



For Immediate Release: August 4, 2010

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## **Media Kit - Back to School 2010**

*Guilford County Schools prepares for the start of a new school year*

**Greensboro, N.C.** – The beginning of August signals that summer vacation is winding down and it's time to get students ready to go back to school. This is a busy time of the year, so we've compiled this kit for our media partners. It includes essential information that the parents and guardians of [Guilford County Schools](#) (GCS) students need to know.

### **Enrollment for Kindergarten and New Students**

For some students, the first day of school really will be a first. The parents of enrolling [kindergartners](#) and [students new to GCS](#) must submit some paperwork, so they should register their children as early as possible before the first day of school. In order to enroll, parents should visit the school their child is assigned to attend. The online [School Locator](#) can help identify a student's assigned school.

### **Calendars**

While the district's year-round school, Hampton Elementary, started classes on July 22, the remaining schools open in August. Classes begin today for some schools on the extended year calendar. The middle and early college schools begin next week. The first day is Aug. 25 for schools on the traditional calendar. All school [calendars](#) are available on the GCS website.

### **Bus Transportation**

[Bus transportation request forms](#) must be submitted for students who did not ride the bus last year, are attending a different school or have a different morning or afternoon transportation address. Students who are attending the same school and rode the bus last year to and from the same address do not need to submit a form. Forms are available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese and French.

The [Bus Stop Locator](#) is a helpful tool for parents. It will be updated with the bus routes for 2010-11 by Aug. 10.

### **School Supplies**

The Sales Tax Holiday, Aug. 6-8, is the perfect opportunity for families to pick up the necessary school supplies. It is also a great opportunity for families to pick up extra supplies for others less fortunate and for members of the community to make donations to the [Teacher Supply Warehouse](#). Parents should check the individual website for their child's school for a list of the supplies needed.

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### **Open Houses**

The district's schools are giving students a sneak peek at their classrooms before school starts, and parents are invited too. Open houses provide a time for families to start forming relationships with teachers and principals. A list of all [open houses](#) is available on the GCS website. Dates and times are subject to change by the school.

### **Tdap**

All rising sixth-grade students who have not had a [Tdap](#) vaccination (for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) since July 2005 must have a booster shot before school starts. Students can get the vaccine from their own health care provider or the Guilford County Department of Public Health. Under state law, students must be excluded from school if they do not get the vaccine.

### **School Nutrition**

[Lunch menus](#) will be available to parents online. Meal prices are also listed. For families who may qualify for free or reduced price meals, a sample application is available online. Blank applications will be handed out on the first day of school and will be available throughout the year at the School Nutrition office. Families can apply for free or reduced price lunch at any time during the school year.

### **GCS Resources for Media**

- Contact information for principals and central administration is listed in the [Directories](#).
- The [GCS Newsroom](#) houses district news stories, logos, fact sheets, staff biographies and helpful links.
- The [Superintendent's Desk](#) Web page includes Superintendent Maurice "Mo" Green's blog, calendar, podcasts and related materials.
- Agendas, materials from meetings, summaries and policy information can be accessed on the [Board of Education](#) Web page. Board meetings are streamed [live online](#) and the video is archived on the [Meeting Materials](#) page following each meeting.
- Media Desk contact information:  
Phone – 336-574-5730  
E-mail – [newsmedia@gcsnc.com](mailto:newsmedia@gcsnc.com)  
Hours return to 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday on Aug. 16.

### **About Guilford County Schools**

*Guilford County Schools is the third largest school district in North Carolina serving more than 71,000 students at 120 schools. With approximately 10,000 employees, the district's mission is to graduate responsible citizens who are prepared to succeed in higher education or the career of their choice.*

*Guilford County Schools is a national leader in providing specialized schools and instructional programs designed to meet the educational needs of a culturally diverse citizenship. For more information, visit the district's Web site at [www.gcsnc.com](http://www.gcsnc.com).*