

# EXCEL

THE STUDENTS' AND PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE 2012-13 ACADEMIC YEAR  
AT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN THE GOLDEN ISLES



Which Glynn County schools will have new principals this year

When a new curriculum will begin introducing concepts earlier

Why extracurricular activities are important parts of school

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## EXCEL Index TO SECTION

### Open house schedule

Glynn County public schools will have open houses prior to the start of school Aug. 9 for pupils and parents to meet teachers and to familiarize themselves with facilities. The schedule:

**Middle schools and high schools**, including Golden Isles Career Academy, from 4 to 6 p.m. Aug. 6.

**Elementary schools, FACES** pre-kindergarten center and Leaps and Bounds, from 4 to 6 p.m., Aug. 7.

Parents will not be able to register students new to the Glynn County School System at an open house.

### First day for Glynn County public schools

**AUG. 9**

### Sales tax holiday

**AUG. 10-11**

Georgia will waive state sales taxes on designated school supplies, with a price of \$20 or less per item, clothing and shoes, with a price of \$100 or less per item, and computer equipment, with a price of \$1,000 or less.

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## NEXT: HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Take the field for a new season with a special section Aug. 30, only in The Brunswick News. Get scouting reports on area teams, plus features on the bands and cheerleaders.

**EXCEL**  
*Early*  
**EDUCATION**

# Learning to learn begins before school

By **MICHAEL HALL**  
The Brunswick News

A child's education starts well before kindergarten.

Children begin learning as early as infancy and go through a critical developmental stage before starting school, according to Marcie Long, director of Wesley Academy of Early Learning, on St. Simons Island.

"All of the latest brain research shows that birth to 5-years-old is the most critical time in human development," Long said. "It is when they have the most potential to learn."

A child's brain is like a sponge, soaking up every little bit of information available, she said.

Getting children into preschool at a young age will help to prepare them for a life of learning after kindergarten. "It is never too early to expose children to a structured learning environment," Long said.

Children will not be reading "War and Peace" in preschool, Long said, but they will begin learning how to learn, she added.

Making the experience memorable will



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

At Wesley Academy of Early Learning, on St. Simons Island, director Marcie Long, left, looks on as instructor Voncella Walker reads to a group of 3-year-olds.

set the stage for the rest of a child's educational life, Long said. "We try to make learning really fun," she said. "That is how they will remember it."

The importance of children learning basic skills, such as how to feed themselves

or how to brush their teeth, are paramount to preparation for kindergarten.

"Preschool is just a huge building piece," said Sung Hui Lewis, director of early academics for the Glynn County School System.

Having well-developed basic skills and knowing how to communicate verbally are the basis for being able to begin to learn how to read and write, Lewis said. "They have to be able to begin explaining verbally what they are thinking," she said.

But preschool does more than just teach basic skills, Lewis said.

Socialization, learning how to interact with other children, makes perhaps the biggest difference in development. "They learn how to listen for directions, play with each other and how to share," Lewis said.

That socialization helps children be ready for the classroom setting in kindergarten and beyond.

Lewis has seen children who did not go to preschool have a much steeper learning curve in all areas when they started elementary school. "Preschool teaches the structure of school," Lewis said. "Structure is huge for children."

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EXCEL

**Parent INVOLVEMENT**

# Learning for children includes the home

By **MICHAEL HALL**  
The Brunswick News

Burroughs-Molette Elementary School Principal Joseph Lanham calls the relationship between his school and pupils' parents a partnership.

Parents are a child's most important role model. Their interest and involvement in their children's education is often the biggest contributing factor to success in school, Lanham said.

"It is more than just lip service," he said. Parents show students how to act and how to be a part of the community.

But keeping parents involved is not always easy, Lanham acknowledges.

For parents who may not have finished school themselves, modern educational terms and theories may be difficult to understand. Lanham said cutting through the educational jargon is key to keep them coming back.

"We all try to make it as user friendly as possible at all Glynn County schools," Lanham said.

Many parents who work multiple jobs to support a family may not

have time to attend every school event. Lanham tells those parents that being involved does not just mean coming to the school. Just checking in with teachers and being part of their child's life is what counts.

Those are the lessons Marihelen Newman,

family specialist for Glynn County's federally funded Title I parent involvement program, teaches during parent workshops.

Much of Newman's mission is centered on teaching parents how to educate at home.

"A lot of parents don't feel equipped to be the teachers," Newman said. "We

want to dispel the myth that education doesn't start until kindergarten. There are a lot of teachable moments at home."

Newman has several tips for parents to enrich their children's educations at home:

- Start reading and using big words early in a child's life to build vocabulary. A child may not get the big words at first, but parents can rephrase the sentence so the child can understand their meaning.

- Let your child see you reading and expose him or her to printed messages at an early age. Reading signs and advertisements around town are early cues that allow children to make connections to the world around them.

- Work on simple problem solving skills with young children. Ask children how they would solve a simple problem at home, like running out of toothpaste, instead of automatically solving it for them.

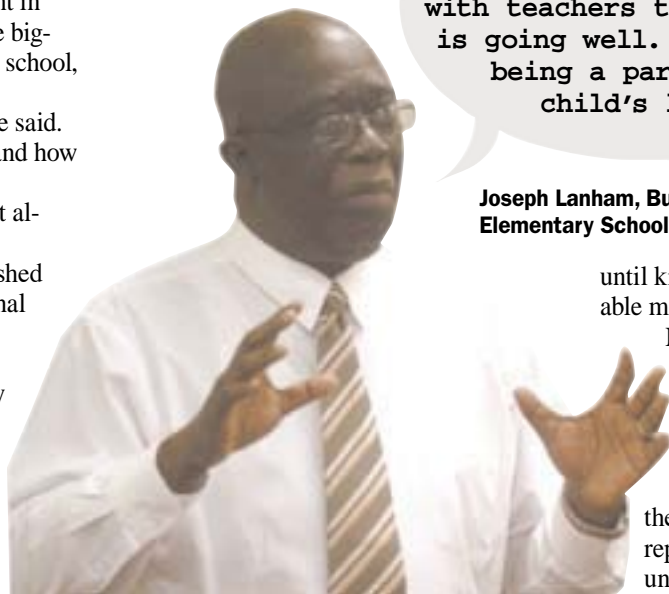
- For older children who know how to read, working on vocabulary and more complex problem-solving skills will make children apply what they are learning at school in the real world.

To ensure that children are prepared for school, Newman suggests:

- Prepare for the school day the night before. She suggests making a special place in the house for school books, backpacks and supplies.
- Ensure that children are well-rested, so their brains are ready to absorb the next day's material at school.
- If new to the area, sign children up for school at central registration as soon as possible to avoid missing any days of school.

*'Sometimes it is just a matter of checking in with their child or with teachers to ensure all is going well. It is about being a part of the child's life.'*

**Joseph Lanham, Burroughs-Molette Elementary School principal**



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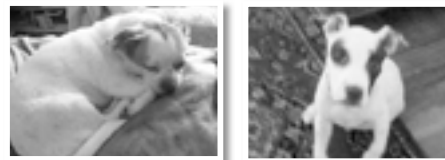
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**EXCEL**  
*After*  
**CLASSES**

# Extracurricular activities broaden school

By **MICHAEL HALL**  
The Brunswick News

As a high school principal, Scott Spence could write a three-part essay on the importance of extracurricular activities to a student's success.

"They give students something constructive to do after school hours," said Spence, the principal of Glynn Academy.

Whether it is a club, athletics or band, students benefit from school-related extracurricular activities, Spence said.

Aside from mental stimulation, Spence says after-school activities keep students focused on all aspects of their educations because they become more engaged pupils.

"Any time a parent tells me they will pull a student from a club, sport or band, I always tell them their student is going to do something after school, and may not always be sitting at home studying," Spence said.

He does not like to hear his students say they will be "just hanging out" after school. It could be a sign of an idle mind and idle hands, he said. "I would like to see every student involved in something constructive after school," Spence said.

He, himself, remembers his grades being

better in high school during baseball and football season, the two sports he played as a student.

John Birge, band director at Brunswick High School, says extracurriculars put students in real world situations

**Brunswick High School band director John Birge and drummers at summer practice**



where they must learn to deal not only with responsibilities, but also with a mixing of many different people. The experience often creates lifelong friendships, he added.

"Outside of developing lifelong musicians, we develop traits such as teamwork and problem solving, learning to deal with multiple personalities, time management, self-confidence, commitment, discipline, goal setting and long-term planning," Birge said.

As a band director Birge is able to develop associations with students that allow him to ensure they are staying on track to reach their

goals after high school. "In some cases, band simply provides a reason for the students to come to school," Birge said.

In other cases, lessons like the study of sound waves enrich the curriculum of other subjects, such as physics, Birge added.

"Being involved in an extracurricular activity vests students in the school experience," Birge said. "Whether it be football, band, golf, cheerleading, or student council, being a part of an extracurricular activity develops a tie to your school, community and peers. The results of this are invaluable."

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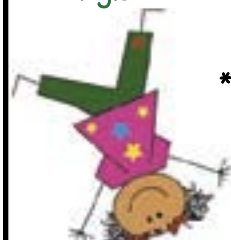
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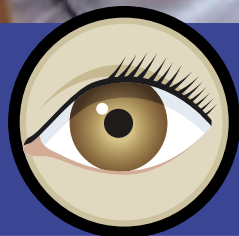
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**EXCEL**  
*New*  
**PRINCIPALS**

# Four public schools have new leaders



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

## CARTER AKINS

Oglethorpe Point Elementary School

It was the second day on the job this summer as principal of Oglethorpe Point Elementary School for Carter Akins and already he was talking about how to move the school forward.

Continuing to improve the academic success of a school already classified as a Georgia School of Excellence will require Akins to establish quality relationships and lead by example, he said.

“As a school leader, I need to be visible and involved,” Akins said.

For the 35-year-old principal, that means setting an example for teachers, parents and students alike.

It is the same philosophy that has propelled Akins from teacher to lead principal in a career that is a little more than a decade old.

A self-described people person, Akins says he believes that promoting hands-on learning

and being knowledgeable of all aspects of the school’s operation will allow him build the quality relationships with teachers, parents and pupils needed to continue the school’s success.

As a teacher, Akins dealt primarily with students and parents. As an instructional coach, his job shifted focus to curriculum and teachers.

Serving as assistant principal he handled discipline matters. “As principal, you step into the whole thing,” Akins said.

Originally from Nashville, Ga., in Berrien County, Akins has worked his entire education career in the Golden Isles and is happy to have been given more responsibility as he has moved up through the ranks of Glynn County public education.

“I am thrilled to be a part of this school and to have this opportunity,” Akins said. “I want to continue the academic legacy of Oglethorpe Point, get to know the people and the families and keep it moving.”

— Michael Hall

## TERE MILLER

Golden Isles Elementary School

Taking over as principal at Golden Isles Elementary School is the type of challenge Tere Miller relishes.

Miller, a Glynn County native, has spent all but two years of her career as an educator in Glynn County. She was previously both a teacher and instructional coach at Golden Isles Elementary.

“It should be an easy transition. We have a wonderful school family here,” Miller said.

Immediately before moving to Golden Isles, Miller served as assistant principal for a year at Sterling Elementary School, where she learned the importance of developing quality relationships with parents and students.

As an instructional coach, Miller has learned that developing good teachers is the way to move an already highly achieving

school forward, she said.

She wants her teachers to get students actively involved and engaged with their educations. “All students can learn. You just have to find out how to reach them,” Miller said.

Finding the right way to reach a student is one of the most rewarding parts of being an educator, Miller said.

As a principal, she hopes to help her staff do just that. “I enjoy seeing teachers when they are successful,” Miller said.

Her leadership philosophy centers on honesty, fairness and consistency. “That way people know what to expect from me,” Miller said.

Getting an entire building and staff ready for the first day of school that will usher in a new statewide curriculum will present some challenges, but Miller knows she is up to the task.

“It is going to be challenging, but it is not something we can’t overcome,” Miller said.

— Michael Hall

## Glynn County public schools and principals

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**Altama**  
5505 Altama Ave.  
Brunswick, 31525  
Principal: Michelle Drew

**Burroughs-Mollette** ▼  
1900 Lee St.  
Brunswick, 31520  
Principal: Joseph Lanham

**C.B. Greer**  
695 Harry Driggers Blvd.  
Brunswick, 31525  
Principal: Anna Wiles

**Glyndale**  
1785 Old Jesup Road  
Brunswick, 31525  
Principal: Fern Way-Currin

**Golden Isles**  
1350 Cate Road  
Brunswick, 31525  
Principal: Terre Miller

**Goodyear**  
3000 Roxboro Road  
Brunswick, 31520  
Principal: Karen Smith

**Oglethorpe Point**  
6200 Frederica Road  
St. Simons Island, 31522  
Principal: Carter Akins

**St. Simons**  
805 Ocean Blvd.  
St. Simons Island, 31522  
Principal: Suzanne Clements

**Satilla Marsh**  
360 Southport Parkway  
Brunswick, 31523  
Principal: Kathie Matthews

**Sterling**  
200 McKenzie Drive  
Brunswick, 31523  
Principal: Kelly Howe

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**Glynn** ▲  
635 Lanier Blvd.  
Brunswick, 31520  
Principal: Matthew Blackstone

**Jane Macon**  
201 McKenzie Drive  
Brunswick, 31523  
Principal: Michelle Seals

**Needwood**  
669 Harry Driggers Blvd.  
Brunswick, 31525  
Principal: Jim Pulos

**Risley**  
707 South Port Parkway  
Brunswick, 31523  
Principal: Lori Joiner





Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

## LORI JOINER

Risley Middle School

Lori Joiner knows a thing or two about opening a new school.

She was a teacher at Needwood Middle School when it opened in 1998 and was an assistant principal at the new Glynn Middle School when it opened in 2008.

She will open her third school in Glynn County Aug. 9 as the first principal of the new Risley Middle School.

"It has really been exciting," Joiner said.

Joiner's approach to education is simple: Students come first. "I want everything to be geared toward the students," she said.

That means finding a great staff of what she calls lifelong, public learners.

Joiner wants teachers who communicate well with students by talking through with them thought processes and problem solving.

Her journey to becoming a principal overseeing teachers and students was not a traditional one.

Joiner was a dental assistant and hygienist for 10 years before returning to school to become a teacher. She had visited many classrooms to demonstrate dentistry in sci-

ence classes when the desire to become a teacher struck her.

"The interaction with the students is what bit me," Joiner said.

Now, 21 years later, Joiner still shows visible excitement at the thought of seeing students grasp a new concept.

She says her experience as a teacher, instructional coach and assistant principal has given her the base she needs to get the most out of teachers and students at Risley.

She is thankful to have been given the chance to start working at Risley in February.

Having several months to prepare for the opening of a new school has been invaluable. "We are going to be ready to open," Joiner said.

Once the school is up and running, Joiner hopes to continue building on the environmental and technological vision incorporated into the school through its design. "I would like the school be a National Blue Ribbon School one day," Joiner said of her goal to see pupils perform at the highest level.

— Michael Hall

• **Take a photo tour of the new Risley Middle School, Page 8**



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News

## TORIANO GILBERT

Brunswick High School

Brunswick High School Principal Toriano Gilbert was given a piece of advice by his father when he left for college that Gilbert will never forget.

"He told me, 'Enter to learn, depart to serve,'" Gilbert said.

Since leaving college, the former baseball player for Bethune-Cookman University has been involved in almost every aspect of public school operations.

Gilbert has been a middle school teacher, middle school coach, an elementary school assistant principal and a high school principal at Crisp County High School, the position he held for five years until he was hired in Glynn County this past month as Brunswick High School principal.

"I have had the pleasure and opportunity to have worked at all levels," Gilbert said. His experience has taught him teaching is the key to student achievement.

"There is no substitute for great teaching," Gilbert said. "Teachers have to believe they can reach all students."

Setting high expectations are important to keep teachers and students focused on their

goals, he said. "I believe high expectations can transcend all barriers."

Asking everyone to meet high expectations is how Gilbert hopes to make Brunswick High School, which he calls a great school already, into an even greater school.

Meeting the high expectations will require Gilbert to put his educational philosophy of building quality relationships to use, he said. "I see it as a partnership between the school, the student and the parents," Gilbert said.

For him, that means supporting students in their lives outside of the classroom. Gilbert plans to be a staple at extracurricular events.

A man of strong faith, Gilbert said he and his wife decided to move their family to the Golden Isles after praying on it for weeks.

Ultimately, after interviews with the school system and several visits to the area, Gilbert said he felt drawn to Glynn County for its laid back atmosphere and involved citizenry.

Gilbert plans on making this his family's home for a long time.

"We feel this is a great community. I would like to be here until I retire," Gilbert said.

— Michael Hall

## Glynn County public schools calendar

### HIGH SCHOOLS

**Brunswick**  
3920 Habersham St.  
Brunswick, 31520  
Principal: Toriano Gilbert

### Glynn Academy

1001 Mansfield Street  
Brunswick, 31520  
Principal: Scott Spence

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS



#### Coastal Education

4404 Glynco Parkway  
Brunswick, 31525  
Lead teacher: Terry Graff

#### FACES Prekindergarten

1900 Lee St.  
Brunswick, 31520  
Principal: Stephanie Thompson

#### Golden Isles Career Academy

4404 Glynco Parkway  
Brunswick, 31525  
CEO: Rick Townsend  
Principal: Senetra Haywood

#### Morningstar Academy

1 Youth Estate Drive, Brunswick, 31525  
Lead teacher: Pat Jenkins

### AUGUST

9 – First day of classes  
20-23 – School pictures

### SEPTEMBER

3 – Labor Day, no school  
20 – Summer graduation

### OCTOBER

8 – Columbus Day, no school  
18 – Nine-week report cards

### NOVEMBER

11 – Veterans Day, no school  
21-23 – Thanksgiving break, no school

### DECEMBER 20-JANUARY 2

Christmas break, no school

### JANUARY

8 – First semester report cards  
21 – Martin Luther King Day, no school  
31 – Winter graduation

### FEBRUARY

18 – Presidents Day holiday  
19 – Furlough day, no school

### MARCH

14-15 – No school  
21 – Nine-week report cards

### APRIL

2-5 – Spring break, no school  
17 – CRCT testing begins

### MAY

21 – Last day of school

**EXCEL**  
*New*  
**SCHOOL**

# Risley Middle School opens for classes

The Glynn County School System continues on its building boom. After opening the new Sterling Elementary School and Jane Macon and Glynn middle schools in the past few years – and with a

new Brunswick High School under construction – this year a new Risley Middle School opens on South Port Parkway, in southern Glynn County. Here is a look at the \$24 million project.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News photos

A business education classroom includes computers and monitors for students.

The main entrance to Risley Middle School evokes a sail-like image.



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The gymnasium has bleachers seating along both sides of the basketball court and a stage at one end.



A gallery area through which sunlight streams from roof-line windows opens into the cafeteria.



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**EXCEL**  
*New*  
**CURRICULUM**

# Changes beginning in how pupils learn

By **MICHAEL HALL**  
The Brunswick News

With an ever-evolving school curriculum, keeping up with changes can be a challenge for Glynn County public school teachers and district-level administrators, such as Ricky Rentz.

As assistant superintendent for student achievement, Rentz is responsible for ensuring that all instructional staff members are prepared when changes are handed down by the state.

Since January, Rentz and his staff of instructional coaches have been preparing themselves and teachers on the specifics of the latest incarnation of state curriculum standards.

The Common Core Georgia Performance Standards will be the new guide for what students at all grade levels will learn when school starts Aug. 9. It will be Georgia's version of the national Common Core Curriculum, a curriculum adopted by 45 states and the District of Columbia, and will be the third new curriculum adopted by Georgia in the past 12 years.

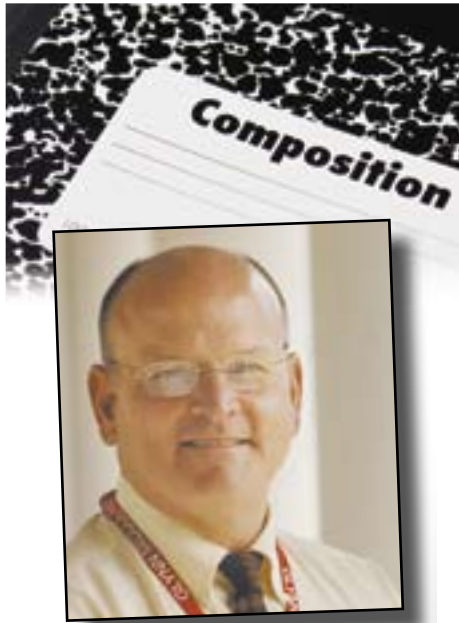
The new standards will begin introducing many concepts and lessons earlier, but the changes will likely be subtle, Rentz said. "Changes will not be noticed by the parents and students right away."

Instructional units and standards so far have been developed for reading, language arts and mathematics, Rentz said.

Science and social studies standards will be developed during the next couple of years.

Among changes coming to public school classrooms are:

**Greater emphasis on nonfiction texts.**



*Ricky Rentz, Glynn County schools assistant superintendent for student achievement, says pupils will see a broader emphasis on explanatory writing.*

The idea is to prepare children as part of the college and career readiness initiative for the types of reading and writing they will encounter in college and the work world. Nonfiction, or informational texts, will be studied by students as early as first grade.

**New writing standards for early grades.**

Pupils will be expected to go beyond narrative writing as early as third grade. They will have to know how to write opinion and explanatory papers and by middle school to have well-formed writing styles.

**Writing and reading will be incorporated into every subject.**

This is designed to take some of the load off the middle school teachers who previously carried the lion's share of grammar instruction.

Writing assignments will become a regular part of subjects such as mathematics and science in an attempt to emphasize critical thinking and application of subject matter.

All of the changes are designed to make students explain themselves and make relevant connections between what they are learning and the real world, Rentz said.

Eventually, standardized tests will change.

The Criterion-Referenced Competency Test, the cornerstone of determining Adequate Yearly Progress under the federal No Child Left Behind law, will give way to tests that require students to give more explanation in their answers, Rentz said.

Moving beyond multiple choice tests in all subjects and standardized testing removes the option to guess and forces students to prove they know the material, Rentz said.

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# Various factors will measure school gains

By **MICHAEL HALL**  
The Brunswick News

After chasing the elusive requirements of “adequate yearly progress” for the past decade, Georgia public schools will have a new system of accountability this year.

Adequate yearly progress, the cornerstone of the federal No Child Left Behind law, set annual benchmarks for standardized test scores, graduation rates and attendance that rose every year, with the end goal of 100 percent of students passing or graduating.

While the mission was noble, educators throughout the nation said the goal was virtually unattainable.

The U.S. Department of Education last year allowed states to apply for a waiver from No Child Left Behind that would allow them to create their own systems of accountability.

It was out of the waiver that Georgia’s College and Career Ready Performance Index was born.

The index was designed to cast a wider net in determining what makes a successful school.

Many of the requirements in the index

## How schools will be classified

**Reward** High achieving or progress

**Priority** Lowest test scores, progress

**Focus** Low test scores, or achievement disparity

**Alert** Needs attention to stay on track



are in place, but there is still work to do in finalizing some aspects, said Ricky Rentz, Glynn County assistant superintendent for student achievement. “They are kind of building the plane as they fly it,” Rentz said.

Regardless of the final details, Rentz says maintaining continuous student growth and

gains will be key to succeeding under the index.

“We just have to keep focusing on increasing our student achievement in all areas,” Rentz said.

The index initially will place schools in one of four categories, based on a number of factors from the 2010-11 school year.

Schools will be classified as:

- **Reward**, in which students have achieved the highest test scores or are making the most progress.

- **Priority**, in which students have the lowest test scores, graduation rates or lack of progress.

- **Focus**, in which students have low test scores, graduation rates or wide gaps among achievement levels of demographic subgroups.

- **Alert**, in which students’ tests scores or graduation rates are better than those of Priority and Focus schools, but still raise concerns.

Reward schools are further divided between:

- Highest performing reward schools, based on the entire student body’s graduation rates and standardized test scores.

- Highest progress reward schools that show the most progress in graduation rates and standardized test scores among the entire student body.

Priority schools are schools that:

- Receive school improvement grant funds to implement a school improvement plan.

- Receive federal poverty funds and have a graduation rate of less than 60 percent over two years.

- Receive federal poverty funds and have a lack of progress on standardized state tests.

Focus schools are schools that:

- Receive federal poverty funds and have a graduation rate of less than 60 percent over two years.

- Receive federal poverty funds and have too large a gap between the highest and lowest achieving demographic subgroups.

Alert schools are schools that have:

- Graduation rates below the state average for certain demographic subgroups.

- Certain demographic subgroups achieving well below the state average.

- Standardized test scores in certain subjects that are too far below state averages.

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# Styles help give school year fresh start

By **LINDSEY ADKISON**  
The Brunswick News

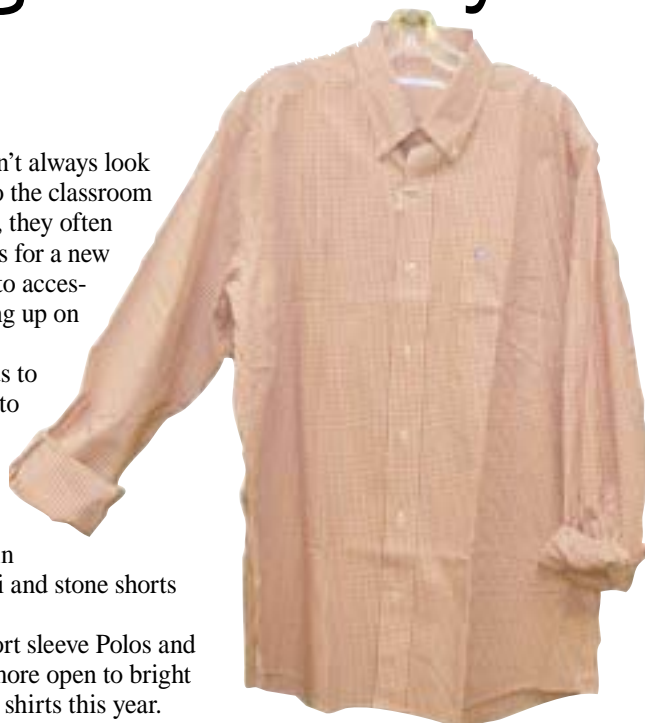
While some children don't always look forward to heading back to the classroom after a lazy summer break, they often enjoy picking up new items for a new school year. From clothes to accessories, students love loading up on the latest fads.

Here are just a few trends to make sure they head back to school looking super cool:

Elizabeth Jordan, co-owner of Lady Outfitters on St. Simons Island and Gentlemen Outfitters in Brunswick, says that khaki and stone shorts are always a hit for boys.

"They are worn with short sleeve Polos and T-shirts. Guys have been more open to bright colors and plaid and stripe shirts this year. At our St. Simons Island store, Southern Tide and Vineyard Vines are both very popular," she said.

Tunics and T-shirts are big for girls this season. Jordan has seen many girls picking up these comfy staples before heading back to school.



Southern Tide shirt at Lady and Gentlemen's Outfitters

"We are selling tunics to be worn over jeans and leggings. As you might expect the store is turning red and black as the summer is coming to a close. Our Brunswick store

is our T-shirt headquarters. Most popular girls (and guys) is Guy Harvey, Salt Life and Browning, especially the attitude (T-shirts) from Girly Girl and It's a Girl thing," she said. "In addition to Rainbows and Sperry's, girls have been loving the classic styles as well as new wedges from Toms."

While some secondary school students may not have clear visions of what they want to do later in life, having clear vision in the classroom now is important to getting there eventually. While eyeglasses are essential for some students, the options in available frame styles can make an optical necessity a fashion accessory.



Candies, top, and Sketchers eyeglasses frames at Milli can Eye Center



Vineyard Vines khaki pants at Lady and Gentlemen's Outfitters

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# College wardrobe may need to be a grade up in appearance

Prior to starting school, many students spend a portion of the summer scouting aisles of clothes at stores to expand their wardrobes. Students entering or already enrolled in college may want to make subtle changes in the clothes they select.

College students hoping to make a good impression may want to pay attention to the clothes they choose to wear to school, job interviews, formal functions and networking opportunities. Remember, you can network with everyone from fellow students to professors and other staff. This is why it can pay to concentrate on always looking dapper and well kept when attending classes or being on campus.

College students who already are facing tuition bills and costs for textbooks and supplies may feel they do not have the funds for a respectable wardrobe. However, it is possible to get professional-looking clothes on a budget.

**Start with the basics.** Begin with the basics when assessing your wardrobe. Certain essentials can be used in many different ways. For example, suit starters, consisting of suit jacket, slacks (and skirts for women) and button-down shirts, can be mixed and matched. The slacks can be worn with just about any top, and the same

goes for skirts.

**Select a muted color palette.** That great floral blouse may look tempting, but something that has a large pattern or is easily recognizable cannot be worn as frequently as something less noticeable. It pays to find pieces that can be reused over and over. Basic colors, especially solid colors, are more versatile.

**Stock up on dark-wash jeans.** Dark-colored jeans in a trouser cut look more professional than those that have been acid stained and purposely cut or full of holes or are too form-fitting. When going out, it is alright to wear trendier items, but in the classroom or when representing yourself and the school, you may want to wear more understated attire.

**Choose clothes that can be cleaned in a washing machine.** Check the care labels inside of clothes before purchase. Having too many pieces that need to be dry-cleaned can eat away at your budget.

While you may not have to retrofit every piece of clothing to create an adequate college wardrobe, it pays to add pieces that will showcase your professionalism – especially to those people who still may judge a book by its cover.

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# Brunswick Christian grows faith, learning

Brunswick Christian Academy, a ministry of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Brunswick, has been leading the way in Private Christian Education since 1974. BCA is one of the oldest self-supporting private schools in our area, serving students from many surrounding counties. BCA offers care as early as 7 a.m. and as late as 6 p.m.

We currently offer K3 through 12th grade using the A Beka curriculum at a very affordable rate. (K5 through 12th grade tuition averages around \$80 per week.) All of our students are taught in an interactive, learning and fun environment to encourage every child to achieve their greatest potential.

BCA Daycare is more than playing, it is about learning. Our day care students are taught Bible, phonics, writing, art, language arts and numbers. It's always fun learning with the class pet, Thumper!

Pre-kindergarten students take things a step further in learning. Curriculum includes Bible, phonics, writing, language arts, art, numbers, Spanish and sign language. Students learn a Bible verse for each letter of the alphabet as well as many poems and songs. We offer day care and pre-kin-



Brunswick Christian Academy utilizes the A Beka curriculum that includes drills, visual aids and teacher instruction as parts of the learning process.

dergarten in full- or half-day programs.

Elementary students are sure to succeed with the solid A Beka curriculum that includes routine drills, visual aids and solid teaching. Kindergarten through fifth grade students also enjoy the privilege of educa-

tional and fun field trips, pep rallies, cheer leading, drama and much more.

BCA's middle and high school students participate in drama as well as fine arts competitions at regional and state levels in addition to a college prep curriculum.

BCA is recognized by the Georgia Board of Regents for college admission as well as by the GA 411 and Hope Scholarship. BCA is also a testing site for the SAT and a site for the Georgia driver's education training.

**SPORTS!!** Everyone loves a good game and with many sports to choose from there is always a game to see. BCA offers sports for grades six through 12, including basketball, volleyball, flag football, softball and chess.

Free tutoring as well as low student-to-teacher ratios are just a couple of pluses offered by our concerned, dedicated teachers that instill Christian values into the students.

Brunswick Christian Academy is now accepting student's with Individualized Education Programs.

Brunswick Christian Academy is accredited by the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council (GAPSAC) and is a member in good standing of the Georgia Association of Christian Schools and the American Association of Christian Schools.

Set your child up for success today!!!

– Provided by Brunswick Christian Academy

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# Faith underpins Emmanuel Christian

Choosing a school to inspire wisdom, discipline and faith for your child can be an ongoing search. Look no further, you will find Emmanuel Christian School, located at 1010 Old Jesup Road in Glynn County, is the perfect fit.

You will find that Emmanuel Christian School meets every standard of educational experience required of an accredited school. With the caring attitude of the teachers and administration, parents can feel comfortable knowing that their children are receiving what they need to prepare them for the future.

The educational philosophy of Emmanuel Christian School is based on a God-centered view that all truth is God's truth, and that the Bible is the inspired and the only infallible, authoritative word of God, which contains this truth. God created all things in six days and sustains all things. Therefore, the universe and man are dynamically related to God and have the purpose of glorifying him.

Because man is a sinner by nature and choice, he cannot know how to glorify God himself. He can do this only by choosing God's free gift of salvation

through his son, Jesus Christ, thereby committing his life to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

ECS staff will provide the student, as well as the parent, the necessary awareness of God and responses to his word so that when the Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin, he will readily and with understanding accept Christ as his savior.

Christian education can then carry out its purpose. This philosophy also channels our energies to promote high academic standards while helping the students to achieve skills in creative and critical thinking using the best-integrated curriculum available. The objective of our instructional program is to enable the student to pursue the post-secondary education of his or her choosing, whether in college, university or in vocational training areas.

Our aim socially is to provide a Christian perspective on the total world-view from which will come a balanced personality and a proper understanding and acceptance of a person's role in life at home, at work, at play and at worship—all grounded in the Christian concept of love.

The school permits the parents to carry

out their responsibility to God for the education of their children. This is the prerogative, not of the state, but of the parents. Therefore, Emmanuel Christian School assists the family in this responsibility and requires the support from the home. Our responsibility for the student encompasses the spiritual, mental, intellectual, physical, social and emotional areas. These are inseparable and through them run the insistent thread of the spiritual. Therefore, it must be our aim to shun the tendency to teach the Bible compartmentally or on the intellectual level alone—the scarlet thread must be woven throughout the total curriculum. ECS is dedicated to this objective.

It is apparent, then, that the types of activities we employ or permit in the classroom or school program will either facilitate or militate against our basic philosophy. The spiritual must permeate all areas – else we become textbook-oriented rather than student oriented.

Carried out, this philosophy dictates that we cooperate closely with parents in every phase of the student's development, always offering assistance in understanding the purposes of ECS. This cooperation enables

us to better accomplish our goals for our students. It is our philosophy that also makes us uniquely different and preserves our Christian distinctiveness.

Classroom learning at ECS is designed to challenge the mind and inspire the spirit. The course offerings provide each student with specific courses they need to best achieve their academic potential. Each curriculum is developed to build strong fundamental skills, and teachers work closely in grade-level teams to ensure curriculum continuity. Students begin the basic study of the Bible, science, math, English, history and also other electives.

Emmanuel Christian School is accredited under the Georgia Private School Accrediting Council (GAPSAC) and is a member of the Georgia Association of Christian Schools and American Association of Christian Schools.

Call Emmanuel Christian School today at 912-265-9647 or check out its website at [www.ebcbunswick.com](http://www.ebcbunswick.com) to find out more information on how this school is the perfect Christian choice for your child.

– Provided by Emmanuel Christian School

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Emmanuel Christian School admits students of any race, color, or national and ethnic origin and extends to them all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made to students of the school.



For more information please call 912-265-9647 - Leslie Little



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SCHOOL

# Frederica Academy develops whole child

Frederica Academy will welcome another new face among the eager students and teachers on the first day of school this August. Annmarie Torres will join the team of well-educated, highly skilled, compassionate and professional teachers at Frederica Academy as director of lower school.

As Director of Lower School, Annmarie Torres will be responsible for ensuring a learning environment that is developmentally age appropriate and customized to each child's learning style and ability level in the lower grade levels.

"The purpose of my work is to facilitate the best possible educational outcome for the students within the school. This includes student academic growth, the ongoing monitoring of outcomes and assessment of curriculum, and the professional training of teachers. It also involves the social and emotional well-being of students in a most significant way," said Torres.

Torres' career in education spans more than 40 years with the vast majority in senior administrator or teacher educator roles. Most recently, Torres served as head of school and head of middle school at the esteemed Charlotte Preparatory School, in Charlotte, N.C.



Annmarie Torres

Torres believes strongly in the importance of superior teachers and a healthy and positive culture of the teaching environment. "Research has consistently proven that the teacher is the single most important factor in the success of children. And children

need superstar teachers consistently, year after year." Torres continued, "I was looking for a school that possessed a rich legacy of a healthy culture, a school that had outstanding teachers and a school whose mission was lived by all with integrity. Visiting Frederica Academy was just such an experience."

Because of Frederica Academy's commitment to a low student-teacher ratio, every lower school classroom has a dedicated and highly trained teacher. Class sizes throughout each grade at Frederica Academy are generally limited to 15 students or fewer, giving teachers the opportunity to work closely with each student. This allows each child to receive the small-group and one-on-

one attention that he or she deserves. It also begins to build a sense of trust in the learning process as well as the confidence to ask questions that will serve students as they go through school. At every grade level, teachers at Frederica Academy seek to foster a love of learning and teach strategies that help students develop as critical thinkers, communicators, and caring and responsible people.

Alongside the highly regarded staff and faculty at Frederica Academy, Torres will actively nurture and inspire lower school students, as well as challenge each student to reach his or her greatest potential. Starting in pre-kindergarten, all students at Frederica Academy are exposed to a holistic, integrated curriculum that includes core academic classes as well as foreign language, music, theater and art classes. Technology plays an increasingly important and relevant role in classroom learning as well, culminating in a program that provides each fifth-grade student with a laptop and access to a tablet in order to complete his or her assignments.

Lower school children love to get their hands dirty and Frederica Academy takes advantage of this natural curiosity and sense of adventure by putting their love to use

on campus and off. Exploring the outdoor environment, going on field trips and taking journeys in the upper grades give students a look at the world beyond their classroom. These experiences complement the curriculum and give all students the chance to learn team building, leadership, problem solving and help to strengthen the bonds between friends and teachers.

Close relationships are a significant characteristic of life in lower school. Teachers work closely with parents regarding their child's education while parents are encouraged to actively participate in school programs and experiential learning activities.

Students are also given the freedom to practice self-control and to accept personal responsibility for their actions. Accordingly, students strive to become self-reliant, active learners and responsible citizens who recognize that they are part of something larger than themselves.

To learn more about Frederica Academy, an independent, coeducational, non-sectarian, college preparatory day school, enrolling approximately 400 students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, call 912-638-9981 or visit [fredericaacademy.org](http://fredericaacademy.org).

— Provided by Frederica Academy



**My Frederica** is a place where success is driven by the Academy's ability to fully leverage each student's potential and where every student understands that success can be defined in many ways.

In my role as the Academy's Director of Admission, I lightheartedly tell prospective parents that our son, Cole, has grown up believing we are "zoned" for Frederica. In truth, we chose Frederica because it offered the best fit for Cole's educational and developmental needs.

## myFrederica

Frederica has more than fulfilled our expectations for Cole as we seek to make sure that he is prepared for college and he is successful in life. We are inspired and humbled by his academic, athletic and leadership achievements and the success he has experienced in developing lifelong friendships and memories.

Each day, I am honored to tell our Frederica story to prospective families and to share the collective stories of our students, parents, faculty and alumni.

**I'm Julie Ackerman. And I invite you to visit me to learn more about my Frederica.**

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# Saint Simons Christian builds on family

Saint Simons Christian School will ring in its 19th school year on Aug. 15 with enthusiastic students, devoted faculty members and a permanent home on St. Simons Island.

Students will return from their summer breaks to resume their academic studies and advance their spiritual growth. The teachers at the school are well-known for creating an academically encouraging and spiritually nurturing atmosphere where students learn and develop among their peers. Providing a Christ-centered education, Saint Simons Christian School has been "Guiding Hearts and Growing Minds" since 1994.

Each fall, Saint Simons Christian School celebrates the new school year by hosting its annual Convocation. Clergy from the 16 local churches represented at the school lead the students, their families and the faculty in prayer, worship and fellowship. This year's Convocation is Aug. 21.

Saint Simons Christian School provides instruction for students in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). The SACS and ACSI accreditation

process certifies high-quality schools based on 10 primary areas, including academics, instruction, faculty, school safety and extracurricular activities. Accreditation advocates constant internal and external evaluation, which helps foster school and program improvement. During its review, the accreditation committee commended SSCS highly for several of its programs and its rigorous academic curriculum.

Even with the exciting growth at Saint Simons Christian School, the institution has maintained a low student-to-teacher ratio that affords the best possible instruction for the schoolchildren, heightening their prospects for academic excellence while developing their God-given talents.

The curriculum at Saint Simons Christian School combines academic excellence with a Christ-centered focus. Students absorb their lessons with guidance from teachers, parents and church communities. This specially designed educational structure has allowed students to consistently exceed national averages on standardized tests, while cultivating a solid spiritual foundation. The school's vision is for every graduate to be academically and spiritually equipped to make a difference for Christ.

Students are encouraged to participate in a multitude of activities, including sports, drama and volunteer opportunities – all of which enrich their overall learning experience. Not only is extracurricular participation vital to the growth of students academically, but it also helps them connect with the school and represent it with pride.

For students in the fifth grade and up, the school offers a fall cross-country program and winter basketball. In the spring, soccer is available to all grades and is divided into two levels: fourth grade through eighth grade and pre-kindergarten through third grade.

The fifth through eighth grade students at Saint Simons Christian School produce a musical every spring and have performed stage classics such as "Annie," "Alice in Wonderland," "Godspell" and "Seussical." Elementary-grade students host their own Christmas musical each December. Other extracurricular options available to middle school students throughout the year include Student Council, Yearbook Club, and Chess Club.

The Lion's Club is an after-school program that complements daily education with additional instruction and activities

led by the teachers. For a daily or weekly fee, students can participate in after-school activities Mondays through Fridays from 3 to 5:15 p.m. Spots are limited, as the low student-to-teacher ratio continues to be honored after regular school hours.

Saint Simons Christian School moved to a new location in 2009, conveniently located on Coquina Circle on St. Simons Island. With the help of a generous benefactor, the school purchased the school property in 2011, establishing a permanent, central-island location with ample classroom space. This purchase allows Saint Simons Christian School to invest in additional improvements and expansion as it plans a vibrant future in its new home.

"A permanent home allows for long-term stability. It greatly enhances our strategic planning and provides the foundation for growing the school," said Jim Parker, chairman of the SSCS board and parent of two students attending the school.

For more information about Saint Simons Christian School, admissions, the back-to-school calendar and other school activities, visit [www.sschristianschool.com](http://www.sschristianschool.com).

— Provided by  
Saint Simons Christian School

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## Guiding Hearts • Growing Minds



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# Heritage Christian has biblical foundation

Heritage Christian Academy is excited to welcome another school year! Our students are certainly among the best and the brightest. We have already welcomed 58 new students for the 2012-2013 school year!

The academy was established as Christian Renewal Academy in 1984 as a ministry to serve families from all denominations who desired a biblically based, quality education for their children. We have students representing over 30 churches in our community. Our curriculum, principles and moral standards are grounded in the historic Christian faith.

We are fully accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission, which is recognized by the University System of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Education. We are a member of the Association of Christian Schools, as well as the Georgia Independent Schools Association.

We offer classes from 3-year-old preschool to the 12th grade. All HCA faculty members are fully certified college graduates. The student-teacher ratio is 10:1, and we are committed to maintaining small class sizes. HCA upholds academic excellence with a Christian world view.

All classes are expected to adopt a mis-

sion project. Last year, our students filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, sent candy and cards to soldiers being deployed, sent medicine to and bought bricks for a school in Haiti, visited the nursing home, rang the Salvation Army bell and worked in their distribution center, served at the Manna House, and sent gently used school uniforms and stuffed animals to children in Mexico.

Our 3- and 4-year-old program is a five-day, full- or half-day prekindergarten that teaches the valuable foundations of reading while maintaining a fun atmosphere.

Our elementary students participate in science fair, several art exhibits, library, music, PE, Accelerated Reader, computer lab, Spanish and spelling bees. We had several state spelling bee champs this year. Our fourth- and fifth-graders take an annual trip to 4-H camp, either on Jekyll Island or at Rock Eagle (which are units of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Cooperative Extension).

Middle school students are offered the opportunity to play several sports, and also participate in science fair, several art exhibits, computer technology classes, PE, music, drama and health. Qualifying eighth-grad-

ers may participate in ninth-grade classes and earn high school credit. The middle school takes an annual trip to Ebenezer Alive! where pupils participate and learn about colonial Georgia.

Our high school students are encouraged to participate in many extracurricular activities, such as Leadership Glynn, Praise Team, Student Council, BETA Club, Science Fair, Yearbook, Drama, Band, Literary Competitions, One Act Play, journalism, and various art exhibits and sports teams. Qualifying juniors and seniors may joint enroll at the College of Coastal Georgia through the ACCEL program. This allows them to earn high school and college credit. HCA high school students take an annual trip; this year's destination was Washington, D.C.

Ninety-two percent of graduating seniors matriculate to colleges. HCA seniors average 1570 on the SAT.

Our middle and high school athletic programs offer students the opportunity to develop character and physical abilities through sports and school spirit. We have competitive JV and varsity athletics. Our students are encouraged to try out for our basketball, volleyball, tennis, cheer leading,

track, cross-country and golf teams. Our athletes often place in the state tournaments, earn all-conference awards, and have been offered athletic scholarships to colleges. This year we are pleased to announce that we have a state champion track runner, senior Joe Ours. We remain committed to the development of Christian character through a quality athletic program.

If you desire a quality Christian education for your child, please don't let finances stand in your way. We can show you how House Bill 1133 can make private school affordable for your family simply by redirecting your Georgia state income tax dollars. Contact Debbie Kennedy for more information.

HCA is also pleased to participate in the Senate Bill 10 Special Needs Scholarship. If your child qualifies for special education in public school, has an Individualized Education Program, and can meet our admissions requirements, he or she may also qualify for a scholarship from the state to attend HCA.

Contact Heritage Christian Academy at 912-264-5491, or visit our website at [www.hcaeagles.net](http://www.hcaeagles.net).

— Provided by

Heritage Christian Academy



## HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

### is enrolling for the 2012-13 school year.

*A school of academic excellence, teaching self-discipline, responsibility, integrity and good citizenship to students of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and from all walks of life.*

Don't wait another year to enroll your children in a Christian-based school. Visit our web site and consider the advantages of having your child in an environment of attentiveness, encouragement and acceptance.

**Financial aid is available for those who qualify.**

### Heritage Christian Academy

PK-3 through 12th grade

*"Academic Excellence With a Christian World View"*

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EXCEL  
*My*  
SCHOOL

# Wesley Academy promotes early learning

"I realized there was a tremendous need for preparatory academic experiences at the preschool level after having worked with elementary-aged students in the public school system who struggled to pass the state's basic skills assessment. For the past several decades, our nation's educational system has attempted to remedy rather than prevent the learning challenges that many students face," said Marcie Long, director of Wesley Academy of Early Learning and 16-year veteran educator with public schools in Georgia and South Carolina.

Although day care is the route most working parents must take in today's economy, Long wants to help families grasp the importance of early childhood education by encouraging parents to enroll their children in a school setting geared specifically for the development of infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children.

At Wesley Academy of Early Learning (Wael), a private Christian preschool located on the north end of St. Simons Island, children as young as 6 weeks of age are engaged in a variety of activities that promote their cognitive, emotional, spiritual, physical, social, linguistic and literacy

development.

Long explained, "Our teachers are highly qualified and trained to meet the needs of their students by providing relevant experiences, enriching related arts activities, and plenty of time to play both inside and outside."

Wael uses a thematic approach to teaching because children will retain information when it is presented in context and is meaningful to their lives. As public schools continue to suffer losses in the areas of fine arts due to budgetary constraints, Wesley Academy made the bold decision to include weekly Spanish, music, PE, drama, and chapel lessons as a part of the regular curriculum.

For preschool and after-school students enrolled at Wael, the school offers dance, art, choir, Spanish and guitar lessons as extracurricular opportunities allowing for a well-rounded educational experience. After school activities always focus on school work first, and tutors are available to help students in any academic area.

Wesley Academy is currently the only licensed, private preschool that offers full-time infant and 1-year-old programs.

Wael has a long standing tradition of over 20 years of excellence in the community and is committed to providing only the best foundational and preparatory learning experiences for enrolled students.

Wesley Academy is a ministry of Wesley United Methodist Church at Frederica and is tucked beneath the oak trees where the Wesley brothers, Charles and John, once preached.

Long stated, "Children who attend Wael frequently go on to achieve high levels of academic success upon entering kindergarten due to the rigorous curriculum and the low teacher-student ratios they had while at Wesley." Many of Wesley's alumni have qualified for gifted programs at the elementary and/or middle school level, which supports the prevention rather than the remediation philosophy Long believes is the key to making a difference in the educational system today.

Long, who assumed the director's position at Wesley Academy in August of 2011, has an impressive career history, and credits one particular educational conference with putting her on the path to Wael. "After attending the National Youth At-Risk

conference in Savannah last spring, I felt compelled to make a difference in the lives of Glynn County's children, starting with its youngest residents."

Long, who holds national board certification in early childhood education, as well as bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education and an education specialist degree in Brain-Based Teaching And Learning Strategies, is passionate about providing a strong educational foundation for Glynn County's students because she is a product of the Glynn County School System. Her goal is to spread the word to families about the importance of solid early childhood experiences that are rooted in acquiring knowledge and that provide ample time for children to explore the world around them.

Educational research supports that the first five years of a child's life are the most critical and pivotal to future academic and personal success.

If you would like more information on Wesley Academy of Early Learning, visit our web site at [www.wesleyacademyssi.org](http://www.wesleyacademyssi.org) or call 912-638-5072.

— Provided by  
Wesley Academy of Early Learning

Dynamic Pre-K program with hands-on technology Fun Extracurricular Activities Informative & updated website

Spanish, Art, & Music for ages 1 & up Drama & PE for ages 3 & up

Safe & nurturing environment Daily communication with parents



## "Whale" Come To The Wonderful World Of Wesley!



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Balance of strong academic focus with ample play time  
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Wesley United Methodist Church at Frederica

(912) 638-5072  
[www.wesleyacademyssi.org](http://www.wesleyacademyssi.org)

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# College of Coastal Georgia reaches out

Serve. Learn. Succeed.

These three words are the mantra of the College of Coastal Georgia.

Service-learning is the college's signature academic initiative, a powerful and transformative teaching and learning tool that affords students opportunities to connect theory with real-world practice while meeting a direct and immediate community need.

Service-learning is embedded throughout our curriculum, required in every discipline, and extends through every one of our degree programs. As a teaching approach, it ensures that real learning takes place through an intentional and structured format that promotes applied learning and community engagement.

The community is one of our classrooms.

Our students are challenged to engage in practical, hands-on experiences, not just research. The community organizations benefit from talented, energetic students who are combining their problem-solving and critical thinking skills with teamwork to achieve real results. This is not "helping out" as a volunteer, but rather, seeing a significant project through from start to finish, including assessing the impact. Service-learning



Phillis George, director of the Center for Service Learning at College of Coastal Georgia, stands in front of the construction of The Correll Center for Teacher Education and Learning at the college.

produces action-oriented students who will literally change the world.

And increasingly, our students are coming from all around the world. Our student body is growing and becoming more richly diverse.

Across this dynamic campus, you can see and experience the positive effects of new and renovated facilities – including on-campus housing – as well as new student life initiatives, enhanced multicultural and arts

programming, and exciting athletic teams.

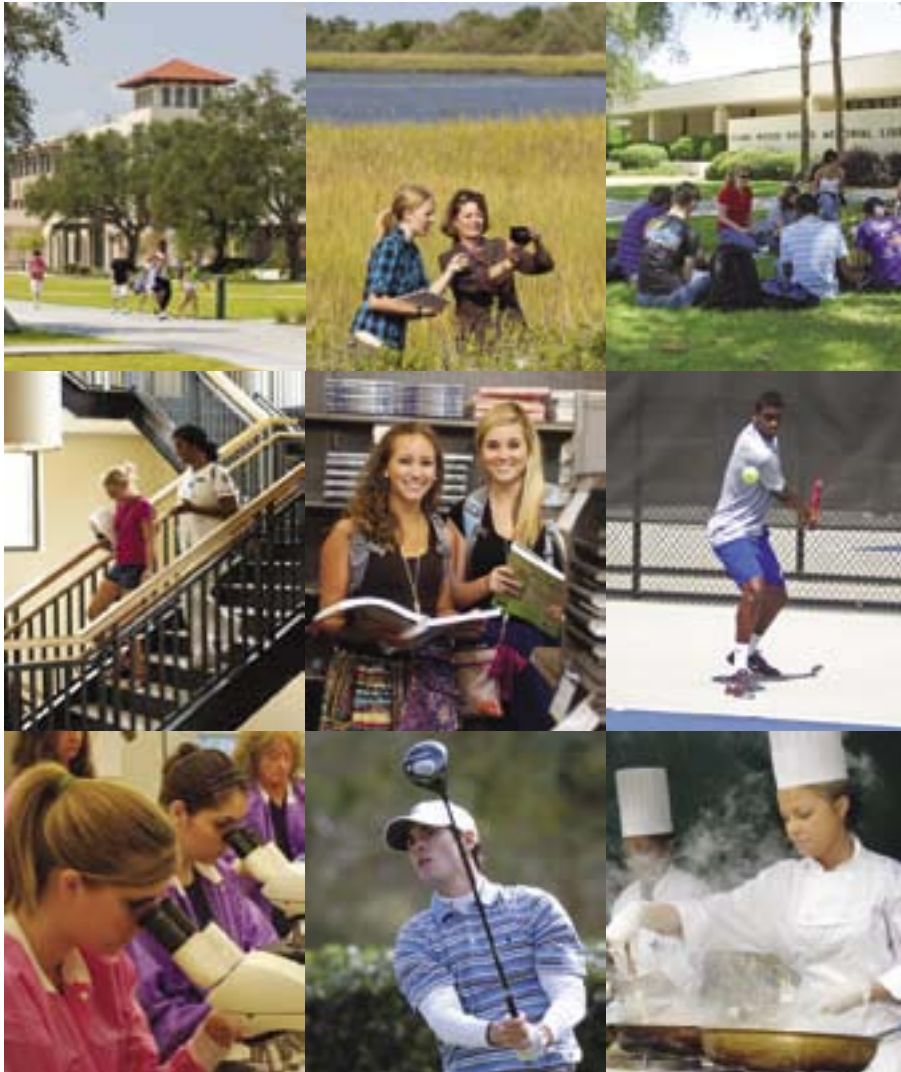
Among the new facilities is the Correll Center for Teacher Education and Learning, bordering Altama Avenue, across from the building site of the new Brunswick High School. Scheduled to open in January 2013, the 32,000-square-foot complex will serve as the campus gateway to the community, housing the School of Education and Teacher Preparation, the Center for Service-Learning and Community Engagement, the Center for

Teaching and Learning, and the new Writing Center.

Our key priority at the College of Coastal Georgia is to ensure that our students successfully complete their degree program with the skills and experiences to succeed in their chosen career and in life. We are committed to educating and graduating actively engaged citizens – future entrepreneurs, educators, nurses and other health care professionals, biologists, business and community organization managers, mathematicians, public policy analysts, law enforcement professionals, leaders – who have worked to benefit this community in some way as part of their educational experience.

The college years are a time to investigate new horizons and opportunities – in the classroom and the community, on the athletic field and with student organizations. As a four-year baccalaureate school in the University System of Georgia, nationally noted for affordability and located right here on the coast, we invite students who want to take an active role in learning, building and leading the college and the community of Coastal Georgia to visit [www.ccgga.edu](http://www.ccgga.edu) online.

– Provided by College of Coastal Georgia



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# Altamaha Tech matches learning to jobs

Altamaha Technical College invites area residents to consider enrolling in one of its 45 technical college programs for the fall semester. Opportunities to increase one's skill and training levels – either for advancement in one's current position or to begin a new career – are available at Altamaha Technical College. Fall semester begins Aug. 20.

Altamaha Technical College is an accredited public, two-year regional, multi-campus college that plays a vital role in producing a highly-skilled, academically sound, 21st century workforce. Today's job market requires 70 percent of its work force to have more than a high school diploma yet less than a four-year degree. At Altamaha Technical College, students can choose from more than 80 associate degree, diploma and technical certificate of credit programs.

Being successful today means having the knowledge and skills employers want. Our faculty understands that and provides hands-on training in state-of-the-art classrooms and labs. You will learn from experienced faculty on the same equipment found in business and industry.

In 2009, Altamaha Technical College accepted the transfer of seven programs from College of Coastal Georgia and grew an

additional 38 programs of study to support manufacturing, business, logistics, health organizations and the hospitality industry. Today, 45 programs are housed at Golden Isles Career Academy in Brunswick and plans are developing to expand the college into its own campus facility on land adjacent to its current location. Altamaha Technical College anticipates that a community the size of Glynn County will enable the college to reach almost 4,000 students.

Altamaha Technical College's strategic mission empowers existing industry, businesses, medical organizations and individuals to thrive in the face of this tough economy and global competition. Here are some notable facts and figures about Altamaha Technical College:

- More than 80 percent of Altamaha Technical College students receive financial aid, including funding through the HOPE Grant and Scholarship Program. Additional scholarships are available from the Altamaha Technical College Foundation and other federal, state and private sources.

- Altamaha Technical College supports existing businesses and industries with customized corporate contract training – designed exclusively for each workplace. Courses offered match the organization's

needs – ranging from soft skills to highly technical skills, like lean manufacturing, nuclear maintenance and laser realignment.

- Altamaha Technical College creates instant taxpayers because our students get jobs. A little over 98 percent of our graduates are hired in the area they are trained. A job placement specialist on staff helps students and graduates fine-tune their resumes, polish their interviewing skills and connect with employers.

- Since opening, 234 Glynn County high school students have taken advantage of Altamaha Technical College's dual-enrollment program. Students pursuing a job or an early start to college can take Altamaha Technical College classes while attending high school. Some of the college's dual-enrollment coursework is offered at the Golden Isles Career Academy, using work-based learning and apprenticeships.

- There are more than 8,000 Glynn County citizens over the age of 25 without a high school diploma or GED. Since 2010, the college's five Academic Support Centers in Glynn County have served more than 2,100 citizens. These centers provide free tutoring and GED test preparation.

- Classes are offered day, evening and online. The fast pace of our degree programs

is another attraction; students can earn a certificate in as little as six weeks and a degree in two years.


- Programs offered at the Golden Isles Campus include machine tool technology, welding, business administrative technology, medical assisting, EMT/paramedicine, practical nursing, cosmetology, marketing/management, criminal justice, drafting, commercial truck driving, industrial systems technology, air conditioning (HVAC), culinary arts, computer information systems and automotive technology.

Altamaha Technical College encourages prospective students to speak to an admissions counselor by calling 912-280-4000. Altamaha Tech representatives want to talk to you about your future and how you can gain the skills and training you need to succeed. Look for the college on the Web at [www.altamahatech.edu](http://www.altamahatech.edu) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/altamahatech](http://www.facebook.com/altamahatech). The Golden Isles campus at the Golden Isles Career Academy is located at 4404 Glynco Parkway in Glynn County.

(Portions of this article are printed with permission from the Brunswick/Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce Relocation.)

– Provided by  
Altamaha Technical College

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Classes are offered both day, evening and online with financial aid available through the HOPE Grant and HOPE Scholarship. For more information on our programs and courses, please give us a call today or stop by for your personal tour of our campus.

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EXCEL  
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IMAGE

# Two colleges are transforming community

By **MICHAEL HALL**  
The Brunswick News

College of Coastal Georgia President Valerie Hepburn would like to see her school turn Brunswick into a college town, instead of it being a town with a college.

After spending time in places like Athens and Milledgeville, Hepburn has seen how a college can create a vibrant cultural community in an area.

"Colleges not only bring the vitality of college students, but there are just more things for people in those communities to do," Hepburn said.

The rich slate of cultural and athletic events colleges attract give residents of those areas more outlets for entertainment and education, she added.

College of Coastal Georgia is well on its way to creating that atmosphere already, Hepburn said.

Several cultural events, such as a one-woman play about Harriet Tubman, a talk by former head of the Rwandan parliament Joseph Sabarenzi and concerts associated with the Coastal Youth Symphony are examples of what is to come as the college grows, Hepburn said.

Beyond events and the addition of youth summer camps, the addition of students who are active members of the community is invaluable, she added.

"We want students engaged in all facets of the community," Hepburn said. "We are seeing a lot of that through our service learning program. The buildings on campus are nice, but the best moments are when students and graduates make an impact."

Students are also great for economic

development by creating a healthy business environment, Hepburn said.

"They shop here, eat here and work here through internships. Students can be a valuable asset. Colleges just make a place better," Hepburn said.

They are also an asset to the work force. Places like GSI Commerce and Sea Island Co. hire a lot of College of Coastal Georgia students, she said.

Altamaha Technical College contributes

greatly to work force development, as well, through the certificates, diplomas and associate degrees offered there, said president Lorette Hoover.

"Seventy percent of the work force requires more than a high school diploma, but less than a bachelor's degree," Hoover said.

Her school has operated a campus in Glynn County since 2009, at the Golden Isles Career Academy, and is planning to begin construction of its own campus next year.

"Anywhere there is a college town with a four-year college, there tends to be a technical college there, as well," Hoover said.

Technical colleges have taken the place of Georgia's former community college system by offering those students not seeking a four-year college education lower-cost and flexible options for post-secondary education, Hoover said.

She has also discovered Glynn County holds its colleges dear. Hoover has been overwhelmed by the community's support for the college through generous gifts to the Altamaha Technical College Foundation.

"College towns are known for their generosity, and that has shown in the help we have received in getting our campus here," Hoover said.



The Brunswick News/File

Students on campus at College of Coastal Georgia are also part of the larger Glynn County community.



## Interested in learning about careers in health care?

Southeast Georgia Health System and the Coastal District of Boy Scouts of America host a Medical Explorer's Post that provides valuable insight into a variety of professional health care fields. This fun, interactive program is available to local students ages 14-21.

**Location:** Southeast Georgia Health System  
Linda S. Pinson Conference Center  
2415 Parkwood Drive, Brunswick, GA 31520

**Dates:** Third Tuesday of each month, October-May

**Time:** 6-8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10 for the year



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7/2012



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