



THE GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS CONNECTION

A MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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The GCS VISION

Gordon County Schools is a unified school system with strong community partnerships committed to the growth of all students, individual empowerment, and the transformation of public education resulting in graduates ready for college, career, and life.

Our Daily Mission

To build a collaborative culture that engages all students and staff in learning experiences leading to growth, empowerment, and transformation.

#GETGCS

Upcoming Events

Please check your school's website and social media for school additional event information.

- **August 19** - GCS' Varsity Football season officially kicks off.
 - View the online schedule here: [GCS Varsity Football Schedule](#)
- **August 19** - **Swain Elementary** School Volunteer Training at 10:30 am
- **August 22** - **Tolbert Elementary** School Volunteer Training at 10:30 am
- **August 22** - **Sonoraville Elementary** School Volunteer Training
- **August 22** - GET connected: Parent Portal at **Fairmount Elementary** from 8:30 to 12:00 pm
 - *Get Connected to Infinite Campus! Drop by to setup up a parent portal account and notifications.*
- **August 23** - **Fairmount Elementary** School Volunteer Training at 10:00 am
- **August 24** - GET connected: Parent Portal at **Red Bud Elementary** from 8:30 to 12:00 pm
 - *Get Connected to Infinite Campus! Drop by to setup up a parent portal account and notifications.*
- **August 24** - **Belwood Elementary** School Volunteer Training
- **August 25** - **Red Bud Elementary** School Volunteer Training at 10:00 am
- **August 26** - **Ashworth Middle** School Volunteer Training at 10:30 am
- **August 26** - GET connected: Parent Portal at **Ashworth Middle** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 - *Get Connected to Infinite Campus! Drop by to setup up a parent portal account and notifications.*
- **August 27** - [Miss Phoenix Pageant](#)
- **August 29** - GET connected: Parent Portal at **Sonoraville Elementary**
 - *Get Connected to Infinite Campus! Drop by to setup up a parent portal account and notifications.*
- **August 30** - GET connected: Parent Portal at **Tolbert Elementary** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 - *Get Connected to Infinite Campus! Drop by to setup up a parent portal account and notifications.*
- **August 31** - GET connected: Parent Portal at **Swain Elementary** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 - *Get Connected to Infinite Campus! Drop by to setup up a parent portal account and notifications.*
- **August 31** - GET connected: Parent Portal at **Belwood Elementary**
 - *Get Connected to Infinite Campus! Drop by to setup up a parent portal account and notifications.*
- **September 2** - **Red Bud Middle School** Volunteer Training
- **September 2** - GET connected: Parent Portal at **Red Bud Middle at 8:00 am**
 - *Get Connected to Infinite Campus! Drop by to setup up a parent portal account and notifications.*
- **September 5** - Labor Day: *No School*
- **September 12** - Gordon County Schools Board of Education Meeting
- **September 12 - 22**: [Gordon County Schools Driver's Education Class](#)
- **September 17** - Gordon County Chamber of Commerce Presents: [Amazing Race](#)
- **September 16** - Digital Learning Day

ADDITIONAL HAPPENINGS IN GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).
INCLUDING FALL VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES

Superintendent's Message

Gordon County Schools Community,

What a joyful week it has been visiting our schools and greeting students who were eager for another year of new friendships, learning, and fun in the classrooms. As I walk to each classroom, I am reminded of how grateful I am; not only for the staff and students that fill our schools, but for the families, community partners, and stakeholders who support us throughout the school year.

I truly believe that as a community, we are so much better when we work together! Thank you, again, for entrusting us with your child and for allowing us to lead and guide in their academic development.

Thank you,

Dr. Kimberly Fraker
Superintendent
Gordon County Schools
#OneBIGFamily

Top Stories



GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS RELEASES 2021-2022 GEORGIA MILESTONES SCORES

GORDON COUNTY, Ga. - The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has released Gordon County School System's results from the 2021-22 Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS).

The Georgia Milestones are standardized tests administered to students in grades three through twelve and are designed to measure student performance in the areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. Students taking the GMAS are placed along four levels of achievement: Beginning Learners, Developing Learners, Proficient Learners and Distinguished Learners.

Gordon County Schools students showed strong improvement on the 2021-2022 Georgia Milestones assessments. The percentage of students achieving the Proficient Learner level and above increased on 14 of 19 End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) assessments offered in GCS. Students who achieve the Proficient Learner designation are considered on track to being ready for college or career.

Additional data found on the Georgia Milestones Assessments are the Lexile measurements for each grade level. The Lexile measure is a standard score that matches a student's reading ability with the difficulty of textual material. GCS students displayed a high rate of improvement with 5 out of the 6 grade levels increasing an average of 3.38 percentage points, and American Literature and Composition increasing 2 percentage points.

"Georgia's teachers, students, and the rest of our public education family have worked hard to get learning back on track following the disruption of the pandemic," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. "From offering expanded summer and afterschool programs to the efforts of dedicated Academic Recovery Specialists, the state, districts, and local schools have been laser-focused on addressing the impact of lost learning opportunities. These results show those efforts are paying off and students' academic achievement has returned to the upward trajectory it was on prior to COVID-19."

To view the results from the 2021-22 Georgia Milestones Assessments, please visit the Georgia Department of Education website [here](#).



GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS ACCEPTED INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) recently accepted Gordon County Schools into the 2022-2023 Economic Development Partnership (EDP) Designation program.

Learn more [here](#).



ASSISTANT COACHING STAFF NAMED TOP IN GEORGIA

Recently, the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) announced the assistant coaching staff at Sonoraville High School as the Assistant Coaching Staff of the Year for Georgia.

The assistant coaching staff for the Sonoraville Firebird Wrestling program is made up of Matthew Holmes, Jacob Bagwell, Chris Thompson, Randy Muse and Brandon Hufstetler.

Learn more [here](#).



YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHOR GRADE-LEVEL WINNERS RECOGNIZED

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHOR GRADE-LEVEL WINNERS RECOGNIZED: Recently, the Calhoun-Gordon County Library recognized the Young Georgia Author grade-level winners at each GCS school. In recognition of each grade-level winner, a personalized bookplate was placed in a newly purchased book selected by each grade-level winner for their honor.

Learn more [here](#).

NUTRITION

IT'S MORE THAN A MEAL APPLICATION

DID YOU KNOW?

Completing the Free & Reduced Lunch Application helps in many areas beyond just free or reduced price meals.

Just one form ensures continued funding to support all students.

WITH JUST ONE APPLICATION YOU CAN GET:

SCHOOL BUDGETS Increased state & federal funding for staff, equipment, and supplies.	COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY More funding for internet access, wireless & network services. Discount fees for home internet.
SCHOOL MEALS Free or reduced price on school meals. Also used as a qualifier for many pandemic benefits.	SCHOLARSHIPS Scholarships, tuition assistance for dual credit & AP courses, and discount fees on college applications.
CONTACT US Nicole Head Director of School Nutrition nutrition@gcbe.org 706-625-0786	
TEST FEES Discounts on fees for SAT, ACT & AP testing fees.	

www.gcbe.org/mealapplication

If the image is not loading, please visit www.gcbe.org/mealapplication for more information.

PARENT RESOURCES



DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Gordon County Schools Transportation is proud to offer a Driver's Education program for high school students.

Students in the program will gain knowledge and experience behind-the-wheel and in the classroom to prepare them for life as a responsible driver.

Learn more [here](#).



PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Our Parent & Family Engagement Specialists help to bridge the gap between home and school by assisting parents in understanding ways they can help their children with academics.

Learn more [here](#).

GCS MOBILE APP

We are thrilled to announce our new app for mobile phones!

Stay up-to-date with access to events, documents, news from administrators, student stories, and even emergency notifications.

You can download the app for free on Google Play or Apple App Store.

[Android App»](#)

[iPhone App»](#)

STAY INFORMED

Gordon County Schools encourages parents to stay informed about their students' academic progress through the parent portal to Infinite Campus, our student information system.

Learn more, register for an account, or login using the link below.

[Infinite Campus»](#)

PARENT SURVEY

The Georgia Department of Education's annual [Special Education parent survey](#) is now open through May 31.

Survey responses from parents of students who receive Special Education services are used for continuous improvement of services.

[Survey»](#)

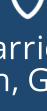
GET ON BOARD WITH #GoCoSchools

We Are Hiring!

Gordon County Schools is seeking personnel for several positions for next school year. Our positions offer competitive compensation, excellent benefits, and wonderful work environments with caring teams. For more information or to apply now, visit: www.gcbe.org/gcsemployment



#GETonBoardWithGCS



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#GoCoSchools

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