Cleary at GatlinCleary@fultonschools.org.

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 Wednesday, September 13, at 8:00 a.m.

A Message from the Shakerag PTO:

PTO General Meeting

Please join us for our General Meeting with our PTO Executive Board right after Curriculum Night at 7:10 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22 and Thursday, August 24 in the cafeteria. We will be introducing the new members of our Executive Board of Directors, presenting, and voting on the budget for the current school year, and talking about the activities and events we support throughout the year. It's a great chance to get to know some people, ask questions and get more involved at the school. We hope everyone will join us!

PTO Membership

Our PTO has consistently provided our students with outstanding and fun activities and events over the years. Your financial support directly impacts the quality and quantity of academic programs, materials and all the fun events our PTO provides. Please visit the PTO website to support our mission by purchasing the membership [HERE](#). Every membership makes a huge difference!

Shakerag Spirit Wear

We have new hoodies and merchandise this year that we will be selling during both sessions of curriculum night, next Tuesday, August 22 and Thursday, August 24. Don't forget to stop by to purchase some of the new styles of shirts. We are also taking pre-orders for the hoodies [HERE](#). The money we raise goes towards the fun events and activities our PTO supports!

FCS News:

Pandemic Impact Survey

FCS continues to partner with the Metro Atlanta Policy Lab for Education (MAPLE) at Georgia State University to gain insight into the impacts of the pandemic. We wish to better understand students' experiences during and after the pandemic to better understand and meet our students' needs moving forward. Please complete this optional and anonymous survey by clicking this link: https://fultonschools.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3lpnaRG2USGTurs. The survey will close on Wednesday, September 6th.

Transportation Reminders:

- We encourage parents and students to add the "Here Comes The Bus" app to their personal device for the most accurate bus stop information and to send you an alert on how close your school bus is to your location. The app is free, and instructions can be found on the Transportation website, which is on the FCS homepage.
- Please be mindful of school zones when driving around our school locations, please SLOW DOWN. Remember to pay attention to flashing yellow lights on the school bus, flashing yellow means caution because the stop arm and flashing redlights are ready to be activated. Every vehicle behind the bus and vehicles in the opposite lane must stop when the red lights are flashing, and the stop arm is out.
- Lastly, Transportation continues to experience a bus driver shortage. If you are interested in serving your community, please fill out an application, you too will have a positive impact on our students' success as one of our school bus drivers.

COVID-19 Updates:

All FCS employees and students are required to report a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 through the respective portals. Please see below for additional COVID-19 Updates.

COVID-19 Case Reporting

- Staff and students are to report **positive** COVID-19 test results through their respective COVID portals.
- **FCS STUDENT** : [FCS Student COVID-19 Report Form \(qualtrics.com\)](#)
- **FCS EMPLOYEE**: [FCS Employee Report Portal for Covid-19 \(qualtrics.com\)](#)
- The FCS COVID-19 Response Team will investigate all reports in consultation with public health officials.

Sickness & Isolating Protocol

- Everyone who is sick is expected to stay home. Those who become sick at school or work will be sent home.
- Per Centers for Disease Control and Georgia Department of Public Health guidelines, all persons with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis are required to isolate. Guidance for isolation will be provided by the FCS case investigators and Fulton County Board of Health case investigators.

Vaccinations

- Vaccinations/boosters for age-eligible students and employees are recommended, but not required.

Handwashing

- Staff and students should wash their hands frequently and cover their mouths/noses when coughing and/or sneezing.
- Hand sanitizer stations are available in schools and buildings.

Bus Safety

- Hand sanitizer stations are affixed to the bus frame.

Facility Safety

- HVAC systems have been adjusted to increase ventilation in accordance with CDC and industry recommendations.
- Water bottles from home are encouraged.
- Contact-free payment for meals is available using www.MyPaymentsPlus.com

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.

- 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 2023-2024 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 July 24, 2023. Visit 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.

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, invitations, or class gifts are permitted for distribution to students.**

Fulton County Schools Student Code of Conduct Handbook

Fulton County Schools' Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Handbook is available online in a PDF format (click [here](#)). Once you have read the electronic version and have reviewed the contents with your student(s), please take a moment to complete the **Acknowledgement of Receipt Form** by using the provided link to access Infinite Campus' [Parent Portal](#). Here is a link with instructions on how to complete the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form ([Link](#)). **All parents and students (over 10 years old) MUST sign this form found within your INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNT.** If you would like a paper copy of the Handbook, you or your student can pick one up in the front office.

The district has recently implemented revisions to the 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct. Please click [here](#) for a quick overview.

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 19 at 2:00 p.m. at the Shakerag Fire Station (10925 Rogers Circle, Johns Creek, GA 30097). Please click [here](#) to RSVP. If you are interested in joining a troop, please fill out the interest form by clicking [here](#).

Cub Scout Pack 1000

Cub Scout Pack 1000 will have an information and sign-up meeting on Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the 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 becoming an Eagle Scout. If you have questions and/or cannot make it, please visit <https://www.pack1000.org> or email us at pack1000cubscouts@gmail.com!

The Tutor Shop

Tutor Shop is an academic based after school program that is offered in schools. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Have a great weekend!

