

# NEWS RELEASE

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*Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020*

## ***Elementary school technology coming online in 2008***

**Gwinnett County Public Schools** (GCPS) continues this school year its process to modernize school technology. With the 2008-09 school year weeks away, nine elementary schools will open the school year with extensive technology upgrades. This first group includes the following elementary schools: Annistown Elementary, Grayson Elementary, Harbins Elementary, Lawrenceville Elementary, McKendree Elementary, R.L. Norton Elementary, Henry Partee Elementary, Pharr Elementary, and Simonton Elementary. (The retrofit of existing high schools and middle schools occurred over the last two years and the system will continue its focus on upgrading remaining elementary schools over the next year.) This refreshment of older technology will improve everything from the school network infrastructure to classroom technology, stretching every penny spent on technology in schools.

Along with a new standard classroom computer and printer, classroom display technology also is being updated. Ceiling-mounted projectors will replace outdated classroom television sets, making it possible to display instructional videos and materials up to 60" wide. The projector also will display cable channels and local school-based broadcasts along with instructional software and presentations from the teacher's laptop. The combination of updated network, new computers, and ceiling-mounted projectors paves the way for future instructional technologies, added interactive capability in the classroom, and more student engagement in daily lessons.

In addition to refreshing technology at existing facilities, technology initiatives will provide classroom technology to support student instruction in three new facilities (Puckett's Mill, Rosebud, and Trip elementary schools) and replacement facilities opening this school year (Benefield elementary and Lanier middle). Additionally, systemwide technology improvements are on the horizon to support growing information needs. Ensuring the safe, secure collection and sharing of information with all school system stakeholders while following all state and federal guidelines continues to be a priority for the school system.



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437 Old Peachtree Road, NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
678-301-6000  
[www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

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