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Liberty County schools continue iPad initiative

By TIFFANY KING
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The Liberty Learning Experience is returning for its second year. The initiative was developed to give students in grades four through 12 the opportunity to be in a one-to-one learning environment.

Last year, students were given the opportunity to use iPads, provided by the district, as a way to learn using innovative methods and technology.

Teachers were able to create digital content for their classes using iTunes U and eBackpack. With different learning styles and emerging

technology, using the iPads and their digital content were seen as alternative options to help students complete tasks.

This year will be the same rollout. Students in grades four and five are required to have insurance paid for by families, while students in grades six through 12 have the option of not using insurance.

There have been two main changes in the initiative. Patti Crane, the chief information officer for the Liberty County School System, said sling bags will be available for students to use to carry their iPads. She described incidents of iPads sliding and falling to the

floor, damaging the devices. The sling bag will make it easier to carry the tablets from home to school, and between classes. Crane said that students are required to carry the iPads in the slings in the hallway at all times.

The cost of insurance has increased from \$23 to \$30 this year. The \$30 is for each device per school year with deductibles. Thirty dollars will cover the first repair, with no deductible, and a \$25 deductible will be charged for each additional repair. Insurance will cover accidents, theft, fire or flood damage, liquid submersion and power surge caused by lightning.

There will be an information session for middle- and high-school parents at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Performing Arts Center, 2140 E. Oglethorpe Highway. The sessions will cover the Liberty Learning Experience, overview of the student iPad PRIDE Handbook and device insurance. Elementary sessions will be held at the schools in August.

The district has also started "LCSS iNews" to keep the community informed about the iPads and the Liberty Learning Experience.

For additional information on the Liberty Learning Experience, go to www.liberty.k12.ga.us/LLE.



Metro Creative Connection

Reaching for new Horizons



Photos by Tiffany King

Horizons Learning Center held an open house for the community Thursday. Teachers, school staff, board members, parents and students took a tour of the repurposed facility that was once Jordye Bacon Elementary School. Horizons is an alternative school that has replaced the online Ombudsman program for the Liberty County School System. However, Horizons is not only for students with discipline problems. School CEO Vivian Gilliard, above, at right, told open-house visitors that Horizons is also for students who need credit recovery for high-school graduation or for moving on to the next grade level, and for those who may learn better in a nontraditional, smaller setting. The center's mission is to foster academic success through a different perspective and outlook.

At right, the school's rules are displayed on a chart in the hallway.



Button Gwinnett school gets an outdoor makeover



Photo by Liberty County School System

By TIFFANY KING
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When students step onto the grounds of Button Gwinnett Elementary on Tuesday, they will be finding a refurbished playground area and plenty of space on which to run.

At the end of the 2014-15 school year, construction and site prep began for outdoor renovations.

Jason Rogers, the Liberty County School System's chief administrative services officer, addressed Board of Education members May 12 concerning four bids received for the project. He recommended the lowest, by Holland and Holland, of \$53,623.30.

"With the customary 10 percent owner's contingency allowance, the total comes out to \$58,985.63,"

Rogers said.

The board approved the construction, which included grading, removing concrete footers, repairing and filling in sidewalks, installing new sidewalks and providing wheelchair access to the playground area.

The playground area came from Jordye Bacon Elementary School, which closed in 2013 and has been refurbished for Button Gwinnett students. A fresh coat of paint was applied, and wood fibers replaced sand to spruce up the playground.

More space to play

The Pre-K Center was first located on the grounds of Button Gwinnett until its move to its current location on Bradwell Street, next to

GWINNETT continues on 2B

FPCA sets open house for Aug. 7

By PATTY LEON
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While public-school students in Liberty and Long counties hustle to get ready for their first day of the new school year, First Presbyterian Christian Academy students have a few more days to enjoy their summer vacations.

Long County public schools open their doors to students on Friday, and Lib-

erty County students start their new school year Tuesday.

But FPCA, the small private school in downtown Hinesville, has scheduled its open house from 4-6 p.m. Aug. 7, and the school year begins Aug. 10, Principal Shannon Hickey said.

FPCA teaches preschool through 12th grade. Children in the preschool must be 2 years old by Sept. 1. The school is at 308 E. Court St.

Hickey said preschoolers through second-graders attend class from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Third- through fifth-graders attend from 8 a.m. until 3:10 p.m., and sixth- through 12th-graders attend from 8 a.m. until 3:20 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Open enrollment doesn't end until the classes are full," Hickey said, adding that many classes are at capacity or close to it.

FPCA is welcoming new administrators and educators this school year. Hickey said Beatriz Fernandez Perigo is a new educator and will teach high-school Spanish. Kathryn Nelson was hired as a new elementary teacher, and Brooke Childers was hired to assist the school with public relations, marketing and technology.

Holly Jones-Buckley will be in charge of the school's media center, and Holly Kil-



Photo by First Presbyterian Christian Academy

Student Ben Jackson shows his father, Army Col. Scott Jackson, what he learned about light reflection in October 2014.

lough will teach some of the middle- and high-school

FPCA continues on 2B

Long County schools gear up for a new year

By Mike Riddle
Coastal Courier correspondent

Students in the Long County School System will get a jump-start on the 2015-16 school year compared with their peers in neighboring Liberty County.

While Liberty County schools will welcome students Tuesday, Long County students will walk through their schoolhouse doors Friday.

In 2014, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that the Long County was the fifth-fastest-growing county in the nation for 2010 and 2012. In April, the Census Bureau reported that the county was still growing and in 2014 it had the fifth-fastest growth rate in the state. With this growth in the county, the school system also grown and now serves more than 3,500 students.

To accommodate this growth, a new high school was built last year, and an additional elementary school also has been added. Currently, the school system is in the process of adding another new school, to be built sometime in the

near future. The schools in the system now are:

- Smiley Elementary School, serving kindergarten through third grade;
- Walker Elementary School, serving grades four and five;
- Long County Middle School, serving grades six through eight; and
- Long County High School, serving grades nine through 12.

There also is an alternative school program serving grades six through 12 and a prekindergarten program. Recently, each of the four school principals wrote a brief letter to the public about the upcoming school year.

Smiley Elementary
Smiley Elementary School administrators and teachers are looking forward to a new and exciting year for students in grades kindergarten through third. Much hard work has been completed this summer to update the school's curriculum and ensure that students will continue to receive high-quality



Lisa Long

instruction, engaging learning activities and appropriate assessments as they form the educational foundations necessary for current and future academic success. Additionally, the school's custodial- and maintenance-staff members have worked tirelessly during the summer break to ensure a clean, safe environment for our little Eagles when they return to school. Smiley will continue to encourage and welcome parental involvement in the education of our students. Numerous parent events are being planned, including the annual Back-to-School Bash, Picnic for Parents, book fairs, curriculum events and others. The schoolwide parent newsletter, The Eagles' Nest, will also continue to serve as an effective communication tool to keep parents informed. Smiley teachers are looking forward to meeting their new students during open house on Thursday, July 30, from 2-4 p.m. The school's new Ernie the Eagle, donated by Altamaha Federal Credit Union, will make his first appearance. Information will be provided by classroom teachers,

transportation department staff and nutrition services representatives. Please call the school at 545-2147 if you have questions concerning open house or other school-related information.

Sincerely,
Lisa Long, Principal
Smiley Elementary School

Walker Elementary
Walker Elementary School provides a staff with



Shawn Peek

expertise, enthusiasm, friendliness and overall commitment that helps to keep its school among the best! Walker Elementary School believes that all children can learn and have the right to a highly qualified educational experience within a challenging, nurturing and safe environment. The Walker Elementary School administrative staff, consisting of myself and Mrs. Debbie Wingate, strives to develop a partnership between parents, school and community. For the 2015-16 school year, Walker Elementary will provide self-contained gifted/high-achieving classes for students in fourth and fifth



Courier file photo

The Long County High School FFA Club had the third-place entry or float in the 2014 homecoming parade last Friday in Ludowici.

grades. Students will receive a "STEAM Challenge" each week. This will allow the students to expand their knowledge in the areas of math, science, social studies, language arts and technology while incorporating art. Content will be infused throughout all subject areas to clearly align with how we use knowledge in the real world. Walker Elementary also provides a quality pre-kindergarten program that uses state-approved curriculum, SRA Imagine It, and teaches Georgia's Bright from the Start content standards to assess each child's

developmental progress. Walker Elementary School's open house will be Thursday, July 30, 2015, from 3-5 p.m. The first day of school for students is Friday, July 31, 2015.

We are W.E.S.! Wildcats Excelling and Succeeding!
Shawn Peek, Principal
Walker Elementary School

Long County Middle
We are getting ready to begin another exciting school year here at Long County Middle School. We are known as the home

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GWINNETT

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the Board of Education building. The center was housed in several portable buildings that were used as classrooms. After the relocation, the portables remained on the Button Gwinnett property and were used for several purposes. However, students had to snake through the maze of portables to reach the playground and, ultimately, the portables were not part of the school's master plan. "There were seven port-

tables back there where the Pre-K Center used to be. We were successful in moving (them) and having people bid on a few of those," Rogers said at a July 21 board meeting. "There's still two that remain and, unfortunately, we can't even seem to give those away. So what we're going to do is go ahead and dispose of those two additional portables."

The playground area has been cleared of the two remaining portables. They were relocated to a different section of the grounds and will be completely removed

from the property before school starts. This will provide children with more space on which to play and a multi-purpose court.

"For the staff and students, it's been a long time coming. I just walked to the grass, and I'm very pleased with the play area. We're going to have a lot of space for the children to play, exercise and just enjoy being outside," Button Gwinnett Principal Dolores Crawford said. "It's a very beautiful site because we have old oak trees out there, and they haven't been touched (during

the site prep)."

Rogers said some other ancillary structures and storage areas were removed, and grading and repairs were made to the outside walkways and sidewalks. Crawford said all of the school's bathrooms in the school were updated, to which one student said, "The bathrooms look like the ones at the mall."

Crawford and Rogers said they both look forward to any future updates and renovations at the school.

FPCA

Continued from page 1B

math classes.

FPCA boasts a strong athletic program. The school holds multiple state titles in soccer and basketball. The Highlanders are entering their fourth season of football. FPCAs tennis, swimming, baseball and volleyball teams all have competed at the state level.

The student body rep-

resents the diverse culture of Hinesville's military influence. FPCA also has many international students, and the staff is dedicated to providing a college-preparatory experience grounded in Christian values.

"Our focus this year is going to be on service — serving others, the community and the world," Hickey said. "We want the students to understand that they can make a positive impact on others."

Letter from the superintendent

Dear Liberty County Families and Friends:
It's the start of another great year of teaching and learning in the Liberty County School System. On behalf of the faculty and staff of LCSS, it is my pleasure to extend a warm "welcome back" to all of our students, families and friends.

As I reflect on our successes realized last school year and the work we've done this summer, I can wholeheartedly say we have a firm foundation for optimal learning and achievement as we

begin this new school year. Subsequently, the time is right to take our work to the next level for the benefit of the students and families we serve.

Beginning my third year as superintendent in this great school system, I am confident that Liberty County schools are better off today than when I began; and yet, I realize we have a great deal more to do. Toward that end, our theme for school year 2015-16 is "Building Upon Our Successes: The Next Level." All of our efforts will be focused on moving our students to the next level of success in every aspect of

their schooling experience. I believe the work ahead requires leadership committed to our shared goal: the very best education possible for every child. I am convinced we have that commitment in each and every district, school, and classroom leader in Liberty County School System. As a result, students, families and friends, it's going to be a great year! I look forward to working with you as we move to The Next Level.

Sincerely,
Dr. Valya S. Lee
Superintendent of Schools
Liberty County

Day One participation encouraged

Dear Liberty County School System Family and Friends,
Liberty County schools initiated the Day One Celebration in August 2013 to engage the Liberty County community in welcoming our students back to school and to stress the importance of getting off to a good start

on the first day of the school year. A national campaign and observance, the goal of the Day One Project is to invite community organizations, business partners, parents, and the faith-based community to not only join school districts across the nation in welcoming students back to school, but also to re-ignite the yearlong relationship of support for our schools.

LCSS celebrated Day One in August 2014 with more than 250 visitors who joined

us in greeting our students and welcoming them back to school. Our goal this year is to have that many and more to welcome our students to another great year of teaching and learning in Liberty County on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015. The role of the Day One visitor is to greet students with a friendly smile when they arrive, give them a pencil and offer words of encouragement for the new school year.

Day One will begin and end at the following times by level:

- Elementary, 7-8:30 a.m.
- Middle and high, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Visitors are asked to sign in at the front lobby of the school to secure a Day One visitor badge and duty-station assignment. Following the welcoming of students, visitors should report to the designated area in the school to sign out and partake of refreshments and fellowship

with other visitors. Visitors are asked to sign up at their school of choice or at the Board of Education office at 200 Bradwell St. in Hinesville. We will contact all of our visitors by email the last week in July to provide school assignments and points of contact for each school. We hope this event will continue to strengthen the partnership between our community and schools. We want our visitors to return during the school year to assist the teachers and students and be a part of the Liberty County School System family.

If you have any questions before that time, you can contact Dr. Patti Crane by phone at 912-369-0494 or by email at pcrane@liberty.k12.ga.us.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Patti Crane
Chief Information Officer
Liberty County School System



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-5) DRESS CODE PROCEDURES

In the interest of improved student performance, school safety, a reduction in student disruptions, and improved student self-esteem, the Liberty County Board of Education has enacted a mandatory uniform dress-code policy for all students in kindergarten through grade 12. School administrators will be responsible for making final determinations as to whether a student's attire or appearance is in conflict with the written procedures.

The following clothing styles and colors will be considered appropriate:

1. Solid navy or khaki pants, skirts, jumpers with approved tops, uniform dresses with sleeves, skorts (skirts with shorts), and shorts are allowed. Shorts, skirts, jumpers, dresses and skorts must not be more than three inches above the top of the knee cap.
2. Only solid white or navy polo shirts will be allowed. Blouses and button down shirts are no longer allowed. One additional color has been chosen by each school.

SCHOOL	SHIRT COLORS	PANTS/ SKIRTS/ SHORTS COLORS
Button Gwinnett	White/ Navy/ Red	Navy/ Khaki
Frank Long	White/ Navy/ Burgundy	Navy/ Khaki
Joseph Martin	White/ Navy/ Red	Navy/ Khaki
Liberty Elementary	White/ Navy/ Gold	Navy/ Khaki
Lyman Hall	White/ Navy/ Red	Navy/ Khaki

Taylor Creek	White/ Navy/ Baby/ Light Blue	Navy/ Khaki
Waldo Pafford	White/ Navy/ Gold	Navy/ Khaki

Please contact the school for the exact shade of each shirt color.

Uniforms must also abide by the following guidelines:

1. Shirts may have a school insignia, but no other ornamentation, including labels, are allowed on any clothing; (Buttons and tabs that are part of the garment when purchased are not considered ornamentation);
2. Shirts must be tucked;
3. No denim, knit pants, jogging or cargo pants, "skinny" pants, or skater pants;
4. Uniforms must be made of a standard uniform material such as cotton or twill;
5. No zippers on pockets or pant legs;
6. Shorts and pants cannot have pockets on the legs; and
7. Uniforms must be worn at the natural waist. They cannot be poorly fitted or oversized and baggy, so as to allow sagging of the pants. Belts must be worn if pants, skirts, or shorts have belt loops. If belts have buckles, they must not be oversized nor have any writing that is considered offensive.

Accessories

1. Shoes must be a matched pair and be enclosed and fastened/tied properly;
2. Solid color sweaters or sweatshirts without

- hoods and without an insignia (color appropriate to the school) may be worn over uniform shirts;
3. Coats and jackets must be worn open in the building;
4. Solid white, gray, or black T-shirts, or a color appropriate to the school, may be worn under uniform shirts. Solid colored turtle necks (white or a color appropriate to the school) may be worn under uniform shirts;
5. No manner of clothing, jewelry, button, or pin may display drugs, cigarettes, sexually suggestive items, alcohol, profanity, gang related logos or messages, or pictures or words that are determined to be distracting or demeaning to others by the school's administrators;
6. Hats, caps, sweatbands, bandannas, sunglasses, and other head coverings inside the building are not permitted;
7. Pierced earrings are permissible when worn in the earlobes as designed. Other body piercings are not permitted to be visible at school. Students may not wear at school items such as nose rings, nose pins, tongue rings, tongue pins, or any jewelry to accessorize facial or body piercings;
8. Extreme color/hairstyles, make-up, etc. must not be a distraction, immodest, inflammatory, or offensive;
9. Chains, wallet chains,

and spiked jewelry are not allowed on campus or at school related activities;

10. Only tights, hose, leggings, or socks may be worn under uniforms. Tights, hose, leggings, and socks must be a matched pair.

Dress Down Days

School administrators will be able to allow “Dress Down Days” occasionally as a motivator or reward. Dress on these days should follow the Liberty County Dress Policy for dress down days as listed in the Code of Conduct. School administrators will also have the authority to allow groups to modify their dress on given days to allow for special programs and/or situations. This could include cheerleaders, sports teams, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.

Liberty County Elementary Dress Code Requirements for Dress Down Days

1. Shoes must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons. The following are not permitted: shoes which damage the carpet or floors, bedroom shoes, flip flops, shoes with wheels, or shoes with heels over 1 ½ inch in height;
2. Hats, caps, sweatbands, and sunglasses worn inside the building are not permitted except on specified days or particular situations as determined by the school's administrators;
3. Halter tops, midriffs, muscle shirts, net shirts, cutaways, pajamas, lounging pants, clothing with

- words across the seat, or any garment that shows the stomach or waistline in the back are not permitted;
4. Sleeveless tops must have a strap of at least two (2) inches in width across the shoulders. Revealing necklines are not permitted;
5. Spandex clothing and sheer garments worn as the primary garments are not permitted;
6. Pants must be worn at the natural waist. They cannot be poorly fitted or oversized and baggy, so as to allow sagging of the pants. Belts must be worn if pants, skirts, or shorts have belt loops. Belt buckles must not be oversized nor have any writing that is considered offensive;
7. Clothing with suggestive words or pictures are not permitted;
8. Overalls must be fastened;
9. Bicycle shorts are not permitted;
10. Shorts and skirts must not be more than three inches above the top of the kneecap.
11. Shorts must be worn under skirts when the child is participating in rigorous physical activity;
12. Clothing that is torn, ripped, or unhemmed either by accident or style is not permitted;
13. Extreme color/hairstyles, make-up, etc., must not be a distraction, immodest, inflammatory, or offensive;
14. Pierced earrings are permissible when

- worn in the earlobes as designed. Other body piercings are not permitted to be visible at school. Students may not wear at school items such as nose rings, nose pins, tongue rings, tongue pins, or any jewelry to accessorize facial or body piercings; and,
15. No manner of clothing, jewelry, button, or pin may display drugs, cigarettes, sexually suggestive items, alcohol, profanity, gang related logos or messages, or pictures or words that are determined to be distracting or demeaning to others by the school's administrators.

School Dress Code Closets

Each school will maintain a uniform dress closet. This will contain a variety of sizes of uniforms for students who are newly enrolled or are noncompliant.

Newly Enrolled Students

Students enrolled in the school system after the first day of school will be given ten (10) school days to prepare adequately for the dress code policy. Until that time they may borrow uniforms from the Uniform Dress Closet without penalty. However, students must wear a school uniform each day.

Noncompliance Procedures

Each school will strive to achieve full compliance within the guidelines of the Uniform Dress Code Policy. Because noncompliance

K-5 continues on 4B



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MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL (6-12) DRESS CODE PROCEDURES

In the interest of improved student performance, school safety, a reduction in student disruptions, and improved student self esteem, the Liberty County Board of Education has enacted a mandatory uniform dress code policy for all students in kindergarten through grade 12. School administrators will be responsible for making final determinations as to whether a student's attire or appearance is in conflict with the written procedures.

The following clothing styles and colors will be considered appropriate:

- 1. Solid khaki pants, shirts, and uniform dresses with sleeves no shorter than 3 inches above the knee. Shorts and pants cannot have pockets or zippers on the legs.
- 2. Jumpers (sleeveless and of khaki color) worn with a shirt or blouse already specified in the dress code and uniform dresses with sleeves will be acceptable.
- 3. Solid white polo or collared shirts and blouses will be allowed. Additional colors have been chosen by each middle or high school.

SCHOOL	SHIRT COLORS	PANTS/ SKIRTS/ SHORTS COLORS
Bradwell Institute	White/ Royal Blue	Khaki/ Navy Blue
Lewis Frasier Middle	White/ Navy/ Red	Khaki/ Navy/ Black
Liberty County High	White/ Black	Khaki/ Black
Midway Middle	White/ Navy/ Black	Khaki/ Navy/ Black
Snelson Golden Middle	White/ Navy/ Gold	Khaki/ Navy/ Black
Horizons Learning Center	Yellow	Khaki/ Navy/ Blue/ Black

Please contact the school for the exact shade of each color.

Uniforms must also abide by the following guidelines:

- 1. Shirts may have a school insignia, but no other ornamentation is allowed on any clothing;
- 2. Shirts must be tucked in and with no cleavage visible.
- 3. No denim, jogging, "skinny " pants, skater pants, or cargo pants, leggings, or material containing spandex (Lycra)
- 4. Uniforms must be made of a standard uniform material such

- as cotton or twill and have a sewn hem.
- 5. No zippers or pockets on pant legs; and,
- 6. Uniforms must be worn at the natural waist. They cannot be poorly fitted, tight, body hugging, or oversized and baggy, so as to allow sagging of the pants. Belts must be worn if pants or skirts have belt loops. Belts must be solid and unadorned navy, black, brown, white, or khaki. Belts and belt buckles must not be oversized nor have any writing or symbols.

Accessories

- 1. Shoes must be a matched pair and must be enclosed at the front and fastened/tied properly. Shoes with wheels are not allowed. Bedroom shoes and slippers are not allowed.
- 2. Solid color sweaters or sweatshirts without hoods and without an insignia (color appropriate to the school) may be worn over uniform shirts;
- 3. Letterman jackets and official school jackets (in school colors with the school name or logo on it) without hoods are allowed on days designated by the school principal.
- 4. Coats and jackets must be left in the student's locker during the school day;
- 5. Solid white, gray, or black T-shirts, or a color appropriate to the school, may be worn under uniform shirts. Solid color turtlenecks (white or a color appropriate to the school) may be worn under uniform shirts;
- 6. No manner of clothing, jewelry, button, or pin may display drugs, cigarettes, sexually suggestive items, alcohol, profanity, gang related logos or messages, or pictures or words that are determined to be distracting or demeaning to others by the school's administrators;
- 7. Hats, caps, sweatbands, sunglasses, and other head coverings inside the building are not permitted. These items are only allowed outside the building and must not obscure the person's identity.

- Bandannas are not allowed on school property.
- 8. Pierced earrings are permissible when worn in the ear as designed. Other body piercings are not permitted to be visible at school. Students may not wear at school items such as nose rings, nose pins, tongue rings, tongue pins, or any jewelry to accessorize facial or body piercings;
- 9. Extreme hair color/ hairstyles, make-up, etc., must not be a distraction, inflammatory, or offensive. Facial hair must be neatly trimmed;
- 10. Chains, wallet chains, and spiked jewelry are not allowed on campus or at school related activities;
- 11. Only tights, hose, leggings, or socks may be worn. Tights, leggings, and socks must be a matched pair. No hose with designs may be worn.
- 12. Students enrolled in JROTC will be permitted to wear approved program uniforms.

Dress Down Days

School administrators will be able to allow "Dress Down Days" occasionally as a motivator or reward. Dress on these days should follow the Liberty County Dress Policy for dress down days as listed in the Code of Conduct. School administrators will have the authority to allow groups to modify their dress on given days to allow for special programs and/ or situations. This could include cheerleaders, sports teams, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.

All teachers will enforce the above items on a daily basis each period. Should a student not be in compliance with the dress code, he/ she will be required to comply before returning to class. All students must comply with the above dress code for the entire school day including during physical activity time, during PE, JROTC, etc. This includes cheerleaders/dance team, flag corps, and other groups except during performances. Violation of the dress code will result in a Level I or Level II Discipline depending upon the severity and frequency of the offense.

Middle School and

High School Dress Code Requirements for Dress Down Days

- 1. Shoes must be worn at all times, tied securely, and firmly anchored to the feet. No shower shoes, bedroom shoes, shoes with wheels, slippers, or roller blades are allowed;
- 2. Shirts must be long enough to be tucked in even if they are not tucked in (no bare midriffs);
- 3. No manner of clothing, jewelry, button, or pin may display drugs, cigarettes, sexually suggestive items, alcohol, profanity, gang related logos or messages, or pictures or words that are determined to be distracting or demeaning to others by the school's administrators;
- 4. All shirts/dresses/ tops must be fitted around the arm so that undergarments are not exposed. The width of the strap over the shoulder must be at least two (2) inches. No low-cut, revealing shirts are allowed;
- 5. Hats, caps, sweatbands, bandannas, sunglasses, and other head coverings inside the building are not permitted;
- 6. Spandex clothing is not permitted;
- 7. Shirts and pants must be free of deliberate holes and tears;
- 8. Shorts, skirts, and jumpers must be non-body hugging, have a sewn hem, and must not be more than three inches above the top of the kneecap. Splits in skirts must follow the

- same rule;
- 9. Facial hair must be neatly trimmed;
- 10. Pants must be worn at the natural waist. They cannot be poorly fitted, tight, body hugging, or oversized and baggy, so as to allow sagging of the pants. Belts must be worn if pants, skirts, or shorts have belt loops. Belt buckles must not be oversized nor have any writing that is considered offensive;
- 11. Sheer garments are not permitted;
- 12. If pants, shorts, or skirts have straps which fit over the shoulders, the straps must be fastened in front and back of clothing and must be worn on the shoulders;
- 13. Pierced earrings are permissible when worn in the earlobes as designed. Other body piercings are not permitted to be visible at school. Students may not wear at school items such as nose rings, nose pins, tongue rings, tongue pins, or any jewelry to accessorize facial or body piercings;
- 14. Extreme color/ hairstyles, make-up, etc., must not be a distraction, immodest, inflammatory, or offensive; and,
- 15. Chains, wallet chains, and spiked jewelry are not allowed on campus or at school related activities.

Middle School & High School: School Dress Code Closets

Each school will maintain a uniform dress closet. This closet will contain a variety of sizes of uniforms for students who

are newly enrolled or are noncompliant.

Middle School & High School: Newly Enrolled Students

Students enrolled after the first day of school will be given ten (10) school days to prepare adequately for the dress code policy. Until that time they may borrow uniforms from the Uniform Dress Closet without penalty. However, students must wear a school uniform each day.

Middle and High School: Non-compliance Procedures

Each school will strive to achieve full compliance within the guidelines of the Uniform Dress Code Policy. Since non-compliance interferes with the smooth operation of the school, the plan listed below has been developed to address students who do not comply with the required dress code procedures.

- 1st Occurrence ~ The teacher will send home a letter from the administration.
- 2nd Occurrence ~ The teacher will send home a letter from the administration and call the parent or guardian.
- 3rd Occurrence ~ A conference will be set up between an administrator and the parent to address the problem and develop a solution.
- 4th Occurrence ~ School officials will administer punishments as set up under Level I in the Code of Conduct.
- 5th & Additional Occurrences ~ School officials will administer punishments as set up under Levels I or II in the Code of Conduct.

K-5

Continued from page 3B

interferes with the smooth operation of the school, the plan listed below has been developed to address students who do not comply with the required dress-code procedures. If a student comes to school out of uniform, the following measures will be taken. A uniform

will be provided to the student, which will be returned at the end of the day as well as:

- 1st Occurrence ~ The teacher will send home a letter from the administration.
- 2nd Occurrence ~ The teacher will send home a letter from the administration and call the parent or guardian.
- 3rd Occurrence ~ A conference will be set up between an

administrator and the parent to address the problem and develop a solution.

- 4th Occurrence ~ School officials will administer punishments as set up under Level I in the Code of Conduct.
- 5th & Additional Occurrences ~ School officials will administer punishments as set up under Levels I or II in the Code of Conduct.

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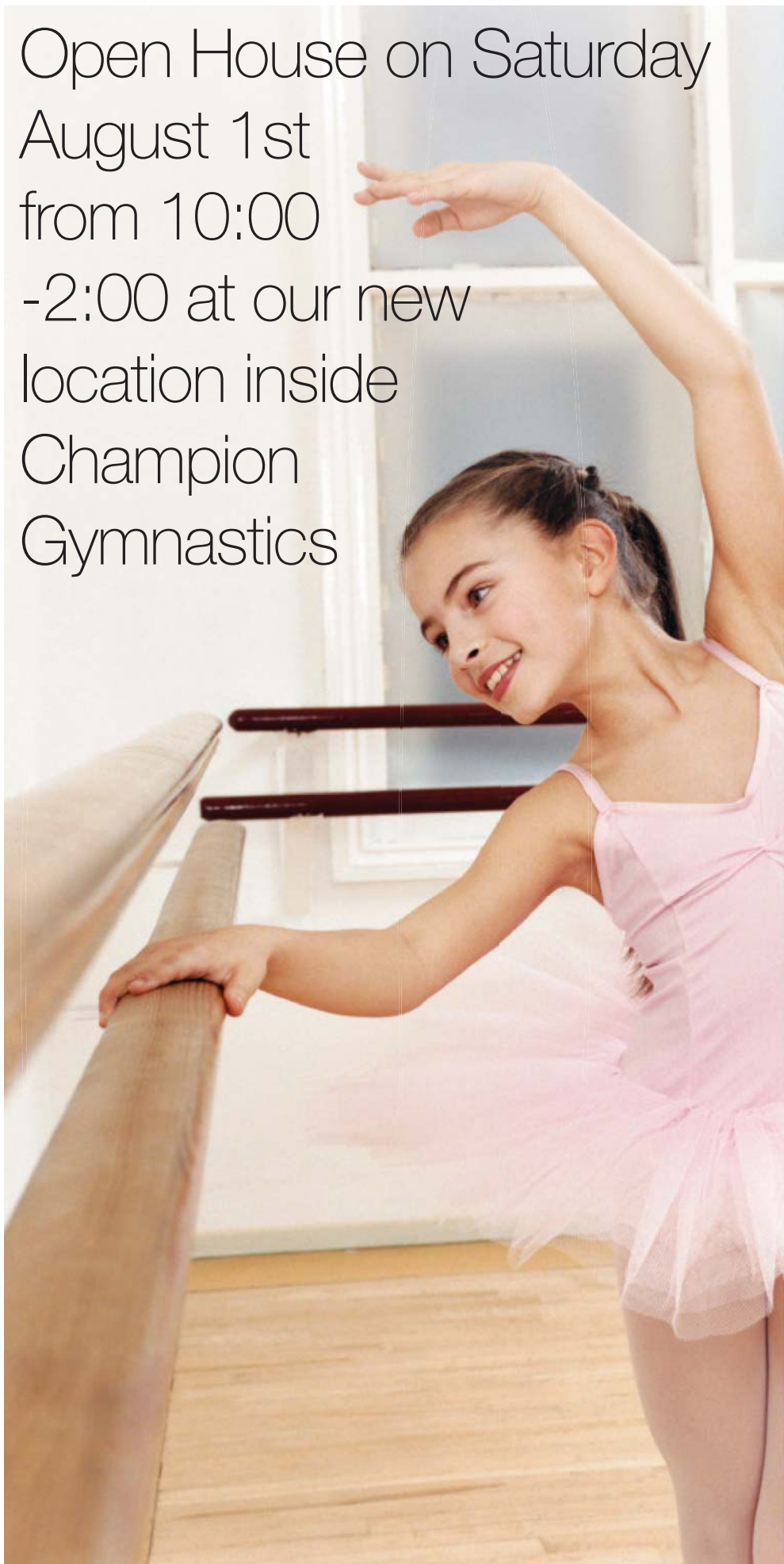
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August 1st
from 10:00
-2:00 at our new
location inside
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- Classes for ages 3 years & up

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Located inside Champion Gymnastics

LONG

Continued from page 2B

of the “Wildcats” and take pride in our navy and white colors! At LCMS, we truly believe in our mission statement, “Wildcats take pride in achieving success!” We currently serve sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students. We will begin the 2015-16 school year with more than 700 middle-school students. We offer a safe and orderly school environment that is full of rigor and academic challenges. Students have the opportunity to take part in 10 competitive team sports as well as clubs. This year, we will also implement a new positive behavior framework known as Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), aimed at giving students a more proactive approach to improving overall school climate. Our first day of school is July 31 and our open house is July 30 from 3-5 p.m. Don’t forget to visit our website at www.long



Heath Crane

countmys.com or give us a call at (912) 545-2069 if you have any questions.

Go Wildcats!

Heath Crane, Principal Long County Middle School

Long County High

We at Long County High School are anticipating an exciting new year. I am personally excited about returning to the high school after serving seven years as principal at Smiley Elementary. Another exciting change is that the high school will be moving to a block schedule. The block schedule format allows students to complete four courses the first semester as well as four courses the second semester. The new school year will also bring some new career pathway options for our students. Journalism, theater and human resources will now be career pathway options. Long County High School will open with the largest senior class in school history and will be looking to set an-



David Edwards

other record for graduates. Another change will be in our cafeteria. The cafeteria will offer a food court type atmosphere with themed serving lines. Tsunami will serve a traditional hot lunch choice. Surf’s Up will serve a sandwich choice such as hamburger, hot dog and chicken sandwich. Rip Tide will offer a pizza choice. We are excited to offer our students these new choices. Long County High School is excited to have our new head football coach, Eric McNair, as well as new director of bands, Timothy Pounds. In addition, we will have a new girls’ soccer coach, Sabrina Caines, and new cheerleader coaches, Sara Gildon and Cindy Davis. We look forward to all the change this year will bring to the Blue Tide. High school open house will be held Thursday, July 30, from 5-7 p.m. for grades nine through 12. Pre-K open house will be held from 3-5 p.m. Thursday. School begins Friday, July 31.

Roll Tide! Be the Tide!

David Edwards, Principal
Long County High School

Georgia students will take fewer tests

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER
editor@coastalcourier.com

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, students will take fewer tests because of a reduction of Student Learning Objectives required for schools to administer.

“I have always believed that we test our students too much,” State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. “Eliminating some of the Student Learning Objectives is a step toward reducing the overall number of tests given to students, which will give our teachers

more time for instruction and help our students focus on learning instead of testing. This change is another step toward a more responsible accountability model.”

For Race to the Top school districts, teachers will only be required to administer two SLOs, where they previously administered up to six SLOs. Non-Race to the Top school districts will administer only one SLO, where they also previously administered up to six SLOs. If teachers in a non-Race to the Top district teach a Milestones course

(state standardized test), then they would administer no SLOs.

The SLO Assessment reduction will reduce the amount of testing in all schools and classrooms, and lessen the financial- and human-resources burden on all districts.

“We have to get back to the business of personalizing, not standardizing, education for our students, and the fewer standardized tests we have in place, the more our teachers can do what they do best — teach,” Woods said.

Early Head Start gets 3 stars



Photo provided

Liberty Early Head Start-Hinesville Center recently was named a three-star Quality Rated facility. Quality Rated is system to evaluate, improve and communicate the quality of early education and school-age care programs. This rating is similar to the rating system for other service-related industries (like five-star for hotel or “A” on a restaurant’s inspection report). Quality Rated assigns a rating to child care programs that meet certain standards beyond Georgia’s minimum licensing requirements. For more information, call 884-4249 or 884-3134. Pictured from left, teachers Tiffany Pinckney, Amy Phillips, Sabrina Gage and Georgia Johnson; and center supervisor Cathy Jennings. Not pictured are teachers Joann Calvin and Tammbra Jones and center aide Alicia Koehler.

Free, reduced-price meal guidelines set

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER
editor@coastalcourier.com

The Georgia Department of Education is announcing the policy for free and reduced-price meals for children unable to pay the full price served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program.

Local school officials have adopted the family size and income criteria for determining eligibility. For example, a family of two qualifies for free meals if the family income is within \$0 to \$20,709 and for reduced-price meals if within \$20,710 to \$29,471. A family of four qualifies for free

meals if the family’s income is within \$0 to \$31,525 and for reduced-price meals if within \$32,526 to \$44,863.

A reduced-price breakfast will cost no more than 30 cents and a reduced-price lunch will be no more than 40 cents per meal.

Application forms are being sent from local schools to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children may also be eligi-

ble for these meals. Families with foster children should contact the school for information regarding benefits. Additional forms are available at the principal’s office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time with each school district required to verify a sample annually. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

For more information, including prices for different family sizes than what is listed, go to gadoe.org or call Nancy Rice at 404-651-6600.

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If you know someone who deserves a special recognition for their outstanding service to our community,

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Kick off is September 10th, 2015
Board of Education Office at 6:00pm

CATEGORIES

- Soldier Volunteer - Retired
- Soldier Volunteer - Active Duty
- Individual Volunteer
- Social Club
- Civic organization
- Youth Volunteer
- Youth Organization/Group/Club

Requirements:
In 400 words or less explain why the nominated person/group should be recognized for Making a Difference

Deadline August 20th, 2015



Request application by emailing kfox@coastalcourier.com. Applications can be dropped off at the Coastal Courier office located at 125 S. Main St., Hinesville, GA or at the United Way office located in the Brantley Building, Suite A, 135 E. MLK Jr. Blvd., Hinesville, GA.

OR, mail to P.O. Box 498, Hinesville, GA 31310, fax to 912-368-6329.

OR, email to kfox@coastalcourier.com or jdarsey@uwce.org.

COASTAL COURIER



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Start Strong, Start Now registration event
When: Monday, Aug. 3. Stop by any time between 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
Where: Armstrong Center, 13040 Abercorn St., Savannah
For more info or to pre-register: 912.344.3609 or armstrong.edu/startnow
Bring official college or high school transcripts or GED scores.

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Kid Scoop Together:

Fill In The Blanks

Ask a friend to give you each type of word. Fill in the blanks and read the story aloud for some silly fun.

Dee Dee on a Roll

Dee Dee was a dung beetle that dreamed of bigger and better things. She wanted to _____ VERB _____ with _____ PLURAL NOUN _____ and _____ VERB _____ amongst the _____ PLURAL NOUN _____.

But those were pretty big dreams for a little dung beetle. Poor Dee Dee thought she might never get her chance to become a _____ ADJECTIVE _____ NOUN _____.

“You have _____ PLURAL NOUN _____ of elephant dung as far as the _____ NOUN _____ can see!” said Dee Dee’s father. “Stop wasting time and start minding waste!”

One afternoon, Dee Dee saw a bright, _____ ADJECTIVE _____ object in the _____ NOUN _____. It was a marble!

Dee Dee became quite skilled and eventually entered a _____ ADJECTIVE _____ marble competition. She performed _____ ADJECTIVE _____ tricks and scored the highest of all.

“_____ INTERJECTION _____!” she shouted during her victory speech. “I’ve gone from the _____ ADJECTIVE _____ bottom to the _____ ADJECTIVE _____ top!”

Standards Link: Grammar: Understand the parts of speech; use the correct parts of speech from context clues.

Kid Scoo-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **DUNG** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

U			N
D	U	N	G
	N		U

Kid Scoop

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week’s word:
DUNG

The noun **dung** means the manure of animals.

Dung beetles roll **dung** into round balls.

Try to use the word **dung** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

THE FLYSPECK FLYER

Cleaner-Uppers

By Nellie Fly
WORLD’S SMALLEST REPORTER

Dung beetles are nature’s clean-up bugs. They eat and bury animal waste. This activity recycles important nutrients into the soil and buries waste that attracts pests such as flies. A dung beetle can bury up to 250 times its own weight in dung in a night.

How much do you weigh?

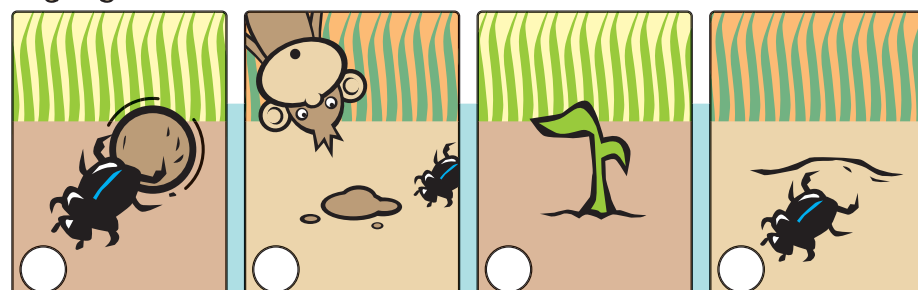
Multiply that by 250

lbs.

That number is the amount of dung you could bury if you were a dung beetle.

Monkey See, Monkey Do

In rainforests, dung beetles roll up balls of monkey dung containing fruit seeds from the monkey’s meal. They bury the monkey dung, seeds and all. After a while, the seeds sprout and grow new trees.



Number these pictures in order.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know that all organisms cause changes in their environments and these changes can be beneficial.

Three Dung Beetle Groups

Each dung beetle belongs to one of three groups: **rollers**, **tunnelers**, or **dwellers**.

Rollers shape dung into balls that they roll. They then bury these dung balls to eat later or to use as a place to lay eggs. When the eggs hatch, the larvae eat the dung.

Tunnelers bury their dung balls by tunneling underneath a pile of dung and taking their treasure underground.

Dwellers – Can you guess what they do? Write your guess here:

Now fill in the missing vowels to figure out why they are called dwellers.

DW _ LL _ RS
LIV _ _ NS _ D _
P _ L _ S _ F _
D _ NG.

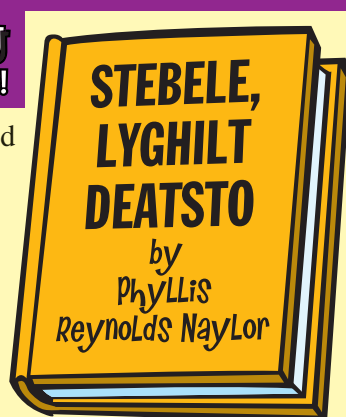
Catch the Reading Bug at Your Library This Summer!

How can Andy be inventive and imaginative in an essay contest on conservation? He comes up with the idea of people eating insects as a way of conserving their food budgets. Before long he’s making toasted beetles and more.

Unscramble the title of this book. Then, check it out at your local library this summer! - Bert Bookworm



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read age-appropriate text in a variety of genres.



Double Double Word Search

DUNG
TUNNELERS
NOURISH
BURIES
RECYCLES
SYMBOL
MONKEY
CLEAN
ROLL
BURY
PILE
FLIES
SOIL
GROW

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week’s Kid Scoop stories and activities.

S	O	I	L	N	E	D	N	W	C
S	R	A	A	L	S	O	U	O	T
E	S	E	I	R	U	B	N	N	E
L	L	P	L	R	F	T	U	C	G
C	L	E	I	E	I	L	L	R	A
Y	N	S	U	N	N	L	I	P	Y
C	H	C	E	M	O	N	K	E	Y
E	R	N	G	R	O	W	U	E	S
R	T	L	O	B	M	Y	S	T	W

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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LOCATION

The Recreation Office is located in Liberty Independent Troop Park, next to the National Guard Armory.

HOURS

Mon. - Fri. from 10AM - 6PM

CONTACT US

www.lcrd.net
Online registration available
876-5359 or 448-LCRD(5273)
lcrd@coastalnow.net



LibertyCountyRecreationDepartment



LCRD ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	AGES	REGISTRATION	START	END
After School Program	K-5th Grade	July	Aug	May
Football	7-12	August	Sept	Nov
Football Cheerleading	7-12	August	Sept	Nov
Soccer	4-17	August	Sept	Nov
Tae Kwon Do	7 & up	August	Sept	May
Ju-Jitsu	7 & up	August	Sept	May
Piano & Voice Lessons	5 & up	August	Sept	May
Adult Flag Football	16 & up	November	Dec	Jan
Basketball	7-17	November	Dec	Feb
Basketball Cheerleading	7-12	November	Dec	Feb
Adult Basketball	18 & up	December	Jan	Feb
Volleyball	10-adult	February	Mar	Apr
Track & Field	7-14	February	Mar	Apr
Spring Soccer	4-14	February	Mar	Apr
Adult Soccer	16 & up	February	Mar	Apr
Spring Camp	6-14	February	TBA	
Baseball & Softball	4-15	March	Apr	Jun
Adult Softball	16 & up	March	Apr	Jul
Summer Programs	4-17	May-July	Jun	Aug

We Also Have Day Camps, Sports Programs, Aquatics, Instructional Programs & More!

LIBERTY COUNTY RECREATION PARKS & FACILITIES

- Liberty Independent Troop Park, *Hinesville*
- Hinesville Pool
- Stafford Pavilion
- Skate Park
- James Brown Park, *Hinesville*
- Shuman recreation Center
- Weight Lifting Center
- Tennis Courts
- Liberty County Community Complex
- Midway Pool
- Midway Library
- Gum Branch Park, *Gum Branch*
- Briar Bay Park, *Riceboro*
- Joseph Miller Park, *Hinesville Hwy 84E*
- Eve Park, *Colonel's Island*
- Jesse Stevens Park, *Old Dorchester Academy*
- Holmestown Park
- Hillary Park, *Walthourville*
- Jones Creek Park, *Isle of Wight*
- Riceboro Youth Center, *Riceboro*
- Sunbury Boat Landing and Fishing Pier, *Sunbury*
- Riceboro Fishing Piers, *Riceboro Hwy 17N*
- Irene B. Thomas Park, *Hinesville Sharon St.*
- Riceboro Boat Ramp, *Riceboro Interstate Paper Rd.*

VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

LCRD is a great place to earn Community Service hours! Each year hundreds of individuals volunteer their time at the Recreation Department to help make a difference in the quality of life in Liberty County.

While most volunteer to coach the many youth sports teams formed each year, there are many other volunteer positions including administrative/clerical work, concessions, scorers, timers, officials, and grounds maintenance.

In addition to earning your required hours for Community Service, you may find that this is a great way to have a positive influence on others. You may even have the special skills or abilities needed to help start a new program. Volunteering is an excellent way to gain experience that may help you gain future employment.

If you would like to get involved in this community and positively influence the lives of others, consider volunteering your time, talent, and abilities at the Liberty County Recreation Department.