



Local School Council Meeting
April 1, 2021
8:30 AM

Members Present:

Katrina Larmond
Emelina Marin
Lesli Seta
Yolanda Lanuza
Indira Woodward
Taylor Nuñez
Hope Stills
Nelldra Allen
Kelly James

Welcome & Introductions

- **Katrina Larmond**- Principal at Bethesda ES
- **Taylor Nuñez**- Instructional Coach
- **Indira Woodward**- Certified Teacher
- **Yolanda Lanuza**-Administrative Assistant
- **Lesli Seta**-Business Person- Speed, Seta, Martin, Trivett & Stublely, LLC
- **Emelina Marin**- Parent of a student at Bethesda
- **Hope Stills**- Parent of a student at Bethesda and Business Person.
- **Nelldra Allen**- Parent of a student at Bethesda and Business Person
- **Kelly James**- Business Person-Corporate Specialty Insignia

Pledge of Allegiance

Berkmar Cluster Board Meeting Presentation

<https://youtu.be/TXrxnEfmFD4>

Presenters:

- Lauren Dart-Teacher at Hopkins ES
- Jennifer Tran-Berkmar HS Valedictorian
- Rubina Ramos-Bethesda ES, Sweetwater MS & Berkmar HS parent

County Updates

Summer Enrichment and Acceleration

- June 14-July 2 8-2 PM
- In-person learning is for identified students who are currently in grades K-8
- Digital learning will be offered through an asynchronous format which students will access on the GCPS website
- This summer's learning experience for our elementary and middle school students has been thoughtfully redesigned to support our students. The SEA learning experience will focus on:
 - Acceleration of student learning of foundational AKS
 - Previewing the next grade level AKS
 - Responsive instruction focused on flexible learning groups
 - Strategies which support special education and EL students
 - Enrichment opportunities will be provided in Fine Arts, PE, STEM or other areas of interest

2021-2022 School Year Learning Preference

Gwinnett County Public Schools will return to in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. This decision takes into account students' academic and social-emotional needs, the improving pandemic conditions (lower rates of infection), the availability of vaccinations for teachers and other school staff, and guidance from health experts and organizations. Plans for the fall reflect the district's commitment to safety for its students and staff, with continued mitigation efforts such as the wearing of masks, provision of PPE, and strict cleaning regimens. GCPS will continue to rely on guidance from the CDC and other health partners in developing plans for the return to in-person learning in the fall.

While all students will be scheduled for in-person instruction for the fall as the default, the district will offer families the opportunity to opt out of in-person learning, allowing their children to participate in a modified digital learning option. This modified version—which will have digital students learning from digital teachers, some of whom may be at a different location including Gwinnett Online Campus—is intended to eliminate the need for teachers to teach concurrently.

Information about Fall 2021

Parents contemplating the modified digital learning option for their children for next school year should consider the following in making their decision:

- For staffing and scheduling purposes, parents are asked to **consider the decision to opt out of in-person instruction as a year-long commitment.** However, if a family later determines it is best for their child to return to in-person learning, there will be an opportunity for them to do so at the end of the first semester.
- **Digital learning will be different in the fall.** For example, a student may be taught by a teacher from a school other than his or her own school. Middle and high school students may take some courses through Gwinnett Online Campus or Georgia Virtual School. In addition, course offerings for digital learners may be more limited than those available for students attending school in-person.
- **Digital learning is not optimal for every student.** Some students did not do as well academically, socially, or emotionally in the digital learning environment. Parents should consider how their child did during digital learning in making the decision for the 2021-22 school year.
- **Parents may opt out of in-person learning for one child if they feel it best serves that child and choose to have another child attend school in-person.**

The deadline to submit the opt-out form is Sunday, April 4, at 11:59 p.m.

Please note that only those families that wish to opt out of in-person learning for their students will need to complete the online form available in the Parent Portal or using the ParentVUE app for those that have Parent Portal accounts.

Upcoming Important Events

- **Spring Break (Travel Guidance) April 5th-9th** Families and staff planning to travel outside the U.S. during the break that the CDC recommends that you be tested for COVID-19 three to five days after your return and that you self-quarantine for seven days after travel. Students will be Digital during these 7 days.
- **Kindergarten Registration Begins April 12th**
- **Digital Learning Day April 20th**
- **Teacher Appreciation Week May 3rd-7th**
- **Georgia Milestones Assessment April 22-May 14th**
- **5th Grade Celebration May 24th 6pm –Berkmar HS (2 guests per student)**
- **Last Day of School May 26th**

Open Floor: Questions, Comments, Concerns

- Several members had questions regarding what would In person next year look like. When we get updated guidelines for next school year it will be communicated.
- It was asked what can be done to support PTA or for Teacher Appreciation Week. An email will be sent with some ideas and suggestions!

Thank you for your support!

Your feedback is important. Please click on the link below

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRhOPWbGeIBREvtzyUmDeHl1eQV-yk13ORaI9CjtI3gVAUQ/viewform>

Meeting Adjourned

Local School Council Minutes will be posted on the school's website.