

# #OCONEEFAMILY

Oconee County Schools Newsletter  
November 2023

## National Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools of Excellence

Oconee County Primary and Oconee County Elementary have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools of Excellence. They earned the recognition based on nine categories of the Blueprint for Excellence: Student Focus and Support; School Organization and Culture; Challenging Standards and Curriculum; Active Teaching and Learning; Technology Integration; Professional Community; Leadership and Educational Vitality; School, Community, and Family Partnerships; and Indicators of Success. Since 2003, 289 schools nationwide have been chosen as Lighthouse Schools of Excellence — and now eight are from Oconee County.



## School Choice Window Open

Oconee County Schools has opened its Public School Choice window. Through Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at 4 p.m., individuals may submit a request to have their child transferred to another public school within the school system. Visit the [OCS website](https://ocneeschools.org/schoolchoice) for more information, the transfer form, and frequently asked questions.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE WINDOW OPEN

DEADLINE: JAN. 19, 2024

[OCNEESCHOOLS.ORG/SCHOOLCHOICE](https://ocneeschools.org/schoolchoice)



## U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Eight Oconee County schools have been ranked by U.S. News & World Report as 2024 Best Elementary Schools and 2024 Best Middle Schools. Each placed among the Top 40 percent in the state based on a U.S. News formula that included proficiencies in mathematics and reading. Earlier this year, U.S. News & World Report included Oconee County and North Oconee

on its Best High Schools list.

## Thanksgiving Feasts

The School Nutrition Department provided 7,427 meals served during Thanksgiving feasts on our campuses, and we salute each team member and the school leaders for their efforts. We thoroughly enjoyed having community members visit our campuses for these special meals. We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving!



## National, State Championships

Congratulations to these recent champions:

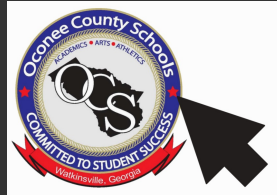
- **Emi Walker** and **Hazel Brubaker**, representing Malcom Bridge Middle, won the FFA National Agriscience Fair Plant Systems Division II title with a soybeans project.
- The Oconee County High boys cross country team claimed the Class AAA state crown with four runners in the Top 10, including winner **Cooper Timberman** and third-place finisher **Aaron Brodrick**.
- The North Oconee one-act play troupe won the Class AAAA state title for "Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe." **Max Patrick**, who portrayed Poe, was named Best Actor, and **Lydia Peck** and **Sydney Singer** were chosen for the All-Star Cast.

## November News & Notes ...

- **Rachel Carter** of Oconee County Elementary, **Ami Rivera** of Dove Creek Elementary, and **Merci Johnson** of Rocky Branch Elementary were recognized as 2024 Don Cargil Scholars and will receive \$500 from Georgia Youth Science & Technology Centers to further outfit their STEM classrooms.
- **Heather Bui** of Dove Creek Elementary was chosen for the 2023-2024 Teacher Policy Fellowship, a unique nine-month professional learning opportunity, by the Georgia Department of Education.
- Oconee County and North Oconee high schools received Silver level Advanced Placement School Honor Roll recognition for 2022-23.

## Board Meetings Available Online

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 additionally are linked from the main page of the Oconee County Schools [website](#).



#### Quick Links For Easy Reference

- [Board Meeting Videos](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [Infinite Campus](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Canvas](#)

#### Oconee County Schools

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