

Star News

April 2024

Dear Simpson Families,

Happy Spring! It was wonderful to see so many of you during last month's Early Release Conferences. Parental involvement is so important for academic student progress and we thank you for your support! *During the testing window of April 22nd - May 10th, we look forward to our 3rd-5th grade students demonstrating all they have learned when they take the Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG) State Assessment.*



Our teachers have created many learning opportunities to help students succeed and we are confident that they will do well. To further support information regarding state testing, we hosted our annual *3rd-5th GMAS Parent Session last month on Thursday, March 21st. Just in case you missed that opportunity, additional GMAS Resources and testing information can still be found via our school website under the Assessment Tab.*

As a gentle reminder, please make sure your child has a good night's rest, eats a healthy breakfast, and arrives at school on time. We need your help and support to make these last few months continue to be successful for all of our students! I thank you for all that you do to support our Simpson Superstars, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance. Have a wonderful rest of the month and look forward to our last month of school!

Proud to be your principal,

Dr. Taffeta Connery



Dates at a Glance:

April

April 14-20 - Simpson Spirit Week at Icebox

April 15-19 Earth Week

April 9- All Pro Dads at 7 AM

April 20- Simpson Singers - Gwinnett Stripers Game at 6 PM

April 24 - 5th Grade Yard Sign Pick-up, 4-6 PM

April 25- PTA General Meeting/Kindergarten Sings at 6 PM

May 21 - Election Polling Day/5th Grade Promotion at PDHS

May 22 - 5th Grade Walk, 2:30 PM/Last Day of School

2024 ES Milestone Schedule (1).pdf

[Download](#)

243.8 KB

GMAS Letter 2023-2024.docx.pdf

[Download](#)

104.3 KB

SIMPSON ELEMENTARY SPIRIT WEEK AT ICEBOX

April 14-20

Shop and support a local business
and your PTA! Icebox Cryotherapy, located
in the Forum, will give back 10% of all sales
(excluding memberships) when you
mention Simpson ES at time of purchase.

Call (678) 284-2570 for more info.



Kindergarten Registration is here!

We are excited to welcome our new Superstars to Simpson! **New Student and Kindergarten Registration opened on Monday, April 8, 2024.**

All new student registrations (K-5) will be processed through the Gwinnett County Online Registration system (OLR). After you

kindergarten
registration



complete the process outlined on our [website](#), you will be contacted and scheduled for an appointment to finalize registration. NOTE: Current students do NOT need to be registered for the next school year.

Please share this information with families who have rising **Kindergarteners** or **new incoming students for the 2024-25** school year. **Please note, that Gwinnett County Public School District has not designated Simpson ES as a permissive transfer school. To attend Simpson ES, students must reside in our attendance zone.**

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call the school office or email our registration team.

Ann Marie Burnett, Registrar, ann.marie.burnett@gcpsk12.org

Jeanette Johnson, K Assistant Principal, jeanette.johnson@gcpsk12.org

Simpson Elementary School Relay for Life Team presents

Tanner
**FAMILY
PORTRAITS**

YOUR \$30 NONREFUNDABLE DONATION TO RELAY FOR LIFE
includes your family portrait sitting and an
11X14 FAMILY PORTRAIT PRINT

 **SUNDAY - APRIL 28**
10 AM - 12:30 PM
JONES BRIDGE PARK

Donate here: tinyurl.com/tannersimpson

Direct Questions to: tannercustomerservice@gmail.com

Offer is limited to one per family - Per Season - Nonrefundable - Expires April 28, 2024. In the event of inclement weather photo sessions may be delayed or moved indoors to an alternate location. Additional portraits will be photographed. Portrait packages range from \$129 - \$495.

On February 7, 2024, Dr. Taffeta Connery received a GCPS Bridge Builder Award. This award is a special recognition to honor LDI Members of Team GCPS who have been observed actively **building the bridge** between their school stakeholders, through community partnerships, and by living-out strategic priorities of **empathy, equity, effectiveness, and excellence!**



Softball Camp Hosted by Norcross HS Softball

Norcross HS Softball will be hosting a youth softball camp this summer June 11-14. Check out the flyer for details. Register at this link: <https://forms.gle/X2Ai1mcj9a5HMGqP8>

NORCROSS SOFTBALL



YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Our Youth Summer Camp is suitable for ages 4-14 kids who want to learn how to throw, catch, field, hit, bunt, run bases and just have fun!



Tuesday-Friday
11-14 June, 2024



Start From
9am-12pm

REGISTER NOW >



 www.norcrossoftball.org

 Norcross High School Softball Field

Summer Baseball Camp at Norcross High School

Summer Camp July 2024.pdf

[Download](#)

1.0 MB



SIMPSON ELEMENTARY Superstars

PBIS School-Wide Expectations



	Hallway	Restrooms	Classroom	Cafeteria	Playground
Voice Levels Key: 0 = silent 1 = whisper 2 = talking voice 3 = loud voice 4 = emergency/help voice					
Voice Levels	0	0-1	0-2	0-2	2-3
Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up after yourself Follow class procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait your turn Listen to adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow playground rules
Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flush, Wash, Clean up, Exit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use materials correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow cafeteria procedures Clean up after yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use equipment correctly Listen and line up for dismissal
Ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face Forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait your turn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring Materials Sit at your table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring Materials
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk in a line on the right side of the hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give privacy Wash Hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep personal space Use materials appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell problems to an adult Stay in your area Hands to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell problems to an adult Stay in your area
Kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greet adults and students silently with a smile! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep restrooms clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use positive words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in polite conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include all students in play

How Can You Support PBIS at Home?

We encourage you to reinforce our PBIS norms at home. By doing so, you will be encouraging your child's social and academic growth.

PBIS At HOME

- Use the PBIS norms (respectful, responsible, ready, safe, and kind) at home.
- Create a visual chart outlining appropriate behaviors in different settings/locations at home. For example, what does respect look like in the kitchen?
- Post your chart somewhere where your child can easily reference it during teachable moments.
- Collaborate with your child on how you will give regular positive recognition and incentives for appropriate behavior.

If you are willing to share your home PBIS chart, email it to cassidee.harris@gcpsk12.org

SIMPSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Recognized as one of the “Best Elementary Schools”
by *U.S. News & World Report*

Simpson Elementary is in the top 10 for GA Elementary Schools!



According to **US News Report for 2024**, Simpson Elementary School is ranked #6 as one of the BEST Elementary Schools in the State of Georgia. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation, and how well they prepare their students for high school. Simpson is ranked as:

- #1 in Gwinnett County Public Schools
- #6 in the State of Georgia
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/georgia/simpson-elementary-school-223330>



Simpson PBIS

Greetings Parents,

Simpson Elementary's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program focuses on a positive behavioral expectation schoolwide. PBIS is an approach schools use to promote school safety and good behavior. With PBIS, schools teach kids about behavior expectations, strategies, and with a primary focus on having a positive prevention, not consequences.

What is PBIS at our school?

A unified set of school wide expectations for behavior in our school. We are Simpson Superstars, so to ensure that students can easily comprehend our expectations, we have established a 5-star approach for appropriate behaviors posted throughout the school. Your child has been learning these expectations since the first few days of school.

What are the 5-Star Expectations at Simpson Elementary?

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Be Ready to Learn

5. Be Kind

As part of our PBIS process, teachers and other staff members use evidence-based practices to increase student learning and decrease classroom disruptions. To keep students on the rules in a positive manner, we do the following when teaching academics and behavior:

- Constantly teach and refer to our school-wide expectations.
- Provide students with more praise than correction.
- Talk to students with respect using a positive voice tone.
- Actively engage everyone in the class during instruction.
- Use pre-correcting, prompting, and redirecting as we teach.
- Look for the positive first and provide positive, immediate, frequent, and explicit feedback.

Our students are motivated by receiving STARBUCK PBIS dollar incentives for recognition of positive student behavior. Students spend their Starbucks in our PBIS Store weekly during their grade level buying days. Students can choose tangible items such as erasers, snacks, bracelets, pop its, and more! We also sell coupons for various rewards such as show and tell, tell a joke on the morning news, and positive phone calls home! Lessons on saving and spending have been integrated and students have been eager shoppers!

Buying Days

Monday-5th grade

Tuesday-4th grade

Wednesday-2nd and 3rd grade

Thursday-1st grade

Friday-PreK and Kindergarten

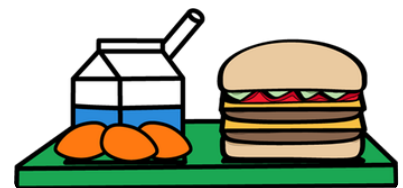


I Scream You Scream...We All Scream for Ice Cream

Students will have the opportunity to purchase ice cream from a variety of selections during lunch. Ice cream is \$1.00 and will be sold Monday-Friday for all grade levels. Class Parties for ice cream sales are also available each day. Please email your child's homeroom teacher for details.

School Lunch & Parental Visitation

GCPS students will have access to a meal (breakfast and lunch) throughout the year for each child. Student meal costs are listed below and an *adult bar is available for both adult visitors and staff throughout the school year.*



Meal prices for elementary students are below:

Student breakfast -\$1.50

Student lunch -\$2.25

Adult Breakfast -\$2.50

Adult Lunch -\$4.00

Brains are



not born...



Play-2-Learn

Have you Heard?



52% of children are **NOT READY** to learn when they enter Kindergarten!



PLAY2LEARN- HAVE YOU HEARD?

Simpson is excited to offer an opportunity for parents with children ages birth to five!

We are so blessed to have one of our veteran, retired, and former Simpson Kindergarten Teacher, Ms. Sharon Terry! Once again she will be our Play2Learn instructor during the 23-24 SY. Therefore, please help us spread the good news to all of your family and friends, who may have children in this age range to call the school

for additional information.

Want to learn more about how to be your child's best teacher through PLAY? Simpson Elementary is now offering the GCPS from Birth-To-FIVE Program for you and your child!

- Learn how to find teachable moments in everyday life activities
- Learn how to engage your child in play
- Learn how to continue play activities at home and on the or anywhere
- Learn about your child's educational milestones
- Learn how to get your child ready for school

Simpson Safety Plans

GCPS will continue to follow strict guidelines as it relates to safety & security by visitors producing identification when inside the vestibule to check out students (as well as during visiting



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lunch hours).

In addition, we will continue to follow safety guidelines to minimize the risk of infection and/or spread of COVID-19. Therefore, *if anyone in your household becomes sick and has tested positive for COVID-19, please contact our school nurse, Amy Norris, and/or your grade level administrator, immediately.*

School Hours

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:15 PM

All visitors must sign-in at the welcome desk and please be prepared to provide some form of identification upon request.

Staff Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM *

Hours will vary depending on morning staff meetings (Tuesday/Thursday - 7:45 AM - 3:45 PM).

Student Hours: Monday - Friday 8:50 AM - 3:20 PM

Students should arrive between 8:20 AM- 8:50 AM.



Administrative Team

Principal- Dr. Taffeta Connery

Assistant Principal- Ms. Brandy Bosak, Grades 1, 3, & 5

Assistant Principal- Ms. Jeanette Johnson, Grades K, 2, 4

Assistant Principal- Ms. Stephanie Wells, Special Needs & Connections

Need Afterschool Care?

2024 GASP! flyer.pdf

[Download](#)

4.0 MB

YMCA Afterschool 2023-2024 Parent Flyer - English.pdf

[Download](#)

1.9 MB

YMCA Afterschool 2023-2024 Parent Flyer - Spanish.pdf

Download

1.9 MB

<https://www.gcpsk12.org/SimpsonES>

Georgia Platinum Award 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 and 2019!

2010 Georgia School of Excellence!

2012 and 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence!

Proud to be a **National PTA[®]** **School of Excellence**



2021-2023

PTA School of Excellence | Family Engagement Survey

Our school's PTA is participating in the National PTA School of Excellence program, which grows partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the education and well being of all students. As a part of this process, National PTA requests feedback from families, administrators, and teachers at two points during the school year, this is the second. Your feedback will help us improve our family-school partnership. Please take a few minutes to fill out [this short survey](#).

As a gentle reminder, Dr. Connery shared an update concerning Simpson Elementary School's budget at our PTA's 2nd General Members Meeting on February 8, 2024 those meeting minutes including the school's budget can be found [here](#). Additionally, the PTA's budget for the 2023-2024 School Year can be found [here](#).



**Simpson
Elementary**
PTA



The PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

When you join the Parent Teacher Association at Simpson Elementary by giving your time, talent and resources, you join our collective efforts in promoting quality education, arts, and community involvement to build a healthy environment and safe neighborhood for all of our families. Because of the generous support from our parents, grandparents, teachers, staff and business partners we are able to offer many academic and social opportunities that may not otherwise be able to take place.

Did you know the Simpson PTA sponsors and coordinates over **30 programs** each school year through the generous support of our Simpson families and business partners? Every dollar raised goes directly to programs and events that benefit our Simpson Superstar students, staff, and facilities.

Visit our [website](#) and join our [PTA Facebook page](#) to stay connected!

Mark Your Calendar

April 1 - 5 | Spring Break - No School

April 14 - 20 | Spirit Week at IceBox Cryotherapy - Details below!

April 16 | [All Pro Dads](#), 7 AM

April 20 | 5th Grade Simpson Singers - Gwinnett Stripers Game, 6 PM

April 24 | 5th Grade Yard Sign Pick-Up at Simpson, 4 - 6 PM

April 25 | Kindergarten Sings + 3rd General PTA Meeting

Volunteer Opportunities

Open and Upcoming PTA Positions

[Please click here to see the website for more details!](#)

E-mail co-president2@simpsonespta.org with any questions

Open/Upcoming Executive Roles :

- ★ VP of Academics and Arts
- ★ VP of Finance

Open/Upcoming Committee Roles :

- ★ Reflections ★ Starry, Starry Night ★ Talent Show

General Volunteer Opportunities

- [Media Center Volunteers](#) who will shelve books, laminate for the staff, help students check out and return books, and/or complete other small tasks with which Mrs. Dierkes might need assistance. Please note that Media Center volunteer shifts are now only one hour, and this opportunity is open to parents, guardians, and grandparents.

Please visit the [Volunteer page of the PTA website](#) to stay current on open and upcoming PTA positions, and general volunteer opportunities.

AllPro Dads

Tuesday, April 16th @ 7:00 AM

\$3 CASH per person - includes breakfast for kids

Please register [here](#)

ALL PRO DAD CHAPTERS

SIMPSON ELEMENTARY

REGISTER HERE: allprodadsday.com/chapters/3240

WHAT WE DO...

All Pro Dad Chapters provide an opportunity for dads to spend quality time with their children that will strengthen their relationship. For one hour each month you'll get to join other dads and kids at school for a fun, memory-making event.

DID YOU KNOW...

when a dad is actively involved in his child's life, the child will have...



Join Us

for our next meeting!

Location: Simpson Elementary

The Second Tuesday of Every Month

Time: 7:00 am

Notes: \$3 per person (cash) includes breakfast for kids

*Please register so we have an accurate headcount for cafeteria staff

Dads! Join your kids for breakfast, games, raffles, and a great time!

Here are some reminders:

- Park along the street facing the stop sign on E Jones Bridge
- Any adult family member can bring a child if dads are not able

Register on our website

For more info contact Tony Pirozzi at the following:

TJPIROZZI@HOTMAIL.COM



Let us know if you're coming.
RSVP using our QR code!

FOLLOW US:
@AllProDad



Spirit Week | IceBox Cryotherapy

Spirit WEEK at IceBox Cryotherapy in The Forum from April 14 - 20th. Whether you enjoy a service day-of, purchase a gift card, or purchase a service to be used at a later date, mention "Simpson Elementary" at check out and our PTA will receive 10% of sales (excluding memberships)!

SIMPSON ELEMENTARY SPIRIT WEEK AT ICEBOX

April 14-20

Shop and support a local business and your PTA! Icebox Cryotherapy, located in the Forum, will give back 10% of all sales (excluding memberships) when you mention Simpson ES at time of purchase. Call (678) 284-2570 for more info.



Looking Ahead | Sneak Peek at '24-'25 Reflections



'24-'25 Reflections Applications, Instructions, and Submission
Deadline will be available in the fall

National PTA's Reflections Program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts.

This 50+ year old program helps students explore their own feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and develop a love of learning.

The theme for the '24-'25 program year is
Accepting Imperfection

Students will submit their completed, original works of art in one or all of the available Arts categories :

- **Dance Choreography - Film Production - Literature**
- **Music Composition - Photography - Visual Arts**

Thank You

Thank you **Media Center and Book Fair Chair, Indira Hodge** for all of your hard work in supporting Book Fair operations. And to the 30+ parent volunteers who assisted with decorating, setting up,

managing cash registers, restocked inventory, supported students while they shopped, and cleaned up after it all. The Book Fair directly supports our school, and the PTA is thrilled to be able help!

Thank you **Business Partners Chair, Heather Reich** for arranging lunch from Chick-Fil-A for our Superstar Staff on an Early Release Day!

Thank you **SPED Support Chair, Jessica Campbell** for planning such a lovely Exceptional Children's Week. And to the **Staff Appreciation Co-Chairs, Samantha Morgan and Michelle Reuter** for providing a delicious grab-and-go breakfast to kick-off such a cherished week!

Thank you **Picture Day Chair, Serena Suggs** for engaging volunteers to ensure Spring Picture Day ran smoothly.

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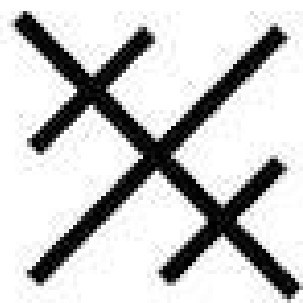
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Taffeta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

