

History of

Glenn C. Jones Middle School

Glenn C. Jones Middle School was named for a longtime educator who had served this area of the county. Mr. Jones taught at Harmony School for one year in 1938 and then became the principal, serving from 1939 to 1973. He also had served as janitor, basketball coach (two teams), bus driver (for 19 years) and teacher (until about nine years before retirement).

On August 9, 2004, the school opened its doors for the first time. Eight hundred-sixteen students walked through the doors, greeted by a staff of kind-hearted, talented teachers and support personnel. Upon arrival, students went to their homerooms in the Woodlands and Savanna communities, two environments Jaguars are known to inhabit. Within these smaller “schools within a school,” students were placed in four-member teacher teams for Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies instruction.

Jones’ students were scheduled for two connection classes each nine-week grading period including Art, Family & Consumer Sciences, Computer Science, Technology Education, Health, Physical Education, Spanish, Band, Orchestra, and Chorus. All students were scheduled for two quarters of Physical Education and selected seventh and eighth grade students participated in yearlong Spanish I. Jones students also could elect to participate in Band, Orchestra, or Chorus for all four quarters.

FAST FACTS

Address: 3575 Ridge Rd.
Buford, GA 30519

The following have served as principals of Glenn C. Jones Middle School:

2004–2016	Dr. Richard Holland
2016–Present	Memorie Reesman

School Colors: Black, Gold, and Emerald Green

School Mascot: Jaguar

2004–05 was a year of “firsts” for our staff and students. We held summer camps for eager Algebra students and soon-to-be sixth graders. We conducted tours every Monday during the summer for community members eager to see the new school. Our first PTSA and “School Council” of representative parents, teachers, and community business partners were elected.

Our staff met in the summer before school to create a professional learning community dedicated to learning from and supporting one another. They created a family of educators dedicated to students, to each other, and to Mr. Jones’ legacy.

The school’s dedication was held on October 17, 2004.



Mr. Jones and his family were in attendance among an overwhelming crowd of well-wishers and friends. Attendees filled the cafeteria to pay tribute to this most revered and special educator who had taught or influenced nearly everyone in attendance. During the reception, the school unveiled a tribute to Mrs. Jones—the dedication of the school’s media center in her honor.

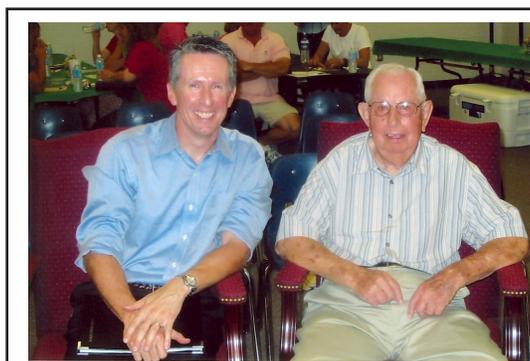
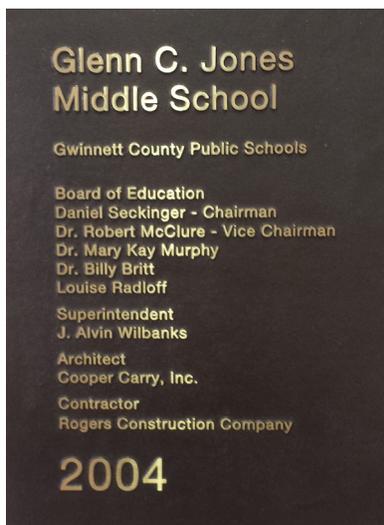
The celebration of education continued with Jones Middle School’s celebration of American Education Week and its first annual community breakfast. Joy Towslee, parent of Amanda and Sam Towslee, received the school’s first Legacy Award, and Counselor Loree Stovall received the Spirit Award. (The school continues to recognize supporters with these awards today.)

Dr. Holland worked with staff to create a school atmosphere that was welcoming and caring. For example, classical music played in the hallways during school hours and live concerts were held in the lobby on Friday afternoons. Overall, the first year at Jones Middle School was a year of growth, of many firsts, and of great success!

The school’s second year began with the loss of its beloved counselor, Loree Stovall, who died of cancer on July 31, 2005. A former Gwinnett and Georgia Middle School Counselor of the Year, Loree graced the school with her life, teaching everyone how precious we are to each other. Today, a portrait of Ms. Stovall hangs in the school media center.

In its second year, Jones Middle welcomed 1,053 students. School staff and leaders added a vision statement to its mission and belief statements. The school also added the first-of-its-kind middle school Student Leadership Academy to its extensive list of club activities. The school’s second annual community breakfast celebrated American Education Week by honoring Jan Wells, executive vice president at the People’s Bank, with the Legacy Award, and Debra Bowens, administrative assistant, with the Spirit Award.

In addition, the school celebrated Mr. Jones’ 95th birthday with a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner meal



Dr. Richard Holland (left) who served as principal of Jones Middle School from 2004 to 2016 is shown with longtime educator Glenn C. Jones. Prior to his death, Mr. Jones was a frequent visitor to the school that bears his name.

prepared by the cafeteria staff. With many of his family in attendance, students serenaded Mr. Jones with a rousing version of “Happy Birthday.” Sadly, the school’s namesake died two years later. To honor Mr. Jones, the school began an annual scholarship for graduating Mill Creek seniors who plan to become teachers.

The school’s enrollment continued to grow, reaching 1,242 students in 2006–07 and 1,389 students in 2007–08. In 2008–09, enrollment climbed to 1,494 students; however, relief was on the way as Twin Rivers Middle opened in 2009–10 relieving Osborne Middle and Jones.

Over the years, Jones Middle School has worked to become a recognized leader in serving and educating middle school students. The school community takes pride in its reputation as a caring school that provides engaging and inspiring lessons for its students. The focus on academic rigor has resulted in high achievement and opportunities for both students and staff alike.

In 2013–14, the school celebrated its 10th anniversary with a catered dinner that included current and past

faculty and staff members, as well as members of the Jones family.

In March of 2016, Jones Middle School celebrated Dr. Richard Holland’s 37 years of service to education and his legacy of service and kindness at a retirement celebration. Dr. Holland served as principal of JMS for 12 years and the school honored his service and dedication to the school by dedicating a part of the building in his honor. The fine arts hallway— named “The Richard P. Holland Fine Arts Academy”— is a daily reminder of Dr. Holland’s love and support of the arts.

From its very beginning Jones Middle School has worked to forge a community of learners... one that supports public education and the students served by the school. By partnering with parents and community members, Jones Middle School works to uphold the high standards set by Glenn C. Jones and to provide students with an unparalleled educational experience.