

# Shark Bytes

**Shakerag Elementary**  
Christine Lemerond, Principal  
Samantha Weaver, Assistant Principal

**September 22, 2023**

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

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

## Shark Tales:

### **Congratulations Shakerag!**

Shakerag is being recognized by The Georgia Department of Education as Literacy Leaders. We are one of 155 schools in Georgia being recognized for outstanding achievement or outstanding growth. We had 90% or more of our third-grade students last year reading at grade level or above on the Georgia Milestones. For the complete news article, please click [here](#). We are so proud of our students, staff, and the amazing community that supports us!



### **Hands on Shakerag is TOMORROW!**

Tomorrow, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., all Shakerag families and friends are invited to help us with planting, removing weeds, and spreading pine straw around the school. Bring gardening gloves, yard waste bags, and your water bottles. The more families we have available to help, the faster we can go in completing this amazing project! Please sign up at [Hands - On - Shakerag 2023](#). Thank you so much in advance for helping to make our campus beautiful. When you arrive, please sign in at the table at the entrance of the school.

### **Attendance Reminders**

It is extremely important for students to be in their classrooms and ready for the school day when the bell rings at 7:40 a.m. We were doing great the first few weeks of school; however, we are experiencing extremely high numbers of students who are now tardy. Our carpool staff begins welcoming students into the building at 7:10 a.m. We see a lull in carpool from 7:15-7:30, and then long lines beginning at 7:30.

Students are marked tardy if they are not in the building when the bell rings at 7:40. If a student rides the bus, and for some rare reason the bus is late, students will not be counted tardy. Thank you for your help in making sure your children start their day off ready to learn.

### **Spirit Night at Capital Tacos on Wednesday, September 27**

Come join us for Shakerag Elementary School's Spirit Night at **Capital Tacos (11160 Medlock Bridge Rd. #140) on Wednesday, Sept. 27 between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.** Bring in the flyer included in this week's folder, show it on your smartphone, or tell the cashier you're supporting Shakerag to make sure that 15% of Shakerag sales will be donated to The Foundation At Shakerag Elementary. We can't wait to see our sharks and their families there! \*\*\* Please note that this applies to mobile and dine-in ordering\*\*. Click [here](#) for a link to the flyer.

### **NWEA MAP Assessment for Grades 2 and 4**

Students in grades 2 and 4 will take the MAP Growth Assessment in math (September 27-29) and ELA (October 4-6) this year. The MAP is a computer adaptive, norm-referenced assessment that measures each student's individual learning level. MAP Growth measures what students know and what they don't know, regardless of their current grade level. This helps teachers adjust their instruction for each student. It is not used for grading purposes but is included as part of our gifted screening/eligibility process. If you have any additional questions regarding this assessment, please contact Samantha Weaver at [weavers@fultonschools.org](mailto:weavers@fultonschools.org).

### **Science Olympiad Tryouts – September 28**

Do you have a 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade student interested in joining a team of young scientists and engineers? If so, they should join our Science Olympiad team. Science Olympiad is filled with science experiments, engineering, and learning new things about science. Click [here](#) for more information about Science Olympiad and upcoming tryouts.

## 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. All SGC information is posted to this site for your convenience. Our next SGC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, at 8:00 a.m. At this meeting we will be holding a 10-minute public comment session. If you are interested in speaking at our public comment, please email Rashi Manaktala at [manaktalar@fultonschools.org](mailto:manaktalar@fultonschools.org). Public comment will be held at the end of the meeting.

## A Message from the Shakerag PTO:

### **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.

### **BINGO Night is Coming!**

The SHAKERAG PTO is excited to announce their fall fundraising event for the year! Mark your calendar for this in-person Shakerag family event taking place on **Friday, October 20, 2023 (2 sessions: 5:30-7:00 p.m. & 7:30-9:00 p.m.)**. We are bringing back all the elements you love about Bingo Night, from the Silent Auction to the Raffle Baskets to many opportunities to score some AMAZING PRIZES!

Without your support, this event cannot be successful. Please help us make this year's fall fundraiser as successful as it has been in the past by making a donation. The money collected from your donation is used to purchase Bingo Prizes & Raffle items. All proceeds help support school programs and events. [Click Here to Donate NOW!](#)

We are also accepting any prize-worthy items/services that can be offered as Silent Auction or Raffle Prize items (e.g., game tickets, vacation home rentals, iPad, gift cards, etc.). This is a great way to promote your store or business while also helping to support the school. Please contact this year's PTO Fall Fundraising Coordinators, Krista Zimmerman ([kzimmerman73@gmail.com](mailto:kzimmerman73@gmail.com)) and Megan Milovich ([megan.milovich@yahoo.com](mailto:megan.milovich@yahoo.com)) if you have any items to offer. We appreciate everyone's support and look forward to seeing you at Bingo Night!

## FCS News:

### **Attendance Awareness Month**

September is Attendance Awareness Month where we spotlight the power of positive school attendance in our school community. This year we will be focusing on promoting the importance of positive attendance where we focus on our 3-prong attendance campaign: Connected to School, Engaged in Learning, and Achieving Success.

School Attendance Facts:

- Chronic absenteeism is defined by missing 18 days or more.
- As few as 2 absences per month can result in a student being chronically absent.
- FCS allows remote learning for up to 5 days per semester when given advance notice.
- Poor attendance in early elementary can impact whether a child is able to read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade.
- Chronic absenteeism negatively affects a student's academic performance and can result in them falling behind in subject mastery.
- By 6th grade chronic absence becomes the leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
- Teacher relationships with students and families are one of the most impactful strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism.
- Students who attend school regularly are more likely to feel connected to the school community and engaged in learning.

Parents/Guardians play an integral role in supporting positive attendance for their child. Please partner with us to ensure your child maintains positive school attendance by being present for 95% or more of the school year – no more than 8 absences per school year!

### **Emergency Release of Students and Dismissal Precautions**

You should have received a flyer focusing on updating Emergency Contact Information (click [here](#)). Please review this document carefully and make any necessary corrections using the directions included on the flyer. Should you have any questions and/or need any assistance updating your child's emergency contact information, please reach out to our school data clerk, Courtney Gatlin Cleary, at [gatlinclerc@fultonschools.org](mailto:gatlinclerc@fultonschools.org).

**Have a wonderful weekend!**

