This year the schedule is standardized and open houses will be held in person with safety protocols in place. With the standardized schedule, all open houses for certain schools will fall on the same day. For specific questions about the time of open houses, families should contact their schools.
To see the GCS calendars click here. For more back to school information go to www.gcsnc.com/reopening2021

Open House Schedule
- Elementary Schools (Restart Calendar) - Friday, August 13
- High Schools (Traditional Calendar) - Monday, August 16
- Middle Schools (Traditional Calendar) - Tuesday, August 17
- Elementary Schools (Traditional Calendar) - Wednesday, August 18
Board Approves Bond Projects to Move Forward

After interviewing more than 20 architect/engineering (AE) and construction management (CM) at-risk firms, the Guilford County Board of Education is ready to move forward with the selection progress. The board authorized staff to negotiate contracts with the following firms, which were selected by a committee consisting of board members, central office staff, and the superintendent of schools.

The contracts for these firms are part of the $300 million bond referendum that was approved by Guilford County voters last year.

The bond referendum will pay for construction of new school facilities, the improvement and expansion of existing school facilities, the installation of equipment and acquisition of land.

To learn more about the GCS bond, please visit www.gcsnc.com/Bond2020

Two Deputy Chiefs Named for Guilford County Schools

Guilford County Schools has new leaders in two key positions. The district appointed a deputy chief of schools and a deputy chief human resources officer at Tuesday’s board of education meeting.

Jusmar Maness will become the district’s deputy chief of schools. Maness has been a school support officer since 2019 and previously served as principal at Southern Middle and at Balfour Elementary in Asheboro. As a school support officer, she has supervised and coached principals as instructional leaders and offered guidance on staffing, funding, communication and other priorities.

Maness has a master’s degree in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a bachelor’s degree in English from Universidad de Carabobo, Venezuela. She will report to chief of schools Marshall Matson.

Alison Coker will return to GCS as the deputy chief of human resources. Coker spent 11 years as executive director of human resources for GCS before joining New Hanover County Schools earlier this year as assistant superintendent of human resources. In that role, she led the team responsible for district-wide hiring, professional development, succession management and Title IX compliance.

Coker holds a doctoral degree in school administration from High Point University, a master’s degree in leadership and school supervision from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor’s degree in English education from North Carolina A&T State University. She will report to chief human resources officer Shirley Morrison.

GCS to Require Face Coverings to Start School Year

In keeping with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, GCS will require face coverings for all students and staff when the school year begins in August. The district will reevaluate that guidance every 10 weeks, or at the end of each academic quarter.

On July 1, Guilford County reported a COVID-19 positivity rate of 1.8%. Since then, the rate has increased to 4.7%. A report issued June 30 by the ABC Science Collaborative showed schools can reopen safely when masking is in place despite higher-than-desired community transmission rates.
“As we have since the beginning of this pandemic, we will follow the recommendations of NCDHHS and the CDC for schools when it comes to the safety and well-being of our students and staff,” said Superintendent Sharon L. Contreras. “Right now, vaccinations and masking are the two most effective prevention strategies.”

The NCDHHS’ StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit, which was updated on July 21, strongly advises that schools should require mask wearing for students and staff in K-8 schools in order to decrease the risk of in-school COVID-19 transmission. It also recommends mask wearing for older students and staff who are not fully vaccinated. In Guilford County, only 29% of individuals between 12 and 17 years of age are fully vaccinated. Students under 12 are not yet eligible to be vaccinated.

The Guilford County Board of Education, which approved the mask requirements Tuesday night, also approved the superintendent’s recommendation to provide free COVID-19 testing to individuals who are not vaccinated. The tests would be funded by NCDHHS and would be mandatory for those who are not vaccinated who also participate in athletics and other high-risk extracurricular activities in which increased exhalation occurs, such as marching band.

The school board also authorized district staff to begin recording the vaccination status of all GCS employees and coaches, as well as student-athletes and students participating in high-risk extracurricular activities in order to plan and respond to COVID-19 appropriately. The information would remain confidential.

When students return to school in August, some students may experience a slightly different bell schedule. The changes have been made to improve operational efficiency, reduce late buses and ease congestion at certain sites with multiple schools, where possible. The district has also reduced variation in instructional hours across schools and grade levels. For the full bell schedule, including bus arrival and departure times, click below.

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**Breakfast and lunch meals are FREE to all students until June 2022**

It is critically important for parents/care givers to complete a Free or Reduced Lunch Application Qualified meal applications greatly assist the district in receiving federal funding for things like:

- Additional classroom teachers to ensure reduced class size
- Academic facilitators and instructional coachers
- Additional funding for instructional supplies and materials
- Additional technology devices
- Professional development for teachers
- Educational software programs

Positive account balances will carry forward to the 2021-2022 school year for all returning students. For questions about meal accounts, or to request a refund, call Betty Ann Champion at 336-370-3266. We encourage all families to complete a lunch application.

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Wiley Elementary Vaccination Clinic
Community COVID-19 Vaccination

We are proud to partner with the Guilford County Division of Public Health to bring you a Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic!

- August 12
- 5 – 7:30 p.m.
- Wiley Elementary; 600 W. Terrell St., Greensboro

Register for an appointment at www.GuilfordVaccination.com
If you have any questions, call us at (336)641-7944.

*Children aged 12 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine."
OAK HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Date: **August 18, 2021**

**Time:** 3:00-6:00

The OHES school parking lot will be open to community members, employees, and students **ages 12+**. Both walk-ins and appointments are available. Appointments are encouraged to ensure the availability of a dose. There will be a limited amount of vaccines available for walk-ins.

REGISTER AT


336-819-2925
The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

Stay connected and save up to $50/mo. on your Internet service.

Great news! For a limited time, you may be eligible to receive up to $50/mo. for high-speed Internet service from Spectrum through the FCC’s (Federal Communications Commission) Emergency Broadband Program.

Spectrum is participating in a new FCC sponsored stimulus program that will allow you to save up to $50/mo. on Internet service for a temporary basis. This program was created in response to the pandemic to ensure that eligible households will have what they need in order to connect to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms and more.

The need for fast, reliable Internet is more critical than ever and Spectrum is committed to bringing you the best speeds available. Find out if you are eligible for this great program and start enjoying fast Internet speeds. We look forward to welcoming you as a Spectrum Internet® customer.

QUALIFYING GROUPS:
- Lifeline eligible*
- Free or reduced school lunch or breakfast eligible
- Pell Grant recipient
- Laid off/furloughed since 02/29/2020

We’ve made it easy to find out if you qualify:

1. CONFIRM QUALIFICATION
   Your household may qualify for the Emergency Broadband Program. Visit www.getemergencybroadband.org to find out more.

2. REDEEM YOUR SAVINGS WITH SPECTRUM
   Call Spectrum at 1-833-660-0447 or visit Spectrum.com/EBBprogram to sign up for high-speed Internet and save up to $50 a month if you qualify. If you are a current Spectrum Internet customer call 1-833-660-0447 to save up to $50/mo. on your service.

3. ENJOY FAST INTERNET
   Surf and stream with your Spectrum high-speed Internet service and home WiFi. A temporary monthly credit will be applied to your account.

*Programs that meet the Lifeline requirement are Medicaid, SSI, or Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA) support and Veterans and Service’s Reserve benefit.
Spectrum Internet Federal Emergency Broadband Program program benefit limited to one per household. Limited time offer. Benefit expires upon FCC’s termination of the Program. Income eligibility requirements apply. Standard rates apply following end of the Program period. May vary by location. Taxes and fees extra depending on the area and subject to change during and after the Program period. Installation and network activation, equipment and additional services are extra. Speeds based on wired connection and may vary by address. Wireless speeds may vary. Services subject to applicable service terms and conditions, subject to change. Services not available in all areas. Restrictions apply.
State and local tools for vaccine rollout and COVID-19 prevention

- Click here to find a vaccine provider near you.
- Visit www.healthyguilford.com to get an update on vaccination plans in Guilford County.
- Call the COVID-19 vaccine help center at 888-675-4567 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Callers can get help with general COVID-19 vaccine questions, information on eligibility groups, clinical questions about the vaccine, how to find vaccine locations and transportation services.
- Text GC19 to 888777 to subscribe for vaccination updates via Guilford County’s text message opt-in system.
- Sign up for an app that will notify you if you’ve potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19. Click here for details.
- View a dashboard of vaccination distribution progress.