

Blythe Elementary School

*290 Church Street
Blythe, Georgia 30805*

Cheryl Fry, Principal

*Office (706)592-4090
Fax (706)592-3708*

Dear Blythe Families,

Welcome to the new school year at Blythe Elementary. I am delighted to be serving as your Principal. The Blythe Teachers are excellent and they set high expectations for our students, preparing them for the future. Please stay in close contact with your child's teacher, and read and study vocabulary with your child, every day.

I expect every student to attend school each day, to be on time, and to stay all day. My expectation for parents is to update student information on the portal. The Parent Portal is how Blythe Teachers update you concerning academic achievement.

Enjoy and embrace the learning opportunities given to your children. Thanks for your support. Blythe Elementary School is the place to be! Let me know if I can help you or your family.

Mrs. Cheryl Fry, Principal
706-592-4090

OUR SCHOOL'S HISTORY

The first school to serve the Blythe community was built in 1894. Called the “Old Hood House,” it is located at the corner of Church Street and Highway 88. This school was a three room, frame building with an enrollment of 35 students. The largest room was for elementary students, and one of the smaller rooms was the high school. A wing was added to the rear of the building and was used to teach home economics.

In 1917, Mrs. Elsie Wright Murphy, then teacher and principal of the school, decided Blythe needed a new school. She collected contributions from neighbors and friends, and in 1920, the sum of \$13,500.00 was turned over to the Richmond County Board of Education and a new, larger school was constructed. This school served the community until it burned on August 18, 1975.

The present Blythe Elementary School was opened on August 25, 1977 with grades K-7. Mr. Frank Boulineau was principal with a faculty of 20 teachers.

...Taken from notes by
Emily Templeton Welch

MISSION STATEMENT



Mission: Building a world-class school system through education, collaboration and innovation.

Vision: RCSS will create a world-class, globally competitive school system where all students will graduate and are college/career ready.

Goal Areas: High Academic Achievement and Success, Community Engagement, Communication, High Performing Culture and Workforce, and Operational Effectiveness

Blythe Elementary strives to work collaboratively with the Richmond County School System by focusing on the same Mission, Vision, and Goals.

2019/2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<i>Holiday (Independence Day)</i>	Wednesday, July 4, 2019
<i>Preplanning</i>	Wednesday, July 31 - Monday, August 5, 2019
<i>First Day of School</i>	<i>Tuesday, August 6, 2019</i>
<i>District Wide Early Release and School Based PL</i>	<i>Wednesday, August 21, 2019</i>
<i>Labor Day (School Closed)</i>	Monday, September 2, 2019
<i>Progress Reports</i>	Thursday, September 5, 2019
<i>District Wide Early Release and School Base PL</i>	Wednesday, September 18, 2019
<i>Beginning of 2nd Nine Weeks</i>	<i>Wednesday, October 8, 2019</i>
<i>Columbus Day Holiday</i>	Monday, October 14, 2019
<i>School Based Prof. Learning/Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday</i>	Tuesday, October 15, 2019
<i>Elementary Early Release/Conferences</i>	Wednesday, October 16 – Thursday, October 17, 2019
<i>Report Cards</i>	Thursday, October 17, 2019
<i>Veteran’s Day</i>	Monday, November 11, 2019
<i>Progress Reports</i>	Thursday, November 14, 2019
<i>Thanksgiving Holiday (School Closed)</i>	Monday, November 25 - Friday, November 29, 2019
<i>End of 2nd Nine Weeks</i>	Friday, December 20, 2019
<i>Christmas/ Winter Break (School Closed)</i>	Monday, December 23, 2019 - Monday, January 6, 2020
<i>School Based Prof. Learning (Student Holiday)</i>	Monday, January 6, 2020
<i>Beginning of 3rd Nine Weeks</i>	Tuesday, January 7, 2020
<i>Report Cards</i>	Thursday, January 9, 2020
<i>MLK Holiday</i>	Monday, January 20, 2020
<i>Progress Reports</i>	Thursday, February 6, 2020
<i>School Based Prof. Learning/Teacher Work Day (Student Holiday)</i>	Friday, February 14, 2020
<i>President’s Day Holiday</i>	Monday, February 17, 2020
<i>District Wide Early Release and Prof. Learning</i>	Wednesday, March 11, 2020
<i>End of 3rd Nine Weeks</i>	Thursday, March 12, 2020
<i>Beginning of 4th Nine Weeks</i>	Friday, March 13, 2020
<i>Elementary Early Release/Parent Conferences</i>	Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – Thursday, March 19, 2020
<i>Report Cards</i>	Thursday, March 19, 2020
<i>Spring Break (School Closed)</i>	Monday, April 6, 2020 - Monday, April 13, 2020
<i>Progress Reports</i>	Thursday, April 23, 2020
<i>Exams</i>	Monday, May 18 – Thursday, May 21, 2020
<i>Last Day of School (High School)</i>	Thursday, May 21, 2020
<i>Last Day of School for Elem. and Middle School</i>	Friday, May 22, 2020
<i>Memorial Day</i>	Monday, May 25, 2020
<i>Post Planning</i>	Tuesday, May 26 - Thursday, May 28, 2020
<i>Graduation</i>	Tuesday, May 26, 2020 -Thursday, May 28, 2020
<i>Report Cards (Pick Up)</i>	Thursday, May 28, 2020
<i>Report Cards (Mail Out)</i>	Friday, May 29, 2020

<i>Total Student/Teacher Days</i>	180/190

PTO OFFICERS

President – Dan MacEachern
V. President – Daisy Price
Secretary – Linda Kumpf
Treasurer – Mary Abbott

PTO Membership-- \$5.00 per family (household)
Membership includes **free admission** to PTO sponsored dances
for **all** children in that household.

The PTO encourages all adult family members to volunteer at our activities. Our activities will include fundraising projects, talent show, student dances, staff luncheons, field day, and other projects. Your time and talent will be greatly appreciated. For our students to truly succeed, it takes a group effort.

REPORT CARD DATES

October 17, 2019
January 9, 2020
March 19, 2020
May 29, 2020

**EARLY RELEASE/PARENT CONFERENCE DAYS/
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Early Release August 21, 2019, September 18, 2019
Professional Learning October 15, 2019
October 16, 2019 and October 17, 2019 (conferences/early release)
Professional Learning January 6, 2020
Professional learning February 14, 2020
Early Release March 11, 2020
March 18, 2020 and March 19, 2020 (conferences/early release)

On Early Release Days, students will be released at 12:45 PM.

GRADING

K through Fifth grade children receive a report card each nine-week period.

Kindergarten pupils receive “ND”= Not Yet Demonstrated, “EM”= Emerging, “PR”=Progressing, “MS”= Meets Standards, “ES”= Exceeds standards.

Fourth and Fifth grade students receive number grades in all subjects.
First, Second, and Third grade students receive a standards-based report card.

The Richmond County School System uses the following grading system for all students in grades 1 – 12.

A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89
C = 75 – 79
D = 70 – 74
F = Below 70

Honor Roll:

At the end of each nine week grading period and at the end of the year, students in grades 4 and 5 meeting the following criteria will be recognized as follows:

Academic

ALL “A/B” ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT HONOR ROLL Criteria:

“A” or “B” in each subject and “S” in all categories requiring a grade of “S” or “U” with the exception of conduct.

ALL “A” ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT HONOR ROLL Criteria:

“A” in each subject and “S” in all categories requiring a grade of “S” or “U” with the exception of conduct.

Academic and Conduct:

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS Criteria: “A” in each subject area and “S” in all categories requiring “S” or “U” including conduct.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Rule 14 Dress and Grooming A student shall not dress, groom, wear or use emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols where the effect thereof is to distract unreasonably the attention of other students or otherwise to cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school. The Principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any particular mode of dress, apparel, grooming, or use of emblems, insignias, badges,

or other symbols result in such interference or disruption, as to violate this rule and shall give notice of such interference or disruption, and its cause, to all students by announcement or posting at the school. The Dress and Grooming policy must accommodate students whose religious beliefs are substantially burdened by this policy. Students shall at all times adhere to the following guidelines: A. Rules governing body cleanliness, modesty, and neatness of appearance and good grooming. Under all circumstances, the attire must conform to the county dress and grooming policy. • Body Piercing: No earrings (male) or body piercing (male or female). • Hair: Extreme hair color and/or styles that may cause a disruption to the learning environment or school program will not be allowed 14 • Clothes and shoes that show good taste, avoiding extreme designs and styles which may pose a safety problem, are expected. • Coats and Jackets: Coats and jackets shall be the appropriate size for the wearer, shall not be overly baggy so as to distract or otherwise cause disruption or interference with the operation or safe conduct of the school. Coats and jackets should only be worn, in weather appropriate for the garment and generally should be removed and not worn while the student is in the classroom or in the school building. When not being worn, the garment should be stored or hung in a manner and place reasonably determined at each school. • Shirts or Blouses: Shirts and blouses, including all T-shirts, must be the appropriate size for the wearer and must be tucked into the waistband of the pants, shorts or skirt. Unacceptable attire includes clothing that exposes the torso such as see through garments, halters, spaghetti straps, backless dresses, tube tops, tank tops, or muscle shirts, bare midriff outfits, or shirts or blouses that are tied at, or may rise above the waist. • Skirts, Shorts, Skorts, Dresses and Pants: Skirts, shorts, skorts and pants must be fitted at the waist and must be at a minimum to the knee area in length. The school board deems miniskirts to be disruptive and they are not allowed. This includes skirts and dresses and includes any opening, such as a slit, that exposes the thigh above the knee area designation. Note: As a rule of thumb parents may use a dollar bill, held sideways, for a measurement of no more than 2 1/2 inches from the crease at the back of the knee. All pants, including jeans, must be of traditional style without cutouts or holes and without excessive ornamentation. They must be fitted at the waist and must not be baggy or oversized or undersized and not sagging or frayed at the bottom. Pants must not drag the floor. Leggings are considered an accessory and are to be covered by the appropriate length skirt, dress or other garment. Sweatpants and wind suits are not allowed. Unacceptable shorts include, but are not limited to, athletic shorts, spandexstyle "bicycle" shorts, cut off jeans, cut-off sweat pants, short-shorts, running shorts, and boxer-type shorts or any see-through garment. • Belts and Straps: Belts, if worn, must be secured at the waist and buckled. All straps must be fastened, and sashes must be tied. Excessively large belt buckles are prohibited. • Shoes: Shoelaces should be tied. No shower shoes, beach shoes, or house slippers, or altered shoes such as shoes with wheels are allowed. At all times student safety should be considered in shoe selection. • Head Covers: No hats, scarves, sweatbands, bandannas or other head covers may be carried or worn in the building. • Bandannas and Scarves: No bandannas or scarves of any type will be allowed. • Fraternity and sorority insignias on clothing are forbidden. • Sunshade and/or dark glasses will not be worn inside the school building unless prescribed by a physician or another person who is professionally qualified to make such recommendations. • Students shall not wear clothing (shirts, caps, etc.) that will in any way promote or advertise the use of narcotics, alcoholic beverages, tobacco or stimulant drugs which are illegal for any such student to use. • Suggestive, vulgar, or obscene pictures and/or language on clothing are forbidden. • Any symbol or article of clothing that is gang related as defined in Rule 22, is prohibited. • "Grills" or metallic caps on the teeth are prohibited. • Schools that require identification badges for the students shall prescribe the manner in which the ID badge should be displayed. •

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS POLICY

School Hours are 8:15 – 3:15. Arriving late or leaving early results in a tardy. Grades Pre-K - 5: As stated in RCSS Code of Conduct

1st Tardy

Letter sent home to parents explaining the Tardy Policy.

5th Tardy

The parent must bring the student to school the next school day for a conference with the principal where the Tardy Policy will be explained and parents will sign a letter stating they understand the policy.

8th Tardy

A second letter will be sent home, requiring the parent to bring the student to school the next day and for a conference with the principal. A Social Worker and/or DFACS will be contacted and requested to contact the parent.

10th Tardy

Discipline of a one day suspension shall result with a letter sent home to so inform the parent.

15th Tardy

Discipline of a two day suspension shall result with a letter sent home to so inform the parent. A Social Worker will be sent to the home.

20th Tardy

Discipline of a three day suspension with a letter sent home to so inform the parent.

If the student transfers to another Richmond County School, unexcused absences/tardies will follow the student.

NOTE: Before any student can receive a long term suspension or be expelled from school, the principal must follow procedural due process.

ABSENTEEISM

When students are absent from school, the parent or guardian of the student will be called by the school. It is vital that the school has a telephone number where you can be reached. A student wishing to leave school early must be picked up and signed out in the office by his/her parents.

Attendance Policy:

Students who are absent from school are required to bring a written excuse for the absence their first day back at school. An absence is either excused or unexcused. Absences which are lawful and therefore excusable shall be governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia and the rules and regulations of the State Department of Education and local policy.

Absence(s)-Definition Excused Absence

An absence shall be declared excused for:

- A. Personal illness.
- B. Family death and funeral
- C. Medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside school hours.
- D. Attendance of non-school activities or functions authorized by superintendent or designee.
- E. Special and recognized religious holidays observed by the student's faith.
- F. Mandate or order of government agency.
- G. Extreme circumstances that cannot be resolved out of school hours; parent or guardian must request and receive approval from the principal or designated representative.
- H. To visit with the child's parent or legal guardian prior to deployment or during leave from an overseas assignment to a combat zone or combat support position, up to a maximum of 5 school days per year.

Unexcused Absence

Any absence not covered in (A)-(H) above, shall be declared unexcused. It is the policy of the Richmond County Board of Education that no unexcused absences are allowed. If parents keep their child out for other reasons, such absence shall be deemed unlawful and therefore unexcused. **For any absence beyond (5), the parent shall be required to provide a physician's note or other excuse from an acceptable or official third party justifying the absence.**

ELEMENTARY

ATTENDANCE Pyramid of Intervention	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	FOLLOW UP
PREVENTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Response to Intervention (RTI) Team will handle attendance and truancy issues. The school's RTI team will supervise efforts to monitor attendance. School letter to parents of students who had high absenteeism previous year 	Principal Attendance Point of Contact (POC) RTI Team	Monitor the identified students from the beginning of the year.
1 st unexcused absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call by teacher and/or principal designee and ShoutPoint 	Teacher/Principal Designee	Attendance POC tracks and provides Friday Report to the Principal
2 nd unexcused absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call by teacher & letter sent home Student attendance folder kept by homeroom teacher 	Teacher	Attendance POC tracks and provides Friday Report to the Principal
3 rd unexcused absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call by principal or principal designee. Attendance POC schedules mandatory parent conference. If no show automatic referral to school social worker. Student's attendance folder provided to Attendance POC Contact community agencies such as DFACS. 	Principal or Designee Attendance POC School Social Worker	As appropriate: Schedule RTI Develop Health Plan Refer for Intermittent hospital/homebound Recommend: Parent Training

4 th unexcused absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Social Worker makes home visit and provides written feedback to school. 	School Social Worker	Documentation provided to Attendance POC
5 th unexcused absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter home • 2nd home visit by School Social Worker 	Attendance POC School Social Worker	If necessary refer to DFACS and DJJ.
6 th unexcused absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student and parent attend Attendance Panel Review. Panel members include Central Office Support Person and appropriate school staff including the Guidance Counselor and School Social Worker. • Pair or cluster schools to work together. • Parents and student will sign Agreement Form. • Referral to community agencies 	Attendance POC School Social Worker	<p>If parent does not show, refer to DFACS if appropriate also refer to DJJ.</p> <p>Parent is considered as having committed educational neglect.</p>
10 th unexcused absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter home 	Attendance POC School Social Worker	<p>Refer to DFACS and DJJ</p> <p>Maintain log of DJJ/DFACS referrals.</p>

DISMISSAL POLICIES

If at any time during the year your child is to be picked up during school or after school by someone other than parents, **please send a note to his/her teacher so that the teacher will be aware of the change. This is done for your child's safety.** If your child is going home with another child or is to ride a different bus home, he/she must bring a written note from home. The note is sent to the office to be authorized by the principal in the morning and given to the bus driver in the afternoon. If your child has to go home during the school day, please come to the office to sign him/her out on the computer. This will count as a tardy. No students will be called for early dismissal after 2:30. This is a safety issue for teachers and students.

**PARENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE CLASSROOM.
Remain in the car line until dismissal begins.**

CAR RIDER PROCEDURE

Dismissal for our car riders will be the same as last year. For those of you who are new to our school, all car riders and walkers are dismissed through the lobby doors on the parking lot side of the school. The procedure is as follows:

- All car riders are assigned a vehicle number. Families will have the same number.
- A card with the vehicle number will be given to the parent/guardian.
- The card needs to be placed on the passenger side of the cars dashboard, or attached to the passenger side visor for easy visibility.
- Each child(ren) being picked up by that car will be listed under that number.
- Cars will line up around the side parking lot, and we will call students that go with that vehicle.
- Students will be brought to the vehicle by a staff member and loaded into the car on the passenger side which is parallel to the curb.
- It is imperative that you remain in your vehicle so that as soon as your child is loaded, we may move to the next vehicle.
- You will see that cars move very quickly once we get moving.
- Students will be seated in the lunchroom with supervision until they are called for their vehicle.
- **NO STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE CAR RIDER AREA EXCEPT BY THIS PROCEDURE.**

If you need to change the way your child is going home at any time, all information is to be in writing and sent to your child's teacher. Otherwise, they will be going home by their normal routine.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Coach Mac at (706)592-4090 ext. 106

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

If it becomes necessary for your children to leave our school during the year, you must notify the child's teacher and school secretary as soon as possible so we can help make your transfer speedy and efficient. **Please inform us at least a day in advance. The teacher cannot use instructional time to prepare this paperwork. Library books and textbooks need to be returned and any debts paid before withdrawal papers are released.**

TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

Please keep us informed of your current home and business telephone numbers and your street name and street number. If you do not have a telephone in your home, then please arrange to use a neighbor's or relative's telephone for this purpose. **It is imperative** that we are able to contact you in case of an emergency involving your child. **Please notify the school of change of address or telephone number.**

CURRICULUM

Students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth grade are instructed in the following subjects: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science/Health, Social Studies, Music, and P.E. Students are assessed throughout the year to determine progress. Teachers will be communicating regularly regarding the student's progress. The Parent Portal will also be available so that you may keep up-to-date on your child's classroom grades.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION

In preparation for middle school, all fifth grade students participate in an orientation session toward the end of the fifth grade year. Students are transported to Hephzibah Middle school by school bus, and they are given a tour of the middle school as a part of the orientation. Fifth grade teachers accompany these students to the middle school. Fifth graders leaving Blythe going to Hephzibah Middle School must have their second MMR shot (Measles-Mumps-Rubella). Additional shots could be required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Each student in grades K-5 is required to have a total of 60 hours of physical education during the school year. Participation is required in order to get physical education credit. The physical education program will consist of exercise, building of motor skills, sportsmanship, individual sports and team sports. Students must abide by all P.E. class rules.

In order for students to get the most out of our structured physical education program, students are required to dress appropriately. **Tennis shoes or sneakers must be worn** in order to prevent foot injury and floor damage in the gym. **NO sandals, heels or hard soled shoes will be allowed.** Girls should wear shorts under their dresses/skirts.

If your child is unable to participate in PE, a medical excuse is required. In the event that your child has a medical problem that could hinder their participation, a note explaining this is required at the beginning of the year. If your child is unable to participate in PE because of illness or injury, they will not participate in recess for that day.

We also have a state wide “Fitness Gram” that will monitor students throughout the school year for height, weight and activity level. This information is compiled two times yearly, and results are sent home at the end of the school year.

FIELD DAY

Each year, Blythe Elementary hosts an all-day field day. Pre-K through fifth grade students have the opportunity to participate in all field day activities. Class competitions in track and field events as well as many other fun activities are encouraged. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend and may assist in the supervision of some of the activities. Appropriate behavior during the school year must be maintained by students in order to participate in Field Day.

BUS RIDERS

At the beginning of the school year your child is assigned to ride a specific bus. If at any time during the school year your child needs to ride a different bus a note **must** be sent to school and given to the Coach Mac. The note must state the child's name, teacher and the reason for the bus change. If your child does not have a note from home explaining the change, your child will be put on their regular bus. If your child receives a discipline note for misbehavior on the bus it must be signed and returned the next day to the Coach Mac. If your child accumulates 2 discipline notes a conference will be required and on the third discipline note your child may be suspended from the bus. You would then be required to transport your child to and from school for the period of the suspension. Serious discipline problems may result in immediate bus suspension. Chronic behavior problems may result in loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year. If your child has problems on the bus you should contact the Coach Mac.

If no one is at home when the bus comes by in the afternoon, your child will be returned to school. If this happens regularly, a report may be made to the school social worker. Bus rules are part of the RCSS Code of Conduct and will be enforced accordingly.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is open all day every school day from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM for use by students, teachers, and parents for checkout and research. The Media Center remains open for use by teachers until 3:30 PM.

Students in grades PK and Kindergarten may check out only 1 book. Students in grades 1st – 5th grade may check out 2 books at a time. A check out period is 15 days then the books will be overdue. Students are encouraged to return their books on time. Books that are checked out will be given the option of renewal. If a library book is lost or damaged, the student must pay the cost for replacing the book or a fine for damages.

To support the community, books may be checked out by parents for reading to their children at home. The Augusta Public Library System and the Blythe Public Library are other resources for books and materials for the community.

During registration, all parents or guardians are asked to submit a signed Internet Usage Permission form in order for the Internet to be used by the student.

TEXTBOOKS/LIBRARY BOOKS

Parents are responsible for textbooks and library books issued to the students and are expected to pay for lost or damaged books. The cost of replacing these books has become a costly burden that can be prevented. Once a student incurs a fine for damage or loss of a library or text book, it will remain in the system until fees are paid. Additional books are not checked out to the child until fees are paid. This is RCSS board policy. Book covers can be made using paper bags or other paper products. Help us protect your tax dollars.

GENERAL CONCERNS

Any money sent to school should be placed in a sealed envelope with the child's name and teacher's name on the front of the envelope. Please include a note inside explaining what the money is for.

Tag all personal items your child brings to school. Many children have the same type items such as; clothing, lunchboxes, notebooks, book bags, etc. We have a lost and found area by our lunchroom where found items are stored.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

Anyone visiting Blythe Elementary School must first go by the main office. As a visitor, you will be given a visitor's pass. The pass will show your name, the date, and location of your visit. Teachers are asked not to allow persons into their room without a pass. This is for your child's safety as well as the safety of others. There is a dress code for visitors in the building. Visitors are expected to be appropriately and modestly dressed and to display respect for activities in progress at the school.

Doors will be locked and a buzzer will be used to gain entry to the school. You must show your driver's license. This is being done in all Richmond County Schools as a safety feature.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students in our lunchroom every day. **Breakfast will not be served after 8:15, unless students arrive on a late bus.**

LUNCH POLICIES

We urge you to encourage your child to eat the meals prepared by our school food service staff. They provide a well-balanced, nutritious meal. Menus are posted on the RCSS website. Do not send food to be heated up in the microwave or that needs to be refrigerated.

All students must learn the last four digits of their social security number. This is necessary in order for our lunchroom to operate efficiently. Students will be required to enter this number as they participate in our lunchroom program.

Money may be deposited for a student's account and be used for additional meal items or ice cream.

NO CANNED OR BOTTLED DRINKS

NO FAST FOOD

HEALTH SERVICES

A nurse is assigned to Blythe Elementary for a half day every day of the week.

Health services are organized around the health and emotional needs of the students. The program is developed at the system level with the cooperation of community agencies such as the Board of Health, personnel from the Emergency Room at University Hospital and local physicians. It is administered by either the school's on-call or assigned nurse, individuals trained to administer CPR and First Aid, or school administrators, secretary, and classroom teachers.

Specific health services offered include:

Vision Screenings

Lice Screenings (we do have cases of head lice from time to time)

Height Screenings

Instruction in personal hygiene, child abuse, identification, and good health practices

First Aid and emergency care

If your child needs to consume medicine at school, it is to be sent to the office. Please send the medication with your child's name and a note attached explaining dosage and reason for medication. Medication must be in a prescribed container. A form is in the office that must be filled out before the school can administer medication. Your child's medicine will be given to him/her, in the office, by the nurse or the secretary.

Lice is a problem that we have now and then at Blythe. If you are called to pick your child up because he or she has lice, it is imperative that he/she be treated immediately before returning to school. Other safeguards should be made in the home as well. If you need guidance with this, our school nurse will provide this for you.

IMMUNIZATION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

All students attending a Richmond County Public School this fall must prove they have been immunized against seven childhood diseases (chicken pox, polio, mumps, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, rubella, and tetanus) according to the law passed by the Georgia general Assembly. **The law states, “On September 1, 1982, all children, Grades Kindergarten through Twelve must have adequate Certificates of Immunization before being admitted to school.” This law continues to be in effect.**

Also required are a Dental, Hearing, Vision, and Nutrition Certificate for students entering Kindergarten, first grade or a Georgia school for the first time and a birth certificate for Kindergarten and first grade students entering school for the first time.

The certificates of immunization and dental, hearing, vision, and nutrition must be on a Georgia School form and may be obtained at the Richmond County Health Department.

The birth certificate can be obtained from the health department in the area where your child was born. Any parent who cannot obtain a birth certificate from the local Department of Health (for a child born in Georgia) should do the following: Send the child’s full name, date and place of birth, father’s full name and mother’s full maiden name to:

**Vitals Records Service
Room 217-H
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30334**

Certificates for foreign born students may be obtained by writing to:

**Authentication Officer
Department of State
Washington, DC 20025**

Local Health Department:

**Health Department
1916 North Leg Rd.
Augusta, Ga. 30904
721-5800**

Any student new to the state and with immunization records from another state in hand must present a Georgia certificate at the time of registration.

Any student new to the state for less than sixty days and without proof of a certificate of Immunization

- a. must begin the immunization process immediately and show proof that the process has begun prior to being enrolled in school.
- b. must withdraw from school if he/she does not show proof that the series of shots are completed on the expected date of completion.

Due dates begin on the day of enrollment.

1. _____ a certificate of immunization will be due in 30 calendar days.
2. _____ a birth certificate will be due in 45 calendar days.
3. _____ a dental, hearing, vision certificate will be due in 45 calendar days
4. _____ Social Security Numbers.
5. _____ Proof of address.

If your form is not submitted by the given day, your child will be withdrawn from school.

PRE-K REQUIREMENTS

1. A Certificate of Immunization (Form #3221) will be due on or before the first day of school.
2. A Dental, Hearing, Vision, and Nutrition Certificate (Form #3300) will be due on or before the first day of school.
3. A Birth Certificate will be due on or before the first day of school.
4. Copy of Social Security Card.

KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE AGE REQUIREMENTS

A student entering Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before September 1st; first grade students must be six years of age on or before September 1.

DISCIPLINE

All students are issued Richmond County Board of Education's Uniform Code of Student Conduct and Discipline Handbook at the beginning of the school term. It assures due process and fair treatment for every student, assuring each an opportunity to be heard.

Blythe has a schoolwide discipline program called "Pawsitively Amazing". Each classroom has the same procedures in the class and a daily report is sent home. Parents should sign and respond if necessary. Please keep in mind that inappropriate behavior disrupts instruction and learning. Repeated reports of disruptive behavior could mean loss of privileges, counseling, timeout, phone calls home, and/or suspension. Children are expected to accept responsibility for their actions as well as carry-out consequences for the infractions.

(SEE BEHAVIOR CHART ON NEXT PAGE)







Classroom Clip Chart



Individual Student Behavior - Clip Chart

Student choices are tracked on a Clip Chart. All students begin the day on green in middle of the chart. Clothespins are moved up or down depending on choices. Clips that are moved down may be moved back up if the teacher sees the student making improved choices. In addition, once a clip is moved up, it may be moved down. All clothespins are moved back to green at the end of the day. A daily behavior grade will be entered as shown. This is one part of our School-wide Positive Behavior Plan. All classes/teachers are involved in using this plan.

Pawsitively Amazing!!  (100) 
Way to Go!!  (95) 
Ready to Learn (90)
Oopsie! (85)
Paws to Think About It (75)
Consequences!!! (65)

If students move their clip to **Pawsitively Amazing** they add a special decoration to their clip and receive a special note to take home. This level is reserved for extraordinary behavior, and will not be given out loosely. This level will remain special and may not be reached daily.

Students move to **Way to Go!!** for continuing to make good choices throughout the day. Please congratulate your student when they reach this level!

All students begin the day on **Ready To Learn**. They will move up or down during the day depending on the choices they make. This is an acceptable level to stay at. They were good and did not get in trouble; it just means they didn't go "above and beyond."

Students move to **Oopsie!** as a reminder that they need to follow the classroom rules.

When students move to **Paws to Think About It** they must reflect on their choices by completing a "Think About It" Sheet. This will come home to be signed by a parent. The student may also lose partial recess time or other classroom privileges depending on the severity of the behaviors.

When students move to the **Consequences** level when they choose to make inappropriate choices. Parents will receive a phone call at this level. If contact cannot be made, a discipline form may be completed. Students can work their way back off of **Consequences** if their behavior improves; however daily points will not be calculated for rewards/conduct grade.

*"You have brains in your head.
 You have feet in your shoes.
 You can steer yourself, any direction you
 choose."
 - Dr. Seuss*

Response To Intervention (RTI)

The Response to Intervention (RTI) model provides support for children experiencing difficulty in academic, behavior, speech, health, social and emotional development. The RTI team meets to discuss student progress usually in the general education classroom, and scientific, research-based interventions are considered and recommended based on student need. These interventions are then used to further guide instruction providing data for future instructional decisions.

SPEECH

The speech program is for students whose speech impairment interferes with communication, academics or social adjustment.

The program is designed to:

1. Develop and strengthen listening skills.
2. Correct articulation.
3. Improve voice disorders.
4. Modify stuttering.
5. Develop receptive and expressive language.

STRING INSTRUMENT PROGRAM

The string instrument program is available for fourth and fifth grade students.

GIFTED PROGRAM

Richmond County provides programs for all qualifying system students in grades K-12 who exhibit superior performance, advanced learning needs and demonstrate higher level motivation and creativity. The identification process uses multiple criteria as mandated by the Georgia Board of Education.

HONOR ROLL

I. ANNUAL HONORS

A. Academic

All “A” Academic Achievement Honor Roll - A grade of “A” is required in all subjects does not include conduct for the first through fourth grading periods.

All “A/B” Academic Achievement Honor Roll - criteria met first through fourth grading period: “A” or “B” in each subject and “S” in all categories requiring a grade of “S” or “U”. This does not include conduct.

Distinguished Scholars- A grade of “A” is required in all subjects including conduct for the first through fourth grading periods.

Perfect Attendance – Students who have not missed a day of school.

Principal’s Award – (fifth grade only) to be considered, student must have:

- High Academic Average
- Portray exceptional citizenship and leadership qualities
- Have no more than five absences and five tardies

Grading Scale: A: 90 – 100

B: 80 – 89

For all categories, the term “S” or “U” will not be included as a numerical number in averaging for the honor roll. A student must be enrolled in a minimum of four courses to be eligible for the honor roll.

HONOR'S DAY

Honors Day is a time when students receive recognition in areas of academic achievement for the entire year. Students are recognized in the following areas:

1. Perfect Attendance
2. A Honor roll (all year)
3. A/B Honor Roll (all year)
4. Most Improved
5. Citizenship
6. Most Outstanding Student
7. Principal's Award
8. Distinguished Scholar

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend these important school events.

HOMEWORK POLICY

HOMEWORK POSITION STATEMENT

1. What is homework?

Homework is school work of any type completed outside of the regular classroom that is directly related to the course. The homework is assigned at the student's respective level.

2. What are the purposes of homework?

In grades K-5, homework should offer follow-up practice activities with explicit directions given.

Homework reinforces, enriches, and expands the student's understanding of concepts taught in the course. It also provides opportunities for the student to improve study skills, to assume responsibility, and to follow instructions. Often, a natural outcome is parental involvement as a member of the educational team.

For teachers, homework offers assistance in identifying individual and class needs and helps the teacher to determine needed lesson plan adjustments.

3. How often should homework be assigned and how much should be assigned?

GRADE Daily Minutes per Child (total amount assigned by all teachers if departmentalized.)

K – 3	15 – 40
4 - 5	30 – 60

At the elementary school levels, the following guidelines will be used in Grading homework:

- a. Routine homework may be assigned a letter grade or numerical grade. Teachers will develop a system for weighing routine homework such as assigning at the beginning of the nine weeks 100 points to each student. For each assignment not completed, 5 points are deducted. The grade at the end of the nine weeks may count as one test grade.

PRIVACY ACT

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

A. The Richmond County Board of Education, in compliance with the Privacy Act concerning personnel files, will release as directory information without the consent of the employee or student the following information.

1. Name of the employee or student
2. Address of the employee or student
3. How long employed or where enrolled
4. The date and place of birth
5. The height and weight
6. The grade level of the student

Any employee, student, or parent who objects to the release of the directory information may file an objection in writing to the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, Richmond County Board of Education, and 2083 Heckle Street, Augusta, Ga. 30910-2999, clearly stating what directory information they do not wish to have released. If a student or parent wishes to file an objection, please indicate in which school the student is presently enrolled.

Upon written consent of the employee or student, specific information not listed above may be released provided the signed consent form is on file in the employee's or student's personnel file.

In accordance with the Privacy Act certain governmental institutions have access to students and/or employees personnel files without prior consent for disclosure. The Board of Education will notify any employee or student of the release of any information to any agency for which prior consent is not required.

B. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

The Richmond County Board of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer.; It does not and will not practice sex discrimination in any of its educational or employment practices according to the rules and regulations for the administration of Title IX of the Education Amendments of administration of 1972, P.L. 92-318, as amended by Section 3 of P.L. 93-568.

The following named person has been designated as the coordinator of the Board of Education's effort to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX including the investigation of any complaint communicated to Title IX, or alleging any action which would be prohibited by this part.

Richmond County Board of Education
864 Broad St. – Augusta, Ga. 30901

C. Title IX Grievance Procedure

The following procedure is to be used in reporting and settling grievances under Title IX.

1. Complaints are to be forwarded, in writing, to the person designated as coordinator. A complete description of the alleged violation is required.
2. The coordinator shall, within 15 days, investigate and report results of the investigation, in writing, to the complainants.
3. The decision of the coordinator may be appealed to the Regional Director of the Office for Civil Rights, 50 Seventh Street, NE, Room 404, and Atlanta, Georgia 30323.

PROCEDURE FOR SPEAKING BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THIS IS THE PROCEDURE SHOULD ANYONE DESIRE TO BE PLACED ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA FOR ANY UP-COMING BOARD MEETING.

Individuals must write a letter to the board president or the superintendent requesting permission to speak to the board. The request should include the individual's name and subject that is to be discussed, and it should be sent to the Board of Education Offices three days before the meeting.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. School Overview	
A. School's History	2
B. Mission Statement	3
II. Dates/Grading	
A. School Calendar	4
B. PTO	5
C. Grading Periods	6
D. Grading Systems	7
III. Attendance/Student Information	
A. Dress Code	8
B. Attendance	9
C. Tardiness Policy	9
D. Absenteeism	11
E. Dismissal Policy	12
F. Withdrawal Procedures	13
IV. Student Information	
A. Telephone Numbers and Addresses	13
B. Curriculum	13
C. Middle School Orientation	13
V. General Parent Information	
A. P.E. Requirements	14
B. Field Day/Bus Riders	15
C. Media Center	16
D. Textbooks	17
E. General Concerns	18
F. Visiting the School	18
G. Breakfast Program	19
H. Lunch Policy	19

VI.	Birth Certificates and Health Concerns	
	A. Health Service	20
	B. Immunization/Registration	21
	C. Pre-K/Kindergarten/First Grade Requirements	22
VII.	Student Assistance	
	A. Discipline	23
	B. Response to Intervention (RTI)	25
VIII.	Courses Offered	
	A. Speech	26
	B. String Instrument	26
	C. Gifted Program	26
IX.	Student Recognition	
	A. Honor Roll Requirements	27
	B. Honor's Day	28
X.	Appendixes	
	A. Homework Policy	29
	B. Privacy Act	30
	C. Speaking Before Board of Education	31
XI.	Title I	