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Forsyth County Schools

2022-2023

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS



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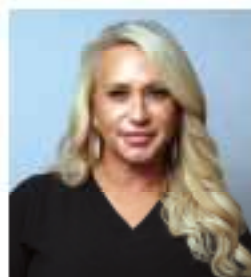
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**2022
2023**
State of the Schools

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About Forsyth County Schools

The 2022-23 State of the Schools is produced by the Forsyth County Schools' Communications and Community Engagement Department.

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 Forsyth County Schools (Georgia)

 Forsyth County Schools (Georgia)

Welcome to the 2022-23 State of Schools magazine



Stephanie Woody, Publisher
Forsyth County News

The Forsyth County News is honored to partner annually with Forsyth County Schools to publish the system's annual State of Schools magazine.

We appreciate the system putting its trust in us to deliver content to the most valuable resource we have in our community — our youth.

Inside these pages you will find everything you need to know to start the school year. From programs offered, to leaders and administration, to school district lines and bus routes, this magazine has the information that you need.

As residents of Forsyth County, it is evident daily the impact teachers and school leaders have in our community. Our local system is at the forefront of leading our county forward and preparing our workforce for the future.

Without the level of educational services that our community is accustomed to, Forsyth County wouldn't have the quality of life that our community is known for.

Please take a look inside the 2022-23 State of Schools magazine and all that our system has to offer.

Our hope is that the entire system, bus drivers, support staff, teachers, administrators and students have a great school year.

As always, we look forward to sharing with the community the great things that are sure to happen this school year and we thank you all for allowing us to be a small part.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Woody
Publisher



We had an amazing 2021-22, with highlights including the successful openings of East Forsyth High, Hendricks Middle, the Academies of Creative Education (ACE), and the FoCAL Center, the passage of SPLOST by voters, receiving one of the highest international accreditation scores, and creating our 2022-27 Strategic Plan.

Last school year we grew to the 5th largest district in Georgia, serving 53,501 students representing 129 countries and 64 languages. In the past decade, we have grown 43%! For 2022-23, we are home to 42 schools – 23 elementary, 11 middle, and 8 high. We are thrilled to open New Hope Elementary this August!

FCS has the highest CCRPI score (state assessment), highest graduation rate (96%), highest SAT score, highest ACT score, and highest financial efficiency rating (5-out-of-5 stars) among metro-Atlanta county districts and large districts in the state. These

accomplishments are because we have excellent teachers and staff, hardworking students, and supportive parents/guardians and community business partners.

Many of you contributed feedback and worked on our 2022-27 Strategic Plan, which includes new vision, mission, and beliefs:

Vision Statement:

A safe, connected, and thriving community for all

Mission Statement:

To provide an unparalleled education for all to succeed

Belief Statements:

- Respect and empathy are vital to building trust.
- All students and staff must be connected and supported.
- All students and staff must have a strong sense of purpose.

- All students and staff must be challenged to think critically and creatively.
- Family and community engagement are essential to continuous improvement.

Our four strategic goal areas include:

- The Learner Experience
- Staff Recruitment and Development
- Social and Emotional Health
- Culture, Climate and Community
- Operational Excellence

I look forward to meeting and talking with many of you during my visits to schools and events throughout the year. Thank you for your commitment to public education. Together we can keep Forsyth County Schools moving forward with a positive spirit to create a safe, connected, and thriving community for all!

The Superintendent's Cabinet is responsible for assisting the superintendent in addressing the school board's major system priorities. The cabinet provides input to the superintendent on major operational, programmatic, and fiscal issues that affect the school system.

To contact a Cabinet member, call 770.887.2461 or email as listed below:

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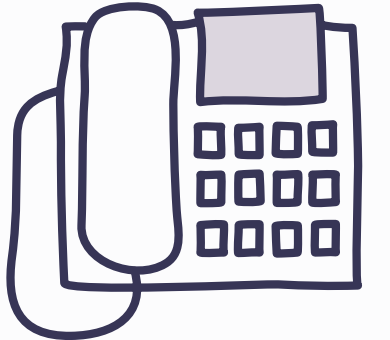
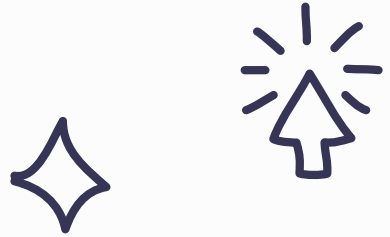
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Board of Education



Photo: (L-R) Chair Wes McCall (District 1), Vice Chair Kristin Morrissey (District 2), Darla Light (District 4), Lindsey Adams (District 5), and Tom Cleveland (District 3).

The Forsyth County Board of Education consists of five members who are elected by district to staggered, four-year terms. The primary role of the board is the legislation of the school system policies, which are executed under the direction of the school superintendent.

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) named Forsyth County as the winner of the 2019 Governance Team of the Year Award.

This prestigious award is presented annually to one Georgia public school district's board of education and superintendent who have achieved all-around success in their district. This recognition is deeply rooted in the components of the Georgia Vision Project's research-based recommendations for Georgia's public schools. These finalists were vetted through a stringent application process and a visit by an impartial review team to vet the information in

the application. The winner was chosen by a panel of national experts who perform various leadership roles in the field of public education.

Meetings of the board are held monthly, with agendas and meeting minutes available for review at forsyth.k12.ga.us/boe. Video broadcasts of the meetings are available live and archived at youtube.com/ForsythCountySchools.

2022 monthly meetings are held on the following Tuesdays: August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15 and December 13. Work sessions and called meetings are also posted on the district website. Meetings are open to the public and held at 1120 Dahlonega Highway, Cumming. Regular monthly meetings begin at 5 pm and work sessions begin at 4 pm unless otherwise noted. For regular meetings, at 5 pm the BOE calls the meeting to order and then goes into executive session; at 6 pm they return to the board room and proceed with the remainder of the meeting agenda.

Communicate with your Board of Education at the email addresses listed at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/boe or by mail to Board of Education, Forsyth County Schools, 1120 Dahlonega Highway, Cumming, GA 30040.

Highlights of Board of Education work sessions and regular meetings are communicated to staff, parents/guardians, and the public in Board Briefs, which is sent by email monthly. To subscribe visit www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/enewsletters

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SPLST and Bond Funds



Thank you, Forsyth County voters! 69% of voters supported the SPLOST for Schools in November 2021, which was a higher approval percentage than the 2016 SPLOST, and 2014 and 2018 Bond elections.

SPLOST collections will begin this year, and will continue for a five-year period or when a cap of \$300 million is collected in order to:

- Continue to make payments on voter-approved Bonds (\$50 million)
- Complete maintenance and life cycle projects at existing schools
- Build one new elementary school (Replacement/larger school for Midway, built in 1961)

- Fund safety, STEM, fine arts, CTAE/College and Career Development, special education, technology, transportation, and athletics
- Purchase land

If growth remains the same, FCS does not anticipate the need for a Bond in the next five years. If SPLOST revenues continue to come in steady, FCS anticipates being able to lower the Bond millage rate over time as previous Bond commitments are paid down.

What is SPLOST?

It is not a property tax. SPLOST is charged on goods purchased in Forsyth County regardless of where

the purchaser resides. Learn more by visiting forsyth.k12.ga.us/SPLOST and more about FCS finances at forsyth.k12.ga.us/financialtransparency

The final 2018 bond project, New Hope Elementary, is opening this August! As the district's 23rd elementary school, New Hope is located on the west side of Castleberry Road, north of Bethelview Road. The school will house 1,175 students and is projected to relieve current and future overcrowding at Whitlow ES, Vickery Creek ES, Shiloh Point ES, and Midway ES. New Hope is named after one of the largest African American/Black schools in Forsyth County in the early 1900s.



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The USDA has ended the nationwide free meals for students’ program, which was started in response to the COVID pandemic. The USDA will provide meal assistance (free and/or reduced) meals for 2022-23 to those families that qualify. Please visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/freereduced for more information.

Forsyth County’s Food and Nutrition Services offers kid tested, great tasting, nutritional meals for breakfast and lunch. Our meals offer students a variety of five different meal components which include:

- Protein-rich entrees
- 100% whole grain-rich foods
- Fruit or juice, often Georgia Grown
- A wide variety of vegetables
- 1% and skim or fat-free flavored milk

A full lunch consists of:

- 1 Entrée with a grain component
- Up to 3 fruit or vegetable servings in elementary and middle schools, and 4 in high school
- Milk

Students may choose a lighter meal consisting of any three components as long as one component is a fruit or a vegetable side. Students who do not want milk do not have to take it as part of their meal. We often offer 100% juice and cups are always available for water. Bottled water and other juice options are also available for purchase.

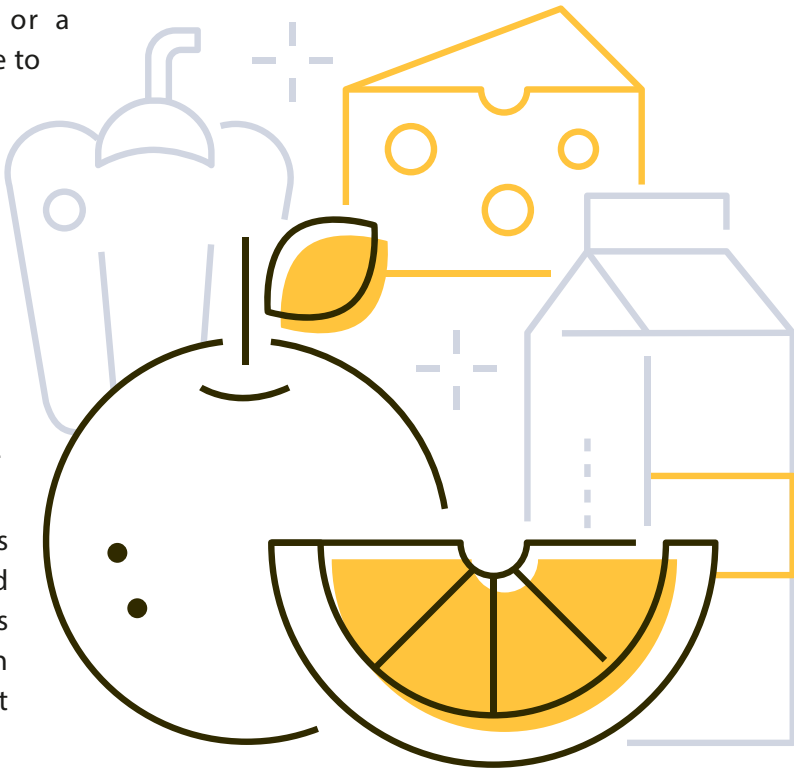
Because your child’s health is important to us, we also work with students and their families who have food allergies or other medical concerns to provide them a safe and nutritious meal. Contact your school’s cafeteria manager about any food related medical concerns your child may have. The manager, school nurse and our on-staff registered dietitian will work as a team to be sure your child’s nutritional needs are addressed.

As a reminder, menus are available on school websites and FCS uses www.mealviewer.com and the MealViewer mobile app, which allows parents/guardians to view menus, set allergen alerts and view nutrition calculators. Meal pre-payments may be made at mypaymentsplus.com

22-23 Daily Meal Prices

LUNCH
Elementary \$3.00
Middle \$3.10
High \$3.10
High School Grill \$3.85
Reduced (all grade levels) TBD

BREAKFAST
Elementary \$1.70
Middle \$1.80
High \$1.90
Reduced (all grade levels) TBD



2022 Graduation Statistics



Alliance Academy for Innovation

- Valedictorian – Neil Romesh
- Salutatorian – Albert Cho
- Number of graduates - 294

Denmark HS

- Valedictorian - Ameya Jadhav
- Salutatorian - Srihitha Dasari
- Number of graduates- 555

Forsyth Central HS

- Valedictorian- Mary Mackenzie Scaff
- Co-Salutatorians- Riley Brumabalow, Dakota Jacks
- Number of graduates- 611

Lambert HS

- Valedictorian – Samiksha Gaherwar
- Salutatorian – Aditya Prabhakar
- Number of graduates -724

North Forsyth HS

- Valedictorian – Cassidee Jackson
- Salutatorian – William Stevens
- Number of Graduates – 580

South Forsyth HS

- Valedictorian- Dhrithi Tummala
- Salutatorian – Sonika Tatipalli
- U.S. Presidential Scholar - Ayush G. Gundawar (1 of 3 in Georgia)
- Number of graduates – 574

West Forsyth HS

- Valedictorian- Sahithya Pasagada
- Salutatorian- Meera Bharadwaj
- Number of graduates- 626

Teachers of the Year



As the largest employer in Forsyth County, Forsyth County Schools employs the best of the best! Annually, we recognize our employees at the Celebration of Excellence and at monthly meetings of the Board of Education.

Teachers make up the majority of our staffing and are recognized through the Teacher of the Year program. Vickery Creek MS' Michael Cheek is the 2022 FCS Teacher of the Year. As an eighth-grade math teacher, Mr. Cheek joined the FCS family in 2009.

2022 school-level teachers of the year include:

- Alliance Academy for Innovation Janice Kochevar
- Big Creek Elementary..... Debbie Stair
- Brandywine Elementary..... Kaylie Scott
- Brookwood Elementary Sarah Leonard
- Chattahoochee Elementary..... Belinda Bator-Pienaar
- Chestatee Elementary Kristin Gomez
- Coal Mountain Elementary Bethany Sterritt
- Cumming Elementary..... Susan Bennett
- Daves Creek Elementary Shona Morris

- Denmark High Vina Jumper
- DeSana Middle Lizzette Nixon
- Forsyth Central High Paul Mallalieu
- Haw Creek Elementary Julie Kelley
- Johns Creek Elementary Liia Barone
- Kelly Mill Elementary..... Chelsea Daher
- Lakeside Middle Quinten Foster
- Lambert High..... Mary Nicoletti
- Liberty Middle Brooke Hollingsworth
- Little Mill Middle Morgan Adams
- Mashburn Elementary Patti Phillips
- Matt Elementary Taylor Chamlee
- Midway Elementary..... Katrina Staton
- North Forsyth High Charlotte Stevens
- North Forsyth Middle..... Amy Bales
- Ottwell Middle Barb Turner
- Piney Grove Middle Angie Smith
- Poole's Mill Elementary Bethany McClurkan
- Riverwatch Middle Christy McGinley
- Sawnee Elementary..... Leslie Hohenberger
- Settles Bridge Elementary Tracy Foxx
- Sharon Elementary Tammy Bevis
- Shiloh Point Elementary Jessica Rogers
- Silver City Elementary Katie Vaughan
- South Forsyth High Katie Urbanovitch
- South Forsyth Middle..... Catherine Swartz
- Vickery Creek Elementary..... Lisa Landis
- Vickery Creek Middle Michael Cheek
- West Forsyth High Bo Brison
- Whitlow Elementary..... Taylor Rodden

Employees of the Month

Other classifications of employees are recognized through our Employee of the Month program. 2021-22 winners include:

November: Support Personnel
(Central Office Support, Registration, Secretaries, Bookkeeping and Technical Support Specialists)
Lynn Wagoner - Whitlow ES

December: Service Employees
(Facilities, Warehouse and Custodial Employees)
Bobby Olsen- Hendricks MS

January: Paraprofessionals
Stacey Scarbrough- Alliance Academy for Innovation

February: Leadership Employees
(Central Office Administrators, Principals and Assistant Principals)
Pam Pajerski - Piney Grove MS

March: School Food and Nutrition Employees
Kay Tidwell – North Forsyth HS

April: Student Support Services Employees
(Psychologists, Counselors, Social Workers, Intervention Specialists and Nurses)
Pat Klosinski – Johns Creek ES

May: Transportation Employees
Chris Adams - Riverwatch MS District

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as the Next Learning Management System for FCS

Forsyth County Schools (FCS) has used a learning management system to help facilitate learning in both the face-to-face and online environment for almost 20 years. The 2022-2023 school year will bring the arrival of Canvas, by Instructure, for teachers and students. The adoption of Canvas comes after itslearning announced in June of 2021 the company was beginning preparations to leave the United States market. itslearning was originally adopted in the Fall of 2012 and was implemented district-wide in August of 2013.

The process to select Canvas was a lengthy one taking nearly a year from start to finish. To find the best learning management system, stakeholders from across FCS including students, parents, teachers, administrators, and district level staff reviewed various platforms. Priority was given to the student and teacher experience during the evaluation process. Based on feedback from students and teachers, FCS selected Canvas.

Canvas is widely used throughout the US in both the K12 and higher education markets and provides a flexible learning platform. Other online applications that FCS

uses will easily integrate into Canvas to create a seamless user experience.

Select teachers across each level and subject areas will use Canvas during the 2022-2023 school year with their classes. Feedback from these students and teachers will help to identify best practices and refine the district's implementation plan to ensure a smooth district-wide implementation for the 2023-2024 school year. FCS looks forward to a long partnership with Canvas to support instruction next year and beyond.



In today's digital world, we rely on the internet for so many things. Being "connected" is part of life and when we lose access due to an internet outage or broken device, we feel the impact. This holds true for students and their learning. In the classroom, students have access to robust internet and a multitude of computing devices, critical to learning. Take one away and learning can still happen but not in the same interactive, engaging manner.

The same holds true for learning outside the classroom. Whether for completing homework, studying, writing papers, or participating in online learning days, students need a device to learn on and the internet. When the pandemic caused the school system to go virtual in Spring of 2020, over 6,200 Chromebooks

were requested by households to continue learning from home. This showed a significant need, either from students without a device or from siblings needing to share a device.

As a result, when the US Government opened the Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF) program to provide connectivity and devices for online learning, FCS applied for and was awarded funding for 7,211 Chromebooks. These Chromebooks will be available when students return in August 2022. Eligible families who completed an application will be notified by their student's school at the beginning of the year with plans on how to arrange pickup. If families in need missed the online application or are new to the county, they will still be able to apply depending on remaining device availability.

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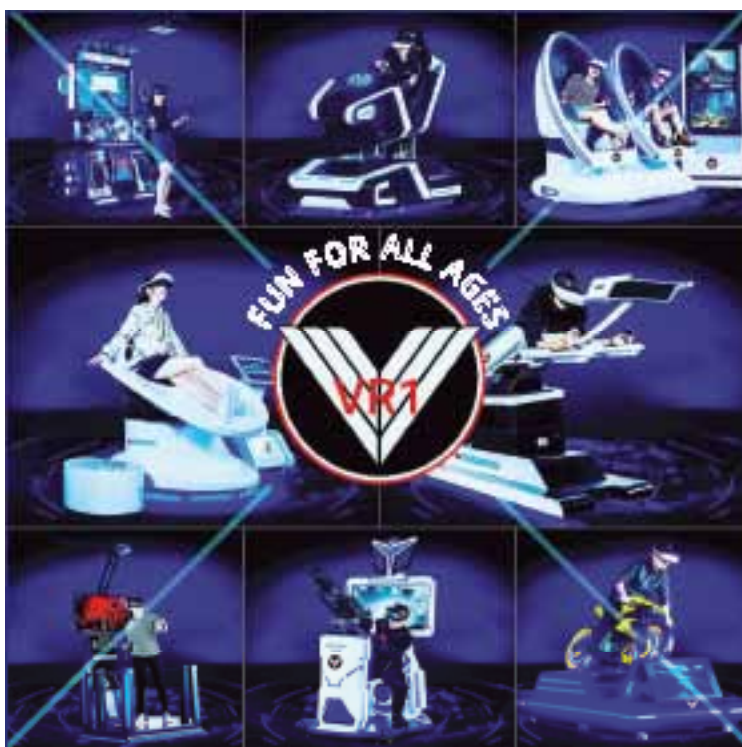
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In Forsyth County, we are passionate in celebrating students’ strengths and supporting their needs in ways that are meaningful to each student. IDEAS is the Special Education Department’s recently established initiative aimed to promote awareness, understanding and fidelity of implementation regarding the areas that ensure the SPECIAL in Special Education. These areas of emphasis include Intervention, Data, Eligibility, Accessibility, and Self-Advocacy. Within each area, a team will lead efforts in research, planning and guidance to schools in order to ensure that we can identify what we are implementing to provide a SPECIAL educational experience for all students.

In addition to selecting new reading and math interventions for countywide use, the Intervention committee’s goal is to have recommendations in place by spring so we can provide advance professional

learning for any newly supported interventions. The focus of the data committee is to review, revise and enhance data collection methods and tools used to identify deficits to ensure appropriately calculated goals and objectives in the IEP. The eligibility committee is working on several resources including creating quick guides for teachers and facilitators to access the Georgia Department of Education eligibility requirements. While increasing awareness of access needs and accessibility tools, the accessibility committee is researching strategies to facilitate application of these tools in ALL educational environments. The self-advocacy committee has been researching and identifying transition and self-advocacy resources and services provided for students with special needs in Forsyth County that stretched across professional disciplines from CTAE (CTI), Student Support and Special Education.

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Activities and Athletics Passes

Forsyth County Schools offers three passes for Forsyth County residents: senior/FCS retiree, substitute, and veteran. These passes include half-price admission for one to FCS home athletic events, musicals, plays, band concerts, and other special school-sponsored activities. Half-price admission does not extend to play-off games, graduation, PTO/A sponsored events and events produced by The FoCAL Center. With the exception of the substitute passes, passes are reusable each year.

Passes are issued at the Forsyth County Board of Education/Professional Development Center at 1120 Dahlonega Highway, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Driver's License and/or verification of military service are required. For more information visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/pass



See Something, Say Something (P3 Campus)

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office and Forsyth County Schools work together to provide P3 Campus Reporting, which provides an avenue for all members of the community to submit anonymous tips about non-urgent illegal activities such as unsolved cases, vandalism, theft, the sale and distribution of drugs, possession of weapons or information about crimes that are being planned on their schools' campus.

- Students are encouraged to report information about dangerous or harmful situations to the principal, an assistant principal, a teacher, or another trusted adult. Anonymous TIPS can also be reported to the Forsyth County Schools P3 Campus Anonymous Reporting in one of three ways.

1. Download the App
- 
2. ANONYMOUS Web tip at <https://www.p3campus.com>
 3. Call the ANONYMOUS tip line at 770-888-3466 ext. 1 or 3.
- Anonymous reports can also be made by calling the State of Georgia School Safety Hotline Number, 1-877-SAY-STOP (1-877-729-7867).
- Callers will not be asked to reveal their identity.



Grab a screenshot when you see something concerning.

Then let P3 Campus know.

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School Principals

Partners in Education



Forsyth County Schools is home to 23 elementary schools, featuring grades Kindergarten through fifth grade, 11 middle schools, featuring grades sixth through eighth grade, and eight high schools, featuring grades nine through twelve. The district also provides the Academies of Creative Education (A.C.E.), which features three programs: Forsyth Academy, Gateway Academy (6-12 alternative program) and Forsyth Virtual Academy (6-12 virtual program).

2022-23 principals include (new to the school are in italics):



Elementary (first row, left to right): Laura Webb (New Hope), Sarah Von Esh (Settles Bridge), Alyssa Degliumberto (Johns Creek), Kimberly Davis (Sawnee), Polly Tennies (Chestatee), Courtney McKinney (Big Creek), Kelly Fuchs (Coal Mountain), Lynne Castleberry (Whitlow), Tracey Smith (Kelly Mill), Jennifer Williams (Chattahoochee), Ben Jones (Shiloh Point), Eric Ashton (Daves Creek), Brian Keefer (Sharon), Kristin Riedinger (Vickery Creek), Jordan Livermore (Cumming), *Kristen Glass (Poole's Mill)*, *June Tribble (Matt)*, *Steve Miller (Mashburn)*, Mike Sloop (Silver City), *Daisy Tremps (Brandywine)*, Daphne Rodgers (Midway), and *Ashley Johnnessee (Haw Creek)*. Not photographed: *Rachel Moity (Brookwood)*



Middle (first row, left to right): Pam Bibik (Riverwatch), *Precilla Saint-Jean (Otwell)*, Scott Feldkamp (Vickery Creek), *Tameka Osabutey-Aguedje (Piney Grove)*, Molly Bradley (South Forsyth), Amanda Thrower (Liberty), Cheryl Riddle (Hendricks), Todd McClelland (North Forsyth), Keith Sargent (DeSana), Megan Thompson (Lakeside), and Connie McCrary (Little Mill)

High (first row, left to right): Kim Oliver (Denmark), Brandi Cannizzaro (21-22 Alliance), Laura Wilson (South Forsyth), Bob Carnaroli (North Forsyth), *Karl Mercer (22-23 Alliance)*, Jeff Cheney (East Forsyth), Josh Lowe (Forsyth Central), Gary Davison (Lambert), and Drew Hayes (ACE). Not photographed: *Aaron Archambeau (West Forsyth)*

Partners in Education (PIE) work with all Forsyth County schools and district departments to provide generous funding, thousands of volunteer hours, and countless in-kind services and donations to improve student achievement in all subject areas, enrich students' life experiences, help grow career opportunities, and boost educator support and morale. These small businesses, corporations, non-profits, and individuals help provide invaluable resources to our students, teachers, and staff each year. If you would like to get involved as a PIE visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/pie.

Another area of PIE is employee discounts. If you would like to offer an exclusive benefit to FCS staff, visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/eddiscounts



Photographed: Tommy and Chantel Bagwell, and Superintendent Jeff Bearden

Congratulations and thank you to our 2022 PIE Award Winners!

Don Hendricks Award
The Chantal and Tommy Bagwell Foundation Inc.

Volunteer of the Year
Dennis and Linda Whittle

Mentor of the Year
Brenda Alhir

Friend of the School
Forsyth-Cumming Optimist Club

Friend of the School
WalMart Foundation

Program of the Year- Silver
Georgia United Credit Union

Program of the Year- Gold
Mentor Me North Georgia Inc.



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2022-23 SEASON



October 13-16 & 20-23, 2022

FoCAL & Bellissimo Production
October 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 & 22 at 7:30pm
October 16 & 23 at 2:00pm
Tickets \$30 Adult; \$25 Student



December 10-11 & 17-18, 2022

FoCAL & Sawnee Ballet Theatre Production
December 10 & 17 at 7:30pm
December 11 & 18 at 2:00pm
Tickets \$30 Adult; \$25 Student



February 2-5 & 9-12, 2023

FoCAL & Bellissimo Production
February 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, & 11 at 7:30pm
February 5 & 12 at 2:00pm
Tickets \$30 Adult; \$25 Student



June 22-25, 2023

FCS Summer Musical
June 22, 23, & 24 at 7:30pm
June 25 at 2:00pm
Tickets \$25 Adult; \$20 Student

SEASON ADD-ONS



August 19-21 & 26-28, 2022

FoCAL Center Blackbox Production
August 19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:30pm
August 21 & 28 at 2:00pm
Tickets \$20 Adult; \$15 Student



January 19-22, 2023

Penguin Project FoCAL Production
January 19, 20, & 21 at 7:30pm
January 22 at 2:00pm
Tickets \$15 Adult; \$10 Student

Built with the support of Forsyth County voters in the 2018 bond referendum, The FoCAL Center is a two-story, 81,006 square foot facility that includes a main stage theatre (seating for 1813 guests), orchestra pit, a black box theatre with four different seating configurations, a versatile rehearsal/banquet hall space, a catering kitchen, and an outdoor space.

The facility was designed to support the fine arts programming of Forsyth County’s 42 schools and the local community. Since opening in December 2021, the FoCAL Center has hosted many Forsyth County schools for their fine arts programs including band and choir concerts, competition events, theatre productions, and fine arts showcases. This multifaceted facility also hosted the 2022 graduation for Alliance Academy of Education and various 5th grade graduation ceremonies as well as dances and proms. Various community and civic organizations have benefited from the FoCAL Center’s meeting space as they hosted meetings, scholarship awards ceremonies, and much more.

Anchored in the belief that the FoCAL Center should provide engaging and inclusive programming for the our schools and community, the FoCAL Center sponsored educational programming endeavors such as arts integration professional learning for teachers, elementary field trips, the FCS collaborative high school summer musical production of Guys and Dolls, and the powerful and moving special needs musical program, the Penguin Project.

In addition to providing a plethora of exciting, educational programs, the FoCAL Center is focused on the goals of providing music and theatre entertainment to the community and to showcase and celebrate local talent. To meet that goal, the FoCAL Center has launched their first theatre season with an array of exciting productions for the entire community to enjoy. Tickets can be purchased at thefocalcenter.com

We can connect your dreams to success by joining the FCS family! Opportunities are available daily at forsyth.k12.ga.us/careers.

Mark your calendars now for the annual Certified Educator Job Fair on Saturday, February 25, 2023, and our Summer Employment Fair on Friday, June 2, 2023.

During the 22-23 school year we will also visit several college campuses throughout the southeast in search of certified educators to call FCS home. Some of our stops include:

- Alabama State
- College of Charleston
- Jacksonville State (AL)
- U of Alabama
- Albany State
- Florida A&M
- Jacksonville (FL)
- Tampa
- Appalachian State
- Georgia Southern
- Kennesaw State
- U of Alabama (Birmingham)
- Auburn
- Georgia College
- Mississippi State
- U of Georgia
- AUC Consortium
- Georgia State
- South Alabama
- U of North Georgia
- Central Florida
- Gwinnett Technical Troy
- U of Tennessee Knoxville
- Valdosta State

Want to be a FCS teacher but you aren’t certified? You are in luck! FCS is home to one of only seven district-based alternative certification programs in Georgia. The Forsyth Teacher Academy program is approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to offer initial teaching certification and four endorsements. Qualified candidates

can earn their teaching certificate in 1-2 years while teaching for FCS. To learn more visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/forsythteacheracademy

FCS has immediate need for bus drivers, custodians, and food service assistants. With newly increased pay scales that are competitive, these are also great opportunities to receive excellent wages and full-time benefits. If interested visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/careers



Substitute positions are also available in FCS for teachers, paraprofessionals, food service assistants, bus drivers, and nurses. If you are an RN or LPN and would like to work a few days a week as a sub, please contact Heidi Avila at havila@forsyth.k12.ga.us. For other positions visit www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/subs.



In early 2022, Forsyth County Schools received one of the highest accreditation scores - a 381.13 Index of Education Quality (IEQ)! Cognia serves 36,000 institutions, 5 million teachers, and 25 million students in 85 countries.

An accreditation review occurs every five years. It measures the overall performance of a school district or school to a set of 31 international standards in three domain areas (leadership, learning, and resources).

Cognia uses a scale of 100 to 400 to provide information about how the institution is performing, stating “an IEQ of 275 and above indicates the institution is beginning to reach the impact level and is engaged in practices that are sustained over time and are becoming ingrained in the culture of the institution.” According to Cognia, the average IEQ for a school district ranges between 278.34-283.33. FCS exceeded this average by 100 points.

Students who attend unaccredited school districts may have difficulty transferring credits, applying to colleges, and receiving financial aid, including the HOPE scholarship. For the 2022-23 school year, FCS serves 53,500+ students representing 124 countries.

“We have a global student body,” shared FCS Superintendent Dr. Jeff Bearden. “We fully expect once students graduate from our schools, that they are able to learn or work anywhere in the world. It’s important that we rate ourselves on standards that are internationally based, not just standards for one state in the country.”

There are two accrediting agencies in Georgia; one measures state standards and the other (Cognia) measures international standards. The majority of the school districts in Georgia, especially the largest and metro-Atlanta districts, use Cognia for accreditation. FCS is the 5th largest of 181 school districts in Georgia.

	Start	End	Early Release
Elementary I*	7:40 a.m.	2:20 p.m.	11:50 a.m.
Elementary II**	8:20 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.
Middle	9:00 a.m.	4:15 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
High	8:25 a.m.	3:40 p.m.	12:55 p.m.
Alliance Academy	9:00 a.m.	3:05 p.m.	12:20 p.m.
Forsyth Academy	8:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	
	12:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	
Gateway Academy	8:30 a.m.	3:30 p.m.	12:35 p.m.

* Elementary I: Big Creek, Brandywine, Brookwood, Chattahoochee, Chestatee, Coal Mountain, Cumming, Haw Creek, Kelly Mill, Matt, New Hope, Poole’s Mill, Settles Bridge, Sharon, Shiloh Point and Vickery Creek

** Elementary II: Daves Creek, Johns Creek, Mashburn, Midway, Sawnee, Silver City and Whitlow

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2022-23 grants, which are funded by the annual Duck Dive for Education, will be presented August 26. Follow live on the foundation and FCS’ social media accounts #foundationfriYAY

In addition to grants, the foundation also provides scholarships. In May 2022, the Forsyth County Education Foundation presented the fourth annual Tammy Waddell

Memorial Scholarship and first annual Wayne Jones Memorial Scholarship.

All donations to the foundation are tax exempt. For more information or to get involved, visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/edfoundation.

2021-22 was a great year for the Forsyth County Education Foundation, with over \$115,000 in grants awarded on #FoundationFriYAY to 27 schools and one district department. Grants were given for a variety of projects and programs ranging from STEM to literacy; a list is provided below this article.

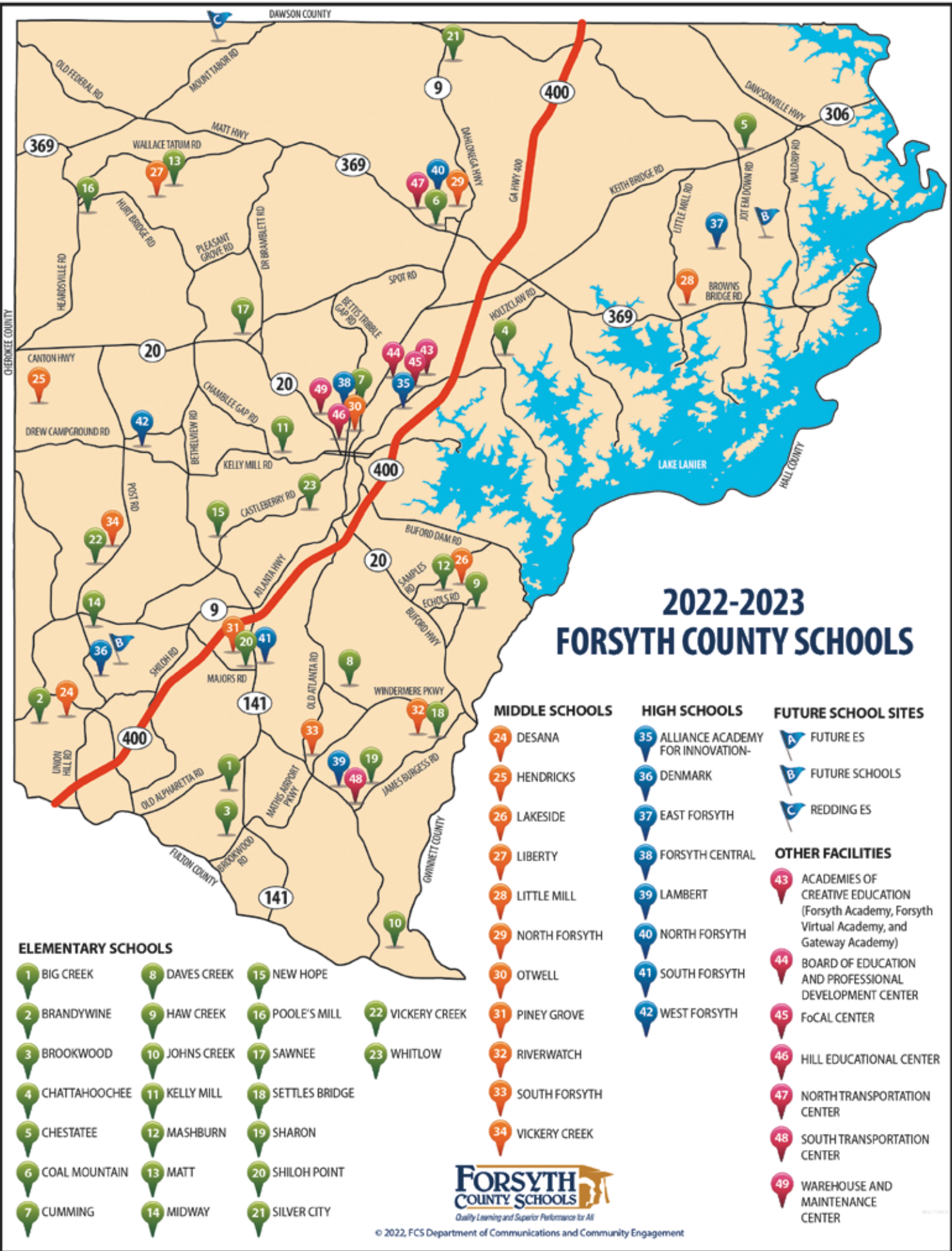
	Amount of Grant	Program	No. of Students Impacted
Big Creek ES	\$4,789.71	Big Creek Love of Learning through STEM	620
Chattahoochee ES	\$3,000	Literacy for Relationship Building Skills	775
Chestatee ES	\$4,056	Second Step	1230
Coal Mountain ES	\$5,000	Moving Mountains with Makerspace	750
Cumming ES	\$1,723.64	Literature to Support our District Initiative	957
East Forsyth HS	\$5,000	East Forsyth HS Community School Center	400
FCS Special Education Department	\$5,000	The Penguin Project	50
Forsyth Central HS	\$5,000	Bulldog Vision College and Career Center at Forsyth Central HS	2500
Gateway Academy	\$3,825	Infinite STEM with Inferno	250
Hendricks MS	\$4,914.77	Can Science Save Your Life?	299
Hendricks MS	\$4,420	Hendricks MS Media Center Makerspace	1100
Johns Creek ES	\$2,400	Multilingual Literacy Library	1050
Lakeside MS	\$2,800	Flextime Manager and Restorative Circles	1305
Lakeside MS	\$4,548	Lakeside MS/South Forsyth MS VEX Robotics Programs	650
Lambert HS	\$5,000	#LambertPack Dog Park	40
Matt ES	\$4,698.80	Mariners Merge into Augmented Reality	1000
Midway ES	\$4,840	Midway Bookworm Vending Machine	940
North Forsyth HS	\$5,000	Science Ambassadors	1000
North Forsyth MS	\$5,000	NFMS-The School that Reads	1200
Poole's Mill ES	\$3,650.04	Planting Pirate Passions Garden Grant	803
Sawnee ES	\$1,487	Activation Hallways	75
Sharon ES	\$4,563.40	SPIKE Prime LEGO Robotics	170
Silver City ES	\$4,993.84	Star Gazers: Creating a Safe and Healthy Learning Environment for All Comets	1071
South Forsyth MS	\$4,548	Lakeside MS/South Forsyth MS VEX Robotics Program	650
West Forsyth HS	\$5,000	West Families Values - "Be an ICON"	2400
West Forsyth HS	\$4,949	West Forsyth Aquaculture Lab	500
Whitlow ES	\$4,900	Let's Get Unruly: Rethinking STEM Education with Innovation	1360

Congratulations and best wishes to our 2021-22 retirees!

Sandi Abbott
Rhonda Abreu
Anne Adams
Michael Aderhold
Ann Allen
Paige Andrews
Jeffrey Arnette
Cindy Arnold
Judy Austin
Catharine Bagdonis
Cindy Baker
Holly Barton
Vickie Bates
Michael Beckley
Dennis Benedict
Brenda Bennett
Shawn Beyer
Rona Boling
Brenda Booker
Cindy Boon
Bryan Bradford
Cheryl Bramlett
Sally Campbell
Steve Campbell
Theresa Carley
Pat Carnes
Cindy Carr
Leah Carver
Paul Kevin Chrystal
Cindy Coleman
Frederick Corwin
Jolie Creuser
Connie Cubitt
Steve Cummings
Valerie Dattelbaum
Shaun Deal
Kristen Deuschle
Pamela Edwards

Sharon Epperson
Debra Fraysure-McCormick
Gena Garner
Jeff Gentry
Monica Gonzalez
Carla Gravitt
Leslie Hamilton
Terri Handrop
Denise Hartley
Deborah Hester
Amy Hockenberry
Beth Holder
Karen Hombroek
Patricia Hope
Tammy Hosea
Huldie Hudson
Karen Hughes
Ramo Isic
Helen Jensen
Margaret Jordan
Christie Karr
Julie Kelley
Kathy Kemp
Kathy Kersh
Shellie Keys
Pat Klosinski
Pat Kuriger
Kelly Martin
Robin Martin
Doreen Mastley
Dawn McCaskill
Lori McClure
Bonnie McGinnis
Chip McIlvain
Cynthia McLendon
Lori McPherson
Marlo Miranda
Aubrey Moree

Pamela Mukwanyaga
Tony Norce
Sandi Nordholz
Karen Oglie
Pam Pajerski
Laura Papso
Aaron Phillips
Sherry Phillips
Calvin Puckett
Kim Raines
Vicki Rawlins
Elizabeth Reagan
Wendy Rickard
Noelle Robinson
Vicki Sanders
Amy Shadmehry
Vicki Sipsy
Todd Smith
Laurie Spear
Debbie Stair
Charlley Stalder
Amy Swenson
Teresa Swinehart
Martha Tise
Janet Tripp-Smith
Carol Turner
Esmina Vehebovic
Penny Vickery
Garrett Wade
Chris Walden
Susan Wilson
Gail Wirth
Andrea Wojciechowski
Connie York
Yvonne Zalewski
Dorinda Zayas





Forsyth County Schools

Student Calendar

2022

- Early Release Days
- End of Semester
- First Day of School
- Pre/Post Planning/Prof. Dev.
- Prof. Dev. (Student Holidays)
- Student/Staff Holidays

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUL
27-29 Preplanning

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUG	20 Days
1	Open House (MS)
2	Open House (ES)
1-3	Preplanning
4	First Day of School

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

SEP	16 Days
2	Early Release/Prof. Dev. (K-12)
5	Student/Staff Holiday
26-30	Student/Staff Holidays

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

OCT	20 Days
19-20	Early Release/Parent Conf. (K-8)
21	Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

NOV	17 Days
21-25	Student/Staff Holidays

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DEC	14 Days
20	End of 1st Semester (87 Days)
21-30	Student/Staff Holidays

2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JAN	18 Days
2	Student/Staff Holiday
3-4	Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)
16	Student/Staff Holiday

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

FEB	17 Days
17	Student/Staff Holiday
20	Student/Staff Holiday
21	Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MAR	22 Days
9	Early Release/Parent Conf. (K-12)
10	Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

APR	15 Days
3-7	Student/Staff Holidays

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MAY	19 Days
25	Early Release/Last Day of School
25	End of 2nd Semester (91 Days)
26	Post Planning (Prof. Dev.)

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JUN
TOTAL DAYS:
178 - Students
190 - Staff

School Hours	Begin	End	Early Release	Elementary I: 7:40 a.m.	Elementary II: 8:20 a.m.
Elementary I	7:40 a.m.	2:20 p.m.	11:50 a.m.	3ig Creek, Brandywine, Brookwood	Daves Creek, Johns Creek,
Elementary II	8:20 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	Chattahoochee, Chestatee, Coal Mountain,	Mashburn, Midway, Sawnee,
Middle	9:00 a.m.	4:15 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Cumming, Haw Creek, Kelly Mill, Matt,	Silver City, Whitlow
High	8:25 a.m.	3:40 p.m.	12:55 p.m.	New Hope, Poole's Mill, Settles Bridge,	
Alliance Academy	9:00 a.m.	3:05 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	Sharon, Shiloh Point, Vickery Creek	

2023 High School GRADUATIONS



- Saturday, May 20
- 9 am Forsyth Central HS at Cumming Fairgrounds
 - 2 pm Alliance Academy for Innovation at the FoCAL Center
 - 7 pm East Forsyth HS at the FoCAL Center
- Sunday, May 21
- 8:30 am West Forsyth HS at Gas South Arena
 - 2 pm North Forsyth HS at Gas South Arena
 - 7:30 pm Denmark HS at Gas South District Arena
- Monday, May 22
- 7 pm Lambert HS at Gas South Arena
- Tuesday, May 23
- 7 pm South Forsyth HS at Gas South Arena

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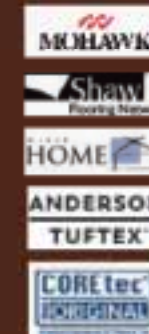
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