History of

Beaver Ridge Elementary School

Beaver Ridge Elementary School sits near a grassy ridge and along a creek which at one time was populated with beavers. The Welch family home was located on this site, which they purchased in 1925.

The school, which is located at 1978 Beaver Ruin Road in Norcross, is quite different from the old Beaver Ruin School which served the community in 1896 with a faculty of two.

Beaver Ridge Elementary opened in August of 1979. The first principal was Gary Fairley, who was formerly the principal at Norcross Elementary School. He opened the school with a staff of 37 certified professionals and 18 support personnel. The school's enrollment for grades kindergarten through fifth grade was 764 students.

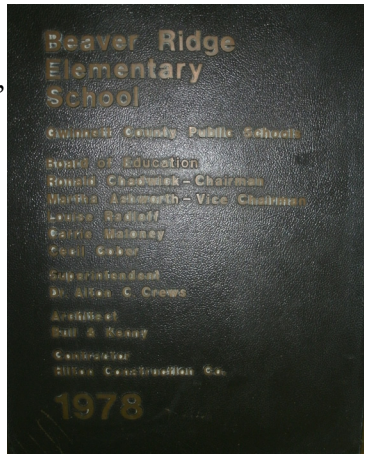
At the time of its construction, this $1.3 million facility relieved four overcrowded schools in Gwinnett County. Norcross Elementary provided Beaver Ridge with 50 percent of its students. Other students were received from Lilburn Elementary, Rockbridge Elementary, and B. B. Harris Elementary. The student body chose the beaver as the school mascot and called him Bucky Beaver. Students selected blue and silver as the school colors.

Fast Facts

Address: 1978 Beaver Ruin Road
Norcross, GA 30071

The following have been principals of Beaver Ridge Elementary School:

1979–1985	Gary Fairley
1985–1990	Rebecca W. Hopcraft
1990 - 1997	Jerry Lehner
1997–2001	Joyce Spraggs
2001 - 2004	Carlotta Rozzi
2004–April 2009	Esther Adames-Jiménez
April 2009–Nov. 2013	José DeJesus
Dec. 2013–Present	Karen Lillard

School Colors: Blue and Silver
School Mascot: "Bucky" Beaver

Beaver Ridge Elementary continues its strong tradition of educational excellence by helping students reach their greatest potential. The dedicated staff at Beaver Ridge Elementary partner with families and community members to support student learning. Students at Beaver Ridge have the opportunity to participate in a variety of after school clubs such as Chess, Robotics, Running, Good News, Ballet, Young Readers, Science Olympiad, and Terrific Thursdays. Beaver Ridge Chess students were named the Gwinnett County K–5 Chess Champions in 2015. The Robotics team received a regional award during the 2014–2015 school year. Beaver Ridge Elementary will continue to follow its mission to develop life-long learners achieving academic and personal excellence. In 2016, the good news continued as Principal Lillard was named a winner of the Atlanta Families' Awards for Excellence in Education. In addition, our school mascot, Bucky, got a new look in 2016!