



Muscofee County School District

2960 Macon Road • Columbus, Georgia 31906



For Immediate Release

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MEDIA RELEASE

Be There: Meet a Bus Volunteers Inspire and Support Our Students

(Columbus, GA)-The first day of school is Monday, August 10, 2015, and key leader volunteers from Columbus, Fort Benning, and community organizations plan to **Be There: Meet a Bus and Support Students**. *Be There* is a parent, family, community involvement campaign, which was implemented in the Muscofee County School District in November 2009 in partnership with WTVM News Leader 9.

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 board members, the superintendent, district administrators, city leaders, various members of service organizations and businesses volunteer to meet students as they arrive at school by bus on the first day of school. Volunteers who support our students help communicate key messages to support the district's goals, which include improving academic excellence and decreasing disciplinary violations that may result in absence from school or bus suspensions.

Approximately 17,000 students are transported to and from school by bus daily. 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 for safety throughout the school year.

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“It is important that all of our students get off to a good start,” said Chief Student Services Officer, Melvin Blackwell. “Our words of encouragement and support the first day of school and throughout the school year offer a valuable opportunity to reiterate expectations of good behavior, prompt and daily attendance to help each student achieve academic success.”

Community leaders who want to volunteer may send an e-mail to Perdita Dowdell, Dowdell.Perdita.R@muscogee.k12.ga.us by Friday, August 7, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.

Media Note: The priority for school administrators and staff is a smooth transition back to school for all students and staff. Respectfully, we want to assist media representatives with back to school stories *prior* to the first day. To assist you with Back to School video and interviews, please note, the Superintendent, Dr. David Lewis, plans to meet and greet students as they arrive by bus on Monday, August 10, 2015. Lewis’ first stop is scheduled for Fox Elementary at approximately 7:10 a.m. Respectfully, all media representatives are encouraged to use this time to capture generic video *outside* of the school as students arrive and to record a potential interview with the Superintendent and/or volunteers at that time.

For more information, contact communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us .

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