



# Muscogee County School District

2960 Macon Road Columbus, GA 31906

## For Immediate Release

Valerie Fuller

Director of Communications & Open Records Officer

Telephone: (706) 748-2034

[www.muscogee.k12.ga.us](http://www.muscogee.k12.ga.us)

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Time Adjustments for Eagle Ridge Academy and North Columbus Elementary

**(Columbus, GA)**-Traffic congestion in the areas of Eagle Ridge Academy and North Columbus Elementary schools is a concern due to the proximity of other nearby schools, area construction, and the new high school student schedule. The district administration, working with the district's security staff and the Columbus Police Department, decided the safest and least disruptive solution is to make a time adjustment at both of the elementary schools.

Effective Monday, August, 24, 2015, the school start time and school end time will adjust by fifteen (15) minutes for Eagle Ridge Academy and North Columbus Elementary. The new start time for both schools will change from 8:00 A.M. to 7:45 A.M. The new end time for both schools will change from 2:30 P.M. to 2:15 P.M. The bus stop drop-off time will also change by 15 minutes on the return home. Changes to the start and end times will not impact bus pick-up time, instructional activities during the school day, or after school programs. Parents may continue to drop-off car riders as early as 7:15 A.M.

The new high school scheduling model requires an addition of fifteen (15) minutes to the school day. The additional time was added to the morning timeframe due to the use of a tiered bus system that serves all elementary, middle, and high schools to optimize efficiency. In addition, the district was unable to move the middle school end time to later in the day. The buses would not be accessible to transport students to the numerous middle and high school extracurricular activities within and outside Muscogee County until all of the middle school students have been transported home. Start times for activities such as athletic events would have to be shifted to later in the evening, which would result in students returning home too late during the school week.

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