

Greenville County Schools • News • Events • Awards

# What's Happening



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*If you need more information about these news items or would like pictures or videos provided to you please contact the Greenville County Schools Communications Office. Individual press releases and reminders will be sent for newsworthy events.*

## On the Calendar:

- **Tuesday, August 9.** *First day of school for teachers and school support staff.*
- **Wednesday, August 10.** *News Conference to unveil a one-of-a-kind partnership between industry and education, debuting a fiber arts curriculum at the Fine Arts Center that will train a creative workforce for a revived, thriving textile industry, 10:30am, 102 Pine Knoll Drive, Greenville.*
- **Thursday, August 11.** *Teacher of the Year Breakfast to honor all school selected winners and announce the district-wide teacher of the year and emerging teacher of the year, 8am, TD Convention Center.*

- **August 11, 12, 15.** *Meet the Teacher night for most Greenville County Schools.*  
<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/News/docs/1607/160728bbts.pdf>
- **Tuesday, August 16.** *First day of school for students.*

## What's New in 2016-2017

### Academics

- **Personalized Learning:** *GCS is embarking on a three year plan to issue a Chromebook to all students in grades 3-12 for anytime, any path, any pace learning. The district hopes the use of Chromebooks at school and at home will equalize access to technology and engage students of all different learning styles. Click for a list of schools in phase one. (Recommended contacts are Principal Scott Rhymer, Mauldin High or Principal Charles Davis at Brushy Creek Elementary.)*  
<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/News/main.asp?titleid=1607learning>
- **More special education classes added to shorten bus rides:** *Five full time teaching positions and 10 teacher's aide positions were added this year to create five new self-contained special ed classes in closer proximity to students' homes. The move will reduce ride times by about 60 to 90 minutes. Classes were added at Monaview, Heritage and Greenbrier Elementary Schools, Northwood Middle and Wade Hampton High. (Recommended contacts are Principal Heather Hester at Heritage Elementary or Eric Williams at Wade Hampton High.)*
- **Elementary Reading Interventionists:** *The FY17 budget added 33 full time reading interventionist positions to provide support for students who need to substantially improve their proficiency in reading. The interventionists will support and supplement the work in the classroom to help students overcome barriers to reading on grade level.*
- **Student growth:** *Growth in the district is projected to be 500 students, bringing the total number of students to approximately 73,500.*
- **New Principals:** *Thirteen Greenville County schools will start the school year with a new principal. You'll find their bios and assignments here:*  
<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/News/main.asp?titleid=1608principals>

### Athletics

- **High School League Classification Changes:** *The SC High School League has switched from a 4A system to 5A system. Six Greenville County schools (Mauldin, Hillcrest, Woodmont, Wade Hampton, JL Mann, Riverside) will become 5a. Most of our other high schools will move to a new classification. This will also affect the football playoff system.*
- **New Limits on Contact during Football Practice:** *No more than 90 minutes of “going to the ground” contact per week during practice. This falls in line with the national movement toward safety and concussion awareness. Greenville County Schools has a certified athletic trainer at all of its high schools provided by the Greenville Health System.*

## **Career and Technical Education**

- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Program Debuts:** *At two of our four career centers (Golden Strip and Donaldson) freshmen will be allowed to attend as part of a new exploratory program. We will bus them because they don’t drive. These students will take eight career courses throughout the year, two each quarter, to sample the options available. We want to get them career focused sooner so they can earn work ready certifications in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade and have internships/apprenticing in their senior year. (Recommended contact is Director JF Lucas at Golden Strip Career Center)*

## **Food and Nutrition Services**

- **Universal Free Breakfast:** *Beginning in 2016 Greenville County Schools will offer free breakfast to all students at 92 school locations. This is a commitment to nourish the bodies and the brains of all students. Greenville County Schools hopes the addition will remove any stigma attached with needing a free meal and allow more students to take advantage of the service. Research proves that a well fed child is better focuses and better able to learn.*
- **Johnny Carino Collaboration:** *Chef Johnny Carino of Carino’s Family Italian Restaurants is a long time twitter follower of Greenville County Schools Food and Nutrition Services. This summer he contacted us and asked to create some new menu items for our school cafeterias. Carino will visit Greenville County Schools in September to debut his recipes at one of our schools. He will also speak to culinary students at our career centers. More details to come on this exciting partnership. Carino’s has 70 locations in the United States and ten in the Middle East. <http://www.carinos.com/>*
- **Euphoria Healthy Lunchtime Throwdown:** *Greenville County Schools is once again joining forces with the Euphoria Food Festival in Downtown Greenville to host a school*

*lunch recipe cook-off. Celebrity chefs will assist students in the kitchen. The final four will compete on stage at Euphoria on Sunday, September 25. Click here for more details on contest rules and prizes:*

<http://livewellgreenville.org/euphoria-announces-2nd-annual-healthy-lunchtime-throwdown/>

## **Transportation**

- **Student Bus Safety Training:** *On the first day of school all elementary students will be shown a newly produced safety video on how to load and unload safely.*  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzELCUi- I8uOEhweGdIRkhHVmM>
- **Pay Increase for Drivers and Salary schedule Modification:** *Attracting and retaining drivers is a critical area of need. We are still 40 drivers short to begin the school year. The salary increase gets us closer to the pay scale of the average driver with a commercial license.*
- **Rules of the Road:** *Greenville County Schools is happy to provide bus drivers and bus safety officers to talk about the rules of the road and how distracted drivers pose a risk to children. Bus driver in-service begins August 8 at Roper Mountain Science Center. Drivers will be in the classroom and practicing hands on skills like maneuvering in a cul-de-sac.*