



Muscogee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Be There

Meet a Bus and Support Students

(Columbus, GA)-The Muscogee County School District invites key leaders of the community to ***Be There: Meet a Bus and Support Students*** on Monday, August 8, 2011, to welcome our children back to school the first day! Key leaders from Columbus, Fort Benning, and surrounding areas are asked to volunteer and meet a bus to encourage students to commit to their own success by being present in school and engaged in the learning process.

"Data has proven that it *takes a village to raise a child*," said Melvin Blackwell, Chief of Student Services. "We began the district-wide parent/family involvement campaign, *Be There*, to inspire parent and family involvement in education, but we also need help from the community and its leaders."

The district transports approximately 14,000 students to and from school annually. On the first day of traditional school, key leaders will board school buses to help communicate key messages to support the district's goals, which include improving academic excellence and decreasing time out of school for disciplinary reasons. Several community leaders, including Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, plan to participate.

"We are excited to collaborate with the school district in any way that supports our community's children and their learning experience," said Tomlinson.

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Tomlinson and other key leaders will assist bus drivers by encouraging good behavior of all students, addressing discipline rules, and explaining the importance of following the rules throughout the school year.

“We care and want our children to attend school, be prepared and engaged in the learning process to get the most out of every second of the school day. That means *less* time misbehaving and *more* time focused on the academic lessons and standards to be achieved,” added Blackwell.

Community leaders from all sectors of the community are invited to sign-up and participate by calling (706) 748-3336.

For more information or media interviews, contact Communications, (706) 748-2034, communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us.

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