

The Promise of GWINNETT

The Promise of a New School Year 2016–17 STUDENT CALENDAR

INFORMATION

Early release days are held twice a year in elementary and middle schools to allow for parent-teacher conferences. School is dismissed 2½ hours early.

The calendar includes **three inclement weather make-up days**. If school is cancelled for bad weather, students will make up days as follows:

First day missed— Make up on Feb. 10;

Second day missed— Make up on March 10;

Third day missed— Make up on March 31.

Unused inclement weather make-up days will be student holidays.

If bad weather causes school to be cancelled or dismissed early, public announcements will be made on GCPS TV, on the school system's website (www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us), on Twitter and Facebook, and via metro-Atlanta radio and television stations. Full-day cancellations usually are announced by 6 a.m.

Note: GCPS will make up any additional inclement weather days beyond the three accounted for in the calendar by extending the school day or year.

FIND OUT MORE

- Watch **GCPS TV** on the following cable stations, go online to stream live programs, or watch video on-demand (www.gcpstv.org):
AT&T Listed under Local Government
Charter Channel 180
Comcast Channel 24 or 26
- Sign up online for **eNews** (GCPS' monthly e-mail newsletter).
- Check out **BeThere** resources on the Parent tab of the website.
- Attend **School Board meetings** on the third Thursday of each month.
- For stories about our schools, visit gcps-communicate.com.

FOLLOW US ONLINE

Keep up with school system news and current events online.

Look for these symbols on the home page at www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us.



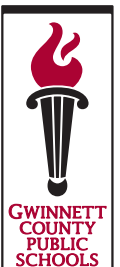
Find Gwinnett County Public Schools on **Facebook**.



Follow us on **Twitter** at GwinnettSchools.



Subscribe to GCPS' **RSS news feeds** on the school system's website.



GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

437 Old Peachtree Rd., NW, • Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000 • www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

August 2016

AUGUST 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

JANUARY 2017

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29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2016

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FEBRUARY 2017

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OCTOBER 2016

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MARCH 2017

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NOVEMBER 2016

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30	31					

APRIL 2017

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DECEMBER 2016

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MAY 2017

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

LEGEND

- 1** First and Last Day of School
- 1** Student Holiday
- 1** Inclement Weather Make-up Day or Student Holiday
- 1** Early Release Days (Grades K–8)
- High School Final Exams (Grades 9–12)

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Safety First

The safety of GCPS students and staff is our highest priority. Here are some of the ways we do our best to ensure **Safety First**.

Inclement Weather

When inclement weather is predicted, GCPS works with local authorities to monitor current and expected conditions in the area.



GCPS announces only **school closing** information. The school system does not issue an announcement when school will be in session as scheduled.

- ❄ If bad weather is forecast overnight, GCPS officials drive roads and bridges across the county to gauge conditions.
- ❄ Full-day cancellations are usually announced by 6 a.m. Once a decision is made, the district posts the announcement about school closures on the GCPS website, GCPS TV, and the district's Facebook page and Twitter account. GCPS also notifies metro-Atlanta news outlets.
- ❄ When bad weather moves in during the school day, district leaders decide the safest and most efficient way to get students home. Should GCPS schools release early or cancel afternoon or evening activities, GCPS notifies parents and community members via local school communication vehicles, through reports to metro-Atlanta news media, and posts to the GCPS website, Facebook, and Twitter.

School Lockdown

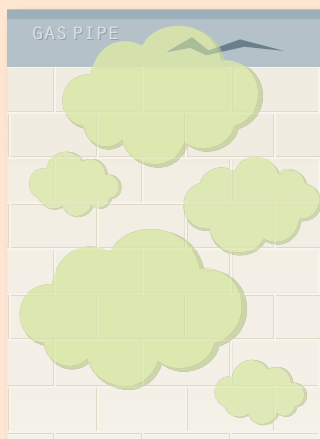
Schools go on lockdown when school officials and local law enforcement authorities decide that conditions outside or inside the school are unsafe.



- 🔒 A **soft lockdown** occurs when conditions outside the school are unsafe. Students and staff continue with a normal school day, but stay within the building. No one may enter or leave the school until the lockdown is lifted. This may delay dismissal times.
- 🔒 A **hard lockdown** occurs when conditions inside the school are unsafe. Students and staff remain in the classroom and safety procedures are followed until the lockdown is lifted. For their safety, students should turn off or mute their cellphones as a ringing phone could alert an aggressor. No one may enter or leave the school while the lockdown is in effect. This may delay dismissal times.
- 🔒 If your student's school is under a lockdown, please do not go to the school. Excessive traffic congestion could impede emergency responders who are working to provide a safe environment for students and staff. You will not be able to pick up your student until the lockdown has been lifted.
- 🔒 Typically, the school will send home a letter explaining the situation that led to the lockdown.

School Evacuation

Schools are evacuated when the school environment is unsafe for the students to stay in the building.



Make sure your student's school has up-to-date contact information for you.

- 🔥 If there are concerns that conditions in the school may be unsafe, the principal calls 9-1-1 and issues instructions to evacuate.
- 🔥 Students and staff gather outside the building at a safe distance and out of the way of emergency vehicles. All GCPS schools practice school evacuation ("fire drills") several times a year, so all students and staff know what to do and where to go.
- 🔥 It is important for students to remain with their teacher/class during an evacuation so that school leaders can ensure all students are safe.
- 🔥 Once the school is judged to be safe, students and staff return to the classroom.
- 🔥 If students will not be returning to school for dismissal, parents will be notified of how students will be transported home or to a site off-campus where families can reunite.
- 🔥 If your student's school has been evacuated, please do not go to the school. Excessive traffic could interfere with evacuation efforts.
- 🔥 During an evacuation, school staff are often busy working with students and first responders and may be unable to handle phone calls. Typically, the school will send home a letter explaining the situation that led to the evacuation. When possible, updates related to a school evacuation are communicated by the school and district.