



Muscofee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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MEDIA RELEASE

2012-2013 Key Leader Volunteers

Be There: Meet a Bus and Support Students

(Columbus, GA)-Key leader volunteers from Columbus, Fort Benning, and community organizations plan to ***Be There: Meet a Bus and Support Students*** on Monday, August 13, 2012, the first day back to school. *Be There* is a parent/family involvement campaign, which was implemented in the Muscofee County School District in November 2009. Parents and families submit entries of teachable moments explaining how they engage in educational experiences outside of the school day with their children. School principals select a teachable moment parent entry to be featured in the 5:30 p.m. newscast in the *Be There* segment on WTVM weekly.

While the district-wide parent/family involvement campaign was implemented to inspire parents and family involvement in the education of children, the district also needs support from the community and its leaders. That is why key leaders like the board members, superintendent, mayor, cabinet, service organizations and business owners plan to board school buses on the first day of school to communicate key messages to support the district's goals, which include improving academic excellence and decreasing disciplinary violations that result in absence from school or bus suspensions.

Approximately 17,000 students will be transported to and from school by bus during the 2012-2013 school year compared to 16,500 students who were transported 2011-2012. Disciplinary reports show a total of 1,701 students (295 high school students, 910 middle school students, and 496 elementary students) who were suspended for bus related disciplinary issues last year.

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Key leader volunteers are excited to assist bus drivers by welcoming students back to school, encouraging good behavior, reminding students of the disciplinary rules, and explaining the importance of following the rules throughout the school year.

“We reviewed the discipline data and we must decrease the number of discipline issues while we encourage and reward good behavior,” said Melvin Blackwell, Chief of Student Services. “We want all of our children to get off to a good start by letting them know we care from day one because we want students to have a safe trip to and from school and to be safe in school.”

Teachers, staff, and administrators are asking parents to support the goals by making sure students are at the bus stop at least five minutes prior to the pick-up time because students need to be on time and present for school every day. In addition, parents are asked to review the Behavior Code and Discipline Policy handbook with their child to be aware of the rules and to understand the consequences of discipline violations, which can interrupt the learning process.

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

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Suspensions 2011-2012



| | High School | Middle School | Elementary School | Total |
|---|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Zone 1 | 61 | 252 | 153 | 466 |
| Zone 2 | 59 | 191 | 225 | 475 |
| Zone 3 | 25 | 118 | 13 | 156 |
| Zone 4 | <u>139</u> | <u>345</u> | <u>105</u> | <u>589</u> |
| Total Zones No SPED | 284 | 906 | 496 | 1,696 |
| Zone 5 SPED | <u>11</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>0</u> | |
| Total Zones with SPED | 295 | 910 | 496 | 1,701 |
| 16,500 Students Transported 2011-2012 | | | | |