



# #OconeeStrong



February 2021



## Thanks for helping *Keep Oconee Open* and our community safe!

Thanks to our supportive community, Oconee County Schools has now been opened for 115 days for in-person instruction. As of last Friday, 98.74% of in-person students and staff were not actively diagnosed with COVID-19 or quarantined as a result of being a close contact.

"Working in partnership with our families, students, and staff, we continue to have a safe and successful school year," said Superintendent Jason L. Branch. "We are so appreciative of the support of our entire school community in helping us mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and look forward to the rest of the second semester."

The COVID-19 weekly status report is posted each Friday afternoon on the Opening Oconee webpage located [here](#).

Both in and out of school, the following gives us the best chance to *Keep Oconee Open* and our community safe:

- Mask Up, Oconee
- Maintain physical distance
- Stay home when sick
- Sanitize hands regularly

# ELOST VI March 16

ELOST VI will be **voted on** in Oconee County on March 16. Early voting is from February 22-March 12.

If ELOST VI passes, the following projects will be possible:

- Construction of Dove Creek Middle School
- Classroom additions to: Colham Ferry Elementary School, High Shoals Elementary School, and Malcom Bridge Elementary School
- Renovations to: Malcom Bridge Elementary School, Oconee County Elementary School, and Rocky Branch Elementary School
- Construction of Instructional Support Center
- Buses
- Technology

For more details, please [click here](#).

## GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Celebrating the **Class of 2021**



**7:45 p.m. in  
High School Stadiums**



### Graduation Ceremony dates announced

Oconee County Schools is pleased to announce graduation information for the Class of 2021.

Ceremonies will be held at 7:45 p.m. in high school stadiums (unless Stegeman Coliseum is able to be secured). Ticket information is being shared from the school level.

Oconee County High School:  
Fri., May 21 (Rain Date - Sun., May 23)

North Oconee High School:  
Sat., May 22 (Rain Date - Mon., May 24)

## Winter Break



### January-February 2021 Highlights

We have had a great start to the spring semester! Check out this short video for highlights from around the school system and all 11 schools.

Click above or [here](#) to check it out!



### Board Meeting videos now online

As of Feb. 1, 2021, monthly Oconee County Board of Education work sessions and regular meetings can be found on the district's [YouTube channel](#).

Meetings will be posted the day following the Board meeting and are also linked from the main page of the Oconee County Schools website, as well as under the Board drop-down link.



## #SustainedExcellence

### Students interview their grandmother who was in the first graduating class of African-Americans at OCHS



Ms. Hallie Adams was in the first Oconee County High School graduating class of African-Americans. Recently, her granddaughters - Oconee County Elementary School sisters Britain and England - interviewed their grandmother in celebration of Black History Month. Ms. Adams is a minister and retired educator and we are proud she is an Oconee County alumna.

### North Oconee High students nominated to U.S. service academies



Congratulations to these three outstanding young men from North Oconee High School (Classes of 2020 and 2021) who have been officially nominated by Rep. Jody Hice for appointment to United States Service Academies.

### District Science Fair Winners



Congratulations to the district science fair winners! Students photographed from L-R are Annabelle (High Shoals Elementary School), Elinor (Colham Ferry Elementary School), MJ (Malcom Bridge Middle School), and Juliana (Oconee County High School).

### Distance Learning Students



Distance/digital learners are doing a great job this semester. We are very proud of their hard work.

### High Shoals Jr. Beta Club makes Blessing Bags for healthcare heroes



Thanks to an incredibly supportive school community, the HSES Jr. Beta Club made 170 Blessing Bags, chock full of goodies for local healthcare heroes. HSES delivered the bags to St. Mary's, Piedmont Athens Regional, the Oconee County Health Department, and Oconee EMS. We love our healthcare heroes!



## Social-emotional learning at Oconee County Middle



*Grit: strength and determination to push through challenges*

All students at Oconee County Middle School recently participated in homeroom discussions about grit, including complimenting fellow classmates who had shown grit. Students engage weekly in social-emotional lessons as part of a districtwide expansion of social-emotional learning taking place at all middle and high schools.

### Students compete in district spelling bee

## DISTRICT SPELLING BEE PARTICIPANTS AND WINNERS



**WINNER: Neetyaa - OCMS**

**2ND PLACE: Rachel - MBMS**

**3RD PLACE: Hudson - MBES**

Congratulations to our district spelling bee winners and all the school-level winners! The overall district winner was Neetyaa from Oconee County Middle School. She will represent Oconee County Schools at the regional bee.



### Quick Links for Easy Reference

- [Board Meeting Videos](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [itslearning](#)
- [Keep Oconee Open Guide](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [PowerSchool](#)
- [Transportation](#)



# MASK UP, **O****C****O****N****E****E**

## HELP KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS HEALTHY

### **Oconee County Schools**

34 School Street, P.O. Box 146, Watkinsville, GA 30677

[www.oconeeschools.org](http://www.oconeeschools.org)

P: 706.769.5130

F: 706.769.3500

**Follow Us!**

