



2026-2027
School Year



CCSD Administration

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K-8 Complex



912-685-5050
33661 Hwy 129 South

Metter Elementary School
www.metter.org/o/mes

Jennifer Lewis, Principal
jlewis@metter.org

Cassandra Donaldson, Asst. Principal
cdonaldson@metter.org

Eric McNair, Asst. Principal
emcnair@metter.org

of Students: 979
of Staff: 140

Metter Middle School
www.metter.org/o/mms

Dr. Will Thigpen, Principal
wthigpen@metter.org

Miranda Rigdon, Asst. Principal
mrigdon@metter.org

of Students: 472
of Staff: 52



High School



912-685-2134
34905 Hwy 129 South

Metter High School
www.metter.org/o/mhs

Zach Rackett, Principal
zrackett@metter.org

Scott Waters, Asst. Principal
swaters@metter.org

Autumn Chicola, Career Dev & Asst. Principal
achicola@metter.org

of Students: 453
of Staff: 59

Metter College & Career Academy
www.metter.org/o/mcca

Zach Rackett, Principal
zrackett@metter.org

Tom Golden, CEO & Asst. Principal
tomgolden@metter.org

of Students: 179
of Staff: 10



Dr. John Jordan
Superintendent

It is an honor to begin my first year serving as Superintendent of Candler County Schools. This district and community mean a great deal to my family and I, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role. As we begin a new school year, I do so with great appreciation for the strong foundation that has already been built and with excitement for the work ahead.

There is much to celebrate across Candler County Schools. Across our district, students are provided meaningful opportunities to grow academically, socially, artistically, and athletically. From our continued focus on literacy and high-quality instruction to career development, fine arts, athletics, leadership, and soft skills, our schools are preparing students not only for success in the classroom but also for success in life.

At the heart of every great school system are people. Our teachers, leaders, support staff, coaches, sponsors, parents, Board of Education, and community partners all play an important role in helping students reach their full potential. I am thankful for the dedication, care, and commitment shown each day by those who serve our students.

We believe our greatest responsibility is to ensure that every decision we make supports student learning, student safety, and student success. We remain committed to providing safe, supportive schools where students and staff can learn, grow, and thrive each day. We will continue to build on the positive momentum of our district while also looking for ways to improve, innovate, and provide meaningful opportunities for all students.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools. I am excited about the year ahead and look forward to working alongside everyone as we continue moving Candler County Schools forward. Together, we will continue to Win at Everything!



Candler County **Board of Education**



Craig Lanier
Chairman, District 3



Cheryl Hendricks
Member, District 1



Brenda Brown
Member, District 2



Chris West
Member, District 4



Jason Douglas
Member, District 5



At each Board Workshop, held the third Tuesday of each month, a 4H student opens the meeting with a prayer and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Above, Emsley King poses for a quick photo with the Board after a Board Workshop. Board Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month.



Agosto

- 3 - Primer día de escuela
- 9 - Fotografías de deportes de otoño de MHS
- 18 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 20 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación

Septiembre

- 7 - Vacaciones escolares (Día del Trabajo)
- 8 - Jornada de aprendizaje profesional (sin estudiantes)
- 8 - Anuncio del Maestro del Año del Distrito
- 8 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobierno Escolar de MMS
- 8 - Conferencias de Padres y Maestros de MMS
- 8 - Orientación para padres de MES/MMS/MHS/MCCA y Noche de Título 1
- 11 - Fotos de otoño de MES
- 14 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobierno Escolar de MES
- 14-18 - Semana de bienvenida
- 15 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 16 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobierno Escolar de MHS/MCCA
- 17 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación
- 24 - Fotos de otoño de MMS
- 29-30 Semana de bienvenida

Octubre

- 2 - Fin de las primeras 9 semanas
- 11 - Semana Nacional del Almuerzo Escolar
- 13 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 15 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación
- 16 - Copa de las Casas de MMS
- 18 - Semana Nacional de la Seguridad en el Autobús Escolar
- 19 - Vacaciones escolares (Escuelas cerradas)
- 21 - Jornada de aprendizaje profesional (sin estudiantes)
- 21 - Conferencias de padres y maestros de MES
- 21 - Reunión del equipo de gobierno escolar de MMS
- 25 - Semana del Listón Rojo
- 30 - Evento "Travesuras o dulces" de MES

Noviembre

- 7 - Concurso de actos de la Región Uno de MHS
- 11 - Programa del Día de los Veteranos de MES
- 16 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobernanza Escolar del MES
- 17 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 18 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobernanza Escolar del MHS/MCCA
- 19 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación
- 20 - Almuerzo de Acción de Gracias de MMS
- 23-27 Vacaciones escolares (Día de Acción de Gracias)

Diciembre

- 2-3 - Hitos de MHS/MCCA: literatura
- 8 - Hitos de MHS/MCCA: Historia de los EE. UU.
- 9 - Hitos de MHS/MCCA: Biología
- 10 - Hitos de MHS/MCCA: conceptos y conexiones del álgebra
- 11 - Almuerzo Navideño Familiar de MES (Preescolar a 1.º Grado)
- 14 - Almuerzo Navideño Familiar de MES (2.º a 5.º Grado)
- 15 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 16 - Fin del segundo periodo de nueve semanas
- 16 - Copa de las Casas de MMS
- 17 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación
- 17 - Jornada de aprendizaje profesional (sin estudiantes)
- 18-31 Vacaciones escolares (Navidad)

*Enero*

- 1-4 Vacaciones escolares (Año Nuevo)
- 5-6 Jornada de aprendizaje profesional (sin estudiantes)
- 6 - Reunión del equipo de gobernanza escolar del MES y MMS
- 6 - Conferencias de padres y maestros de MES y MMS
- 13 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobernanza Escolar del MHS/MCCA
- 18 - Vacaciones escolares (Día de MLK Jr.)
- 19 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 21 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación

Febrero

- 16 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 18 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación
- 19 - Día de la fotografía de la clase de MES
- 24 - Jornada de aprendizaje profesional (sin estudiantes)
- 25-26 Vacaciones escolares

Marzo

- 1 - Comienza la inscripción para preescolar
- 1 - Semana Nacional del Desayuno Escolar
- 2 - Semana de la Lectura en Estados Unidos
- 10 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobierno Escolar de MHS/MCCA
- 15 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobierno Escolar de MES
- 16 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 18 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación
- 18 - Evento del Día de la Agricultura del MES
- 22 - Jornada de aprendizaje profesional (sin estudiantes)
- 20 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobernanza Escolar del MMS
- 26 - Fotos de primavera de MES

Abril

- 7 - Día de campo MES (3.º - 5.º grado)
- 8 - Día de campo MES (Preescolar - 2.º grado)
- 9 - Jornada de aprendizaje profesional (sin estudiantes)
- 12-16 Vacaciones escolares (Vacaciones de primavera)
- 28 - Hitos de MMS: Ciencias
- 29 - Hitos de MMS: Estudios Sociales (8.º grado)
- 30 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobierno Escolar de MMS

Mayo

- 4-5 Hitos del MES: ELA (3.º a 5.º grado)
- 5-6 Hitos de MHS/MCCA: literatura
- 6 - Hitos del MES: Matemáticas (3.º a 5.º grado)
- 6 - Hitos del MMS: Matemáticas
- 7 - Fotografías de togas y birretes de estudiantes de último año de MHS/MCCA
- 7 - Marcha de los estudiantes de último año de MHS/MCCA
- 9 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- 11 - Hitos de MHS/MCCA: Historia de EE. UU.
- 12 - Hitos de MHS/MCCA: Biología
- 12 - Bachillerato Superior MHS/MCCA
- 13 - Hitos de MMS (8.º grado)/MHS/MCCA: Álgebra
- 15 - Graduación de MHS/MCCA
- 17 - Reunión del equipo de gobernanza escolar de MES y reunión de evaluación integral de necesidades
- 18 - Taller de la Junta de Educación
- 20 - Reunión de la Junta de Educación
- 20 - Noche de Honores de MMS
- 20 - Día de Honores para MHS/MCCA (9.º a 11.º Grado)
- 21 - Ceremonia de Promoción de 5.º Grado de MES
- 24 - Ceremonia de Despedida de MMS (8.º Grado)
- 25 - Reunión del Equipo de Gobierno Escolar de MMS
- 25 - Último Día de Clases



Metter Elementary School

At MES, we will foster a compassionate and inclusive environment where every student is empowered to reach their fullest potential. We are dedicated to nurturing a love for literacy and numeracy, encouraging continuous growth, and celebrating achievements.



Metter Middle School

The mission of Metter Middle School is to provide an engaging and supportive learning environment that fosters growth through a commitment to accountability, positive relationships, and collaboration among all stakeholders.



Metter High School

Our vision is for all students to meet or exceed Georgia Accountability measures, for the graduation rate to continuously improve, exceeding 90% or above, and for the system to perform on or above state averages in all subject areas.



Metter College & Career Academy

The mission of Metter College & Career Academy is to attract high-performing teachers and new business and industry, and our graduates will be prepared to continue post-secondary options and/or pursue gainful employment through a variety of CTAE offerings and a broad based soft skills curriculum.





August 2026



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationIsBetterinMetter

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

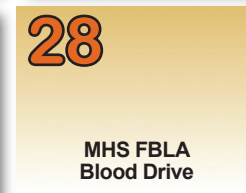
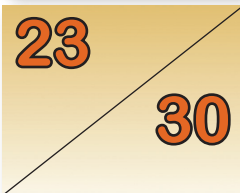


Find us on
Facebook

Candler County Schools
Metter Elementary School
Metter Middle School
Metter High School
Metter College & Career Academy



Find us on
Instagram



 Teachers of the Year



2026-2027
Metter Elementary School
Teacher of the Year
Mrs. Beth Phillips

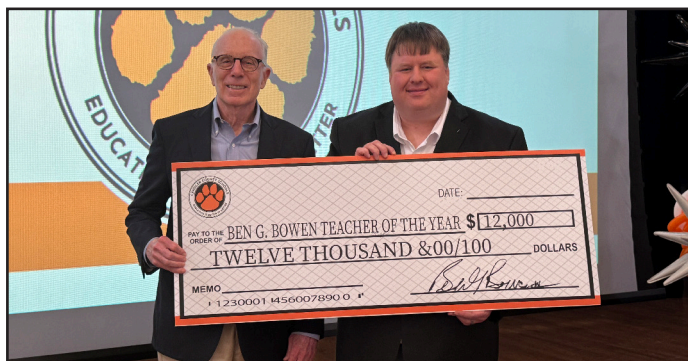


2026-2027
Metter Middle School
Teacher of the Year
Mrs. Haley Todd



2026-2027
Metter High School
Metter College &
Career Academy
Teacher of the Year
Mr. Blake Jeffers

Dr. Vic Fordham named Ben G. Bowen Teacher of the Year for 2025-2026



In September 2025, faculty and staff of Candler County Schools (CCSD) joined together at the Metter Pre-K-8 facility to celebrate the naming of the recipients of the Ben G. Bowen Teacher of the Year Award and the Billy and Joann Hickman Teacher of the Year Finalists.

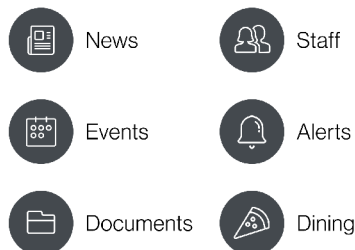
Dr. Vic Fordham, social studies teacher at Metter High School, was named the CCSD Teacher of the Year for 2025-2026. Dr. Fordham was awarded \$12,000 by Mr. Ben G. Bowen, a 1964 graduate of Metter High School.

Additionally, the Candler County Teacher of the Year finalists, Metter Elementary School's Casey Moore and Metter Middle School's Terrance Green were each presented with checks for \$3000. The financial awards given to the finalists are the result of the generosity of State Representative Billy Hickman and his wife Jo Ann Hickman of Statesboro.

"Teaching runs in the family," stated Dr. Vic Fordham in his video segment, referencing his mother Joy Ferry's long career in education. Others whom Fordham lists as mentors are longtime Metter educators Linda Webb and the late Jake Lovett. He also referred to his ability to teach as a gift from God.

He said, "Students learn better from teachers they know who care." The relationships are the most important part of teaching to the social studies teacher. "Relationships are the ministry of teaching," he concluded.

It's everything Candler County Schools, in your pocket.

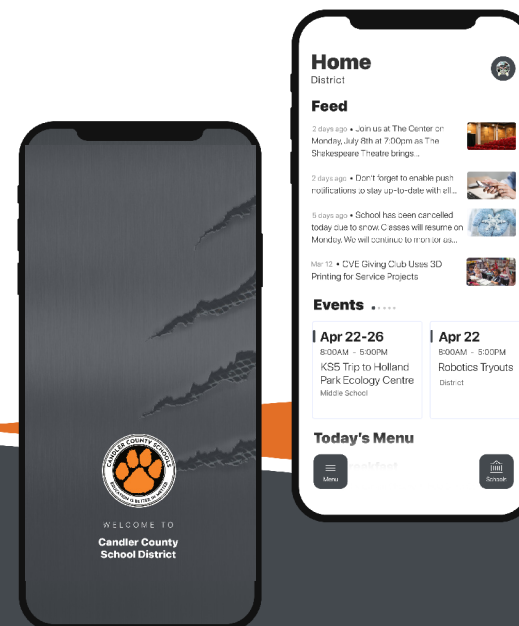


Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



Download the **Candler County School District** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.



Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is the Candler County School District's Student Information System. This system includes Parent, Student, and Staff Portals which provide families and staff with real-time access to GRADES ATTENDANCE & MORE

You can download the app on your phone (Campus Parent or Campus Student) or you can access it at www.metter.org and click on "Student Registration" and then click on "Returning Students."

If you need your password reset, please visit www.metter.org and click on "Student Registration" and follow the instructions.





September 2026



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationisBetterinMetter

Sunday

Monday

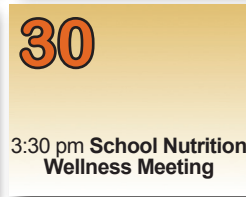
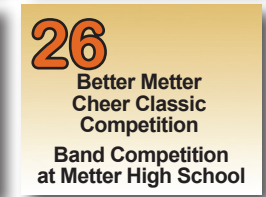
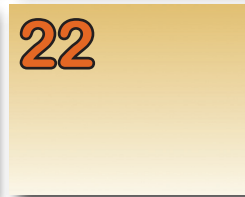
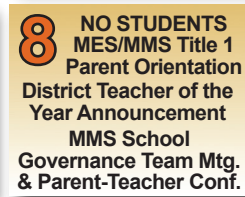
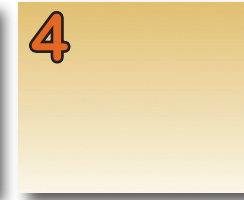
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Our students lit up the stage with incredible performances—singing, dancing, acrobatics, and even a little magic! A special shoutout to our third grade team who walked on the wild side with their fun and energetic dance to “Zoo”—they brought the house down! We are so proud of all of our students who had the courage to step on stage and share their talents. MES is full of stars!

A big shout-out to Dr. Trey Kirkland's Ag class at MHS/MCCA for building a trellis for Metter Elementary School's muscadine grapevines! Their hard work and dedication to this project really shows collaborative, hands-on education is better in Metter! Elementary Ag students will be able to taste the fruits of their labor once the vines start producing! We can't wait!



Teach for America Visits Candler County Schools

Teach For America educators from across the country visited Candler County Schools to learn what makes the district successful. About 60 visitors came from rural school systems in 22 states to see how Candler County's "Win at Everything" approach works in real classrooms.

The feedback from the visit was extremely positive. Every participant agreed that the visit was well-organized and useful, and all said they could take ideas back to use in their own schools. They also said the experience helped them think more deeply about leadership in rural districts.



Coveted Golden Tickets Presented to Two Seniors

We are incredibly proud to share that Angel Galvan (Left) and Isaac Mosley (Right) were presented with "Golden Tickets" from CW Matthews Contracting!



Angel and Isaac were selected through a competitive application process based on their character, leadership, work ethic, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Even more impressive — they were 2 of only 32 students in the entire state to receive a Golden Ticket!

This honor granted them the opportunity to attend the all-expense-paid Shining Star Leadership Conference in Brunswick last school year. The conference is designed for seniors in the HEO program who are interested in entering the workforce.

During the conference, they: Operated heavy machinery; Met the company owner and vice presidents; Participated in job interviews; Gained real-world, hands-on industry experience.

MES Trunk or Treat





October 2026



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationisBetterinMetter

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

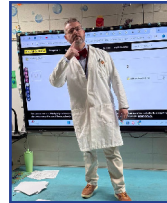
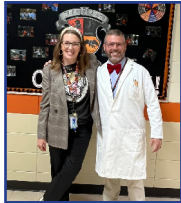
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Best Day Ever at
MMS....Science
Teacher Rebecca
Hickman as Principal,
and Dr. Will as
Science Teacher!



1

School Day PSAT

2



End of 1st 9 Weeks

3

4

5



National
4-H Week!

6

7

8

School Day SAT

9

10

11



National School
Lunch Week

12

MES Fall Picture
Retakes

13

Board Workshop 8 am

14

15

Board Meeting 5 pm

16

MMS House Cup

17

18



National School
Bus Safety Week

19

School
Holiday

20

School
Holiday

21

NO STUDENTS
Professional
Learning
MES Parent-Teacher
Conferences
MMS School
Governance Team Mtg.

22

23

24

25



Red Ribbon Week

26

27

MHS/MCCA Clubs
Picture Day

28

29

30

MES Trunk or Treat

31



Candler County students
who are in 4th grade and up
can join 4H to learn life and
career skills through
hands-on learning in agriculture,
STEM, leadership, and civic
engagement--while having a
great time!



MHS/MCCA students toured the Ace Electric
fabrication warehouse in Valdosta to learn
more about Ace and their services. A little
hands-on experience allowed the students to
find out what they liked and didn't like about
electrical work. CCSD is grateful to Ace and
companies like them that support our future
workforce!

Candler County Education Foundation



www.metter.org

The Education Foundation was created in 2006 to promote and support educationally enriching experiences for our students. The donations and grants are disbursed through an application process to teachers and staff members who are doing wonderful things in our school district. Over the past 18 years, the Education Foundation has funded over \$500,000 in projects and activities! Please consider donating today!



Candler County
Foundation for
Public Education

\$45,000

\$22,500

\$19,000+ given by teachers/staff

\$0

THANK YOU!!!



To Donate: visit www.metter.org
(Click on Education Foundation)
or mail a check to
P.O. Box 21, Metter, GA 30439



**Changing lives
by funding
innovative
learning
opportunities.**



In 2025-2026, the Foundation was able to contribute to these opportunities and more!

- **Future Georgia Educators Knowledge Bowl**
- **FLEX Entrepreneurship Program State Competition**
- **MES & MMS Robotics**
- **MHS Thesbian Conference**
- **MMS Amazing Shake**
- **MES Music Class Keyboards**
- **MMS Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl**
- **MES Art Program**
- **MHS/MCCA Germany Exchange Program**
- **MES K5 Career Day**
- **MMS Youth Assembly**
- **MHS Robotics World Competition**
- **MCCA Forklift Training Class**



November 2026



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationIsBetterinMetter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 MHS FBLA Blood Drive	7 MHS Region One Act Competition
8	9	10	11 VETERANS DAY MES Veterans Day Program	12	13	14
15	16 MES School Governance Team Mtg.	17 Board Workshop 8 am	18 MHS/MCCA School Governance Team Mtg.	19 Board Meeting 5 pm	20 MMS Thanksgiving Family Luncheon	21
22	23 School Holiday	24	25	26	27 School Holiday	28
29	30	THANKFUL <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>				



MES students and staff were proud to welcome the brave men and women who have served our country with courage, commitment, and extraordinary sacrifice. During the program, Mrs. Crystal Faulkner's 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Music students performed a tribute to Veterans that highlighted several 5th grade soloists. Mrs. Sherry Tyler's 2nd grade Tiger Time students read poems and saluted our Veterans.

The Candler County Literacy Council would like to remind parents of our Tiny Tiger Cub Club Program—a program designed to help families access literacy resources that support babies in building a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

The Tiny Tiger Cub Club recognizes students with new siblings as important literacy and learning role models. Participating Tiny Tiger Cub Club families will receive a certificate honoring the student, along with simple ideas for how they can support early reading at home.

If you have a student at one of our schools and they have a new baby brother or new baby sister, please ask them to tell their teacher so the teacher can notify our Tiny Tiger Cub Club coordinator.



Hernandez Speaks at GSBA Conference Over the Summer



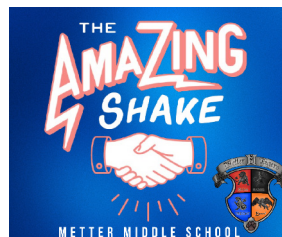
Recent Metter High School graduate Giovani Hernandez served as the featured speaker during the General Session of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Conference during the Summer.

Hernandez shared how the unique opportunities available at Metter High School helped shape his future, including his participation in the ACE Electric AMPED Program. As a junior, Hernandez was encouraged to apply for the competitive summer internship program, which provides high school juniors and seniors with hands-on industry training, workforce development experience, and educational opportunities in the electrical field.

The AMPED Program partners with local high school Work-Based Learning programs and Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro. Participants gain high-demand job skills, real-world experience, and placement on a preferred hiring list upon successful completion of the program.

Following his graduation, Hernandez was invited to continue with the AMPED Program this summer. In the fall, he plans to attend Ogeechee Technical College to pursue a diploma in Electrical Systems Technology. Hernandez hopes to eventually become a project manager with ACE Electric and believes the AMPED Program is helping him build the foundation to achieve that goal.

During his time at Metter High School, Hernandez completed the Agricultural Mechanics Systems pathway, excelled as a standout soccer player, and earned the Honor Graduate distinction.



MMS Amazing Shake!

The Amazing Shake is a contest that places an emphasis on teaching students manners, discipline, respect, and professional conduct. Through the Amazing

Shake, students are introduced to the nuances of professional human interaction as they are taught various skills such as how to give a proper hand-shake, how to provide high-quality answers in interviews, and how to remain composed under pressure.

After the initial round, Round 2 students will experience numerous tests and challenges as they interact with community professionals from local businesses

in "The Gauntlet," a creative course consisting of approximately 12 stations. At each station, students will have 60 seconds to provide their best display of professional tact with the hope of earning respectable scores from the community judges. Students also participated in "working the room" with community business leaders, engaging in round-robin style speed questioning, and delivering speeches.

Participating in The Amazing Shake helps students build confidence, poise, and essential communication skills, preparing them for future opportunities.

Our Champion last year was Daylen Harris. He and the four finalists, Isabella Harper, Ava Cliett, Hagan Anderson, and Ezra Jeffers, advanced to represent MMS at the Global Amazing Shake Competition in Atlanta at the Ron Clark Academy.





December 2026



#WINatEVERYTHING
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Sunday

Monday

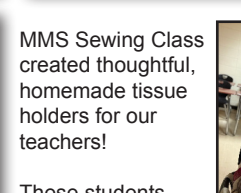
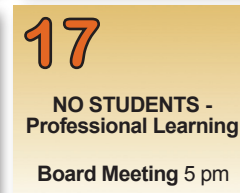
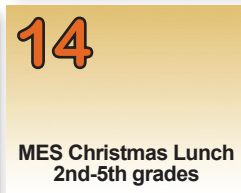
Tuesday

Wednesday

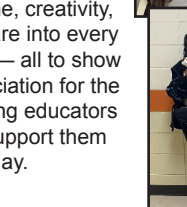
Thursday

Friday

Saturday



MHS FCCLA participated in their community service project at Azalea Nursing Home, spreading Christmas cheer! Members played Christmas Bingo, ornament volleyball, and sang carols through the halls.



MMS Sewing Class created thoughtful, homemade tissue holders for our teachers!

These students put time, creativity, and care into every stitch — all to show appreciation for the amazing educators who support them each day.



MES Teachers Attend Artemis II Launch

Artemis II was NASA's historic crewed test flight that successfully carried a team of four astronauts around the Moon and safely back to Earth. As the first human mission to travel to the Moon in more than 50 years, it marked a major milestone in space exploration and paved the way for future lunar surface missions.



Our own "Space Experts" were there to witness this unforgettable launch! Mrs. Cheryl Cobb and Mrs. Robin Goodman traveled to Florida in April to watch Artemis II lift off. They quickly became fan favorites among the crowd thanks to their distinctive flight suits from Educator Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

While they may not be astronauts, this dynamic duo gained a wealth of knowledge about space exploration during their training and experiences. They brought that excitement and learning back to Metter Elementary School, where they shared their passion for space with our kindergarten students and hopefully inspired the next generation of explorers.

REACH Scholars Named for 2025-2026

*Congratulations to our newest
REACH Scholars (l-r):
Alyson Edenfield; Nadeline Marks;
Carmencita Fann; Jocabed Martinez;
and Kaden Parrish*



In November, Metter Middle School proudly held its Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship signing ceremony for five outstanding eighth-graders.

REACH Scholars commit to maintaining at least a 2.5 HOPE-calculated GPA, following a rigorous academic path, and upholding excellent attendance and behavior. They also pledge to stay focused and prepare for success in post-secondary education.

Students who complete the REACH program and graduate from high school will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship—a powerful investment in their future.

MHS/MCCA Family and Consumer Science Students Learn from the Experts



MHS/MCCA Family and Consumer Science students got to learn the principals of canning and preserving from Candler County Extension Agent Ashleigh Geurin. Students were able to make and enjoy strawberry freezer jam. They also got a special treat from Mr. O'Conner as he shared the secrets of his trade and taught our students the art of making delicious homemade bagels!

MHS/MCCA Students Participate in Mock Interviews with Local Businesses



The experience gave students valuable practice in interview skills, resume development, and overcoming interview nerves. The participating companies were impressed with the students' preparation and professionalism. Opportunities like these help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world experience. A huge thank you to the businesses and organizations for taking time out of their busy schedules to invest in our students' futures.



January 2027



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationIsBetterinMetter

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

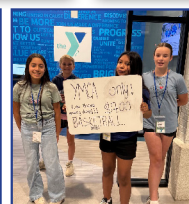
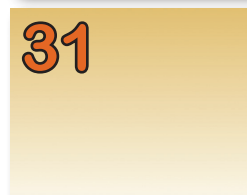
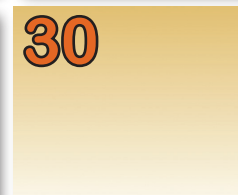
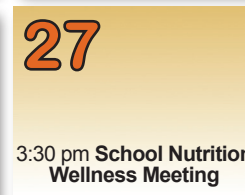
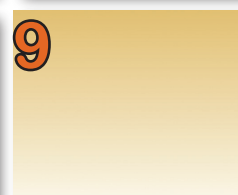
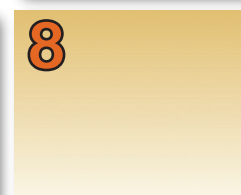
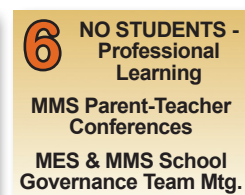
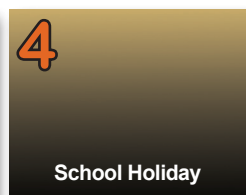
Saturday



MES took time to thank and celebrate their Cafeteria staff this past year. We are all very thankful for the service they provide each day!



Performing Arts ROCKED the stage through their One Act Play and their Community Play, as they do each year!



MMS 6th grade students stepped into the real world at JA Biztown on the Armstrong Campus of Georgia Southern University, where they became CEOs, bankers, and more!

From managing finances to collaborating with teammates, they experienced firsthand what it means to be responsible, hardworking members of a community. We are so proud of the way they represented our school with leadership, confidence, and integrity.



Our Tiger Mascot is always loved on!





Metter Tiger Athletics

Overall, Metter Athletics captured 17 Region Championships, including 3 at the middle school level and 5 at the high school level.

Middle School Region Champions:

- Girls Golf • Boys Golf • Competition Cheer

Metter High School Region Champions:

- Competition Cheer
- Girls Basketball
- Girls Track and Field

In addition, the Metter High School Softball team finished as Region Runner-Up.

At the middle school level, five teams earned Region Runner-Up honors:

- Boys Basketball • Football • Girls Tennis • Boys Soccer • Baseball

Metter High School also enjoyed tremendous success in postseason competition, with 12 sports qualifying for state playoffs:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Girls Track and Field – State Champions | • Flag Football – Second Round |
| Softball – Sweet 16 | • Baseball – Sweet 16 |
| Boys Basketball – Second Round | • Girls Basketball – Final Four |
| Boys Golf – State Runner-Up | • Girls Golf – State Runner-Up |
| Tennis – First Round | • Boys Soccer – Final Four |
| Competition Cheer – State Runner-Up | • Cross Country – State Qualifier |

These accomplishments reflect another outstanding year for Metter Athletics, showcasing the dedication, talent, and hard work of our student-athletes and coaches across all levels of competition.





February 2027



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationisBetterinMetter

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1

HAPPY
National
SCHOOL
Counseling
WEEK

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4

5

MHS FBLA
Blood Drive

6

7

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11

12

13

14

Happy
Valentines
Day

15

16

Board Workshop 8 am

17

MHS Spring Sports
Picture Day

18

Board Meeting 5 pm

19

MES Class Pictures

20

21

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23

24

NO STUDENTS -
Professional Learning
MMS Amazing Shake
Competition

25

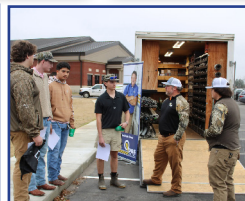
School
Holiday

26

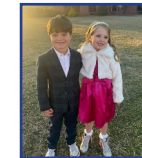
School
Holiday

27

28



MHS and MCCA hosted a Workforce Development Career Fair to connect students with local and regional employers and explore future career opportunities. Students were encouraged to dress in professional interview attire and bring copies of their resumes to share with potential employers.



MES Sneaker Ball!

What is SWIRL?

SWIRL HELPS CHILDREN GROW AS READERS AND LEARNERS BY USING ACTIVITIES THEY ALREADY ENJOY — SPEAKING, WRITING, ILLUSTRATING, READING AND LISTENING. TEACHERS USE SWIRL IN THE CLASSROOM TO HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND AND APPLY WHAT THEY LEARN, AND WE HOPE FAMILIES WILL USE IT AT HOME TOO! WHEN CHILDREN PRACTICE SWIRL EVERY DAY, THEY BUILD STRONG LANGUAGE AND READING SKILLS THAT PREPARE THEM FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND.



Our Mission

TO SHARE THE IMPORTANCE OF SWIRL — A FUN AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO BUILD LITERACY THROUGH SPEAKING, WRITING, ILLUSTRATING, READING, AND LISTENING—ACROSS OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY.



Our Goals

TO HELP FAMILIES, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SWIRL PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE AND STRENGTHEN LITERACY FOR ALL CHILDREN.



Book Benches

THANKS TO THESE WONDERFUL BUSINESSES, CHILDREN (AND ADULTS) CAN SIT AND READ A BOOK WHILE WAITING.

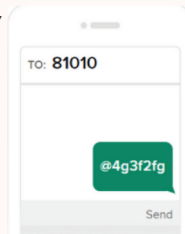
- AMIGO LAUNDROMAT
- BARE SKIN WAXING
- CANDLER COUNTY HOSPITAL
- FARMERS FURNITURE
- IHS PHARMACY
- KAT'S DINER
- QUEENSBOROUGH BANK



CANDLER FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN NEWBORN-5YEARS OLD

JOIN OUR TEXT REMIND FOR:
-FUN FAMILY EVENTS JUST FOR CANDLER FAMILIES WITH BABIES AND TOTS
-A FREE HOME LIBRARY AND FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOU PREPARE YOUR LITTLE ONE FOR SCHOOL AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS!

Brought to you by:
SWIRL
Literacy Council



Want to help?

BECOME PART OF OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY TODAY



Volunteer

ASSIST DURING SPECIAL EVENTS WITH ACTIVITIES; READING TO CHILDREN; FILL BOOK BENCHES AND LITTLE LIBRARIES WITH SUPPLIED BOOKS; & MORE!



FERST Readers

CHILDREN IN THE FERST READERS LITERACY PROGRAM RECEIVE A BOOKSTORE-QUALITY, AGE-SPECIFIC BOOK AND RESOURCES MAILED TO THEM AT HOME EVERY MONTH UNTIL THEIR FIFTH BIRTHDAY.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIGN YOUR CHILD UP OR DONATE SO THAT A CHILD IN CANDLER COUNTY CAN RECEIVE THE BOOKS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.FERSTREADERS.ORG

Contact Info

📞 912-685-5713

🌐 MTHIGPEN@METTER.ORG

🌐 WWW.METTER.ORG



March 2027



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationisBetterinMetter

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1

MES Pre-K Registration Begins

2

READ
across
AMERICA

This Week

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4

Miss MHS Pageant

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MHS/MCCA School Governance Team Mtg.

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School Day SAT

12

End of 3rd 9 Weeks

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15

MES School Governance Team Mtg.

16

Board Workshop 8 am

17 **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

18

MES Ag Day

Board Meeting 5 pm

19

MMS House Cup

20

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NO STUDENTS -
Professional Learning
MMS School Governance Team Mtg.

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MES Spring Individual Pictures

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EASTER

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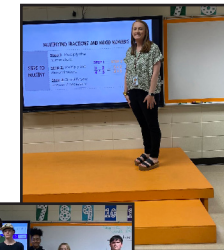
31



Women in Construction Week is held each year in March. Our female students have the opportunity to learn Welding, Construction, Ag-Mechanics, Heavy Equipment Operation, and so much more!



Many MES students performed Finding Nemo (Jr.) for the community last school year! It was phenomenal....you don't want to miss this year's production! Any thoughts on what it will be?



Shout out to Dr. Kirkland's MHS/ MCCA Ag Mechanics II class for building and painting a brand-new stage for Mrs. Rebecca Kirkland's 6th Grade Math classroom! Most of our Middle School classrooms feature stages that allow teachers to deliver lessons in a fun, show-like way. This innovative approach blends movement and dramatic presentations to create an exciting learning environment where students are eager to participate and succeed!

Five Seniors Sign Commitment to Teach in Georgia (and hopefully, Candler County)!

During the 25-26 School Year, five students from Metter High School and Metter College & Career Academy signed a commitment to become future educators in the state of Georgia as part of the Teach in the Peach initiative.

Teach in the Peach is a teacher recruitment effort launched by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) aimed at attracting, retaining, and supporting high-quality educators, with the goal of making Georgia the top state for teachers.

The following students participated in the signing (l-r):

Adysan Longgrear — University of Georgia
Allie Porter — Georgia Southern University
Charissa Hall — Georgia Highlands College
Isabel Silva-Ramos — Georgia Southern University
Makya Wright — Southeastern Technical College



“These students have been impacted by many great teachers throughout their educational journey and often that type of teacher impact leads to others choosing teaching as a career as well,” says Superintendent Dr. Bubba Longgrear.

Each student spoke about how they chose their career path and who inspired them. For many, that inspiration was right there in the audience—Candler County teachers and family members who are also educators.

Candler County Schools proudly recognizes these young women for their commitment to the teaching profession and their dedication to shaping the future of education and hope they will return home to teach other Candler County students.

“We are incredibly proud of these students for choosing a career in education,” said Longgrear. “Their decision reflects a passion for serving others. Candler County Schools proudly recognizes these young women for their commitment to the teaching profession and their dedication to shaping the future of education.”



During the Teach in the Peach signing in Atlanta, Allie Porter was also awarded a \$500 Teach in the Peach Scholarship given by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), the College Football Playoff Foundation, and the Georgia Early Childhood Education Foundation!

B.G. Bowen Jr. Scholarship awarded to Senior Lily-Ann Parrish



Lily-Ann Parrish was awarded the prestigious B. G. Bowen Jr. Scholarship during Metter High School's Honors Night. This \$12,000 scholarship (given in \$6,000 increments for the first two semesters) will help offset expenses as Parrish begins her next academic chapter. The B. G. Bowen Jr. Scholarship is presented to an honor graduate of Metter High School majoring in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, Accounting, or Mathematics (STEAM) at one of the following: Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Southern University, or the University of Georgia. Applicants had to submit an essay to the BGB Scholarship Committee that described the character traits the student possesses that helped them overcome personal adversity, their degree of commitment to pursue a college education, and how they anticipate making a contribution to society in their chosen field of study. After submitting the essay and an extensive interview, Parrish was selected as the recipient. Parrish will be attending Georgia Southern University in the Fall and will be pursuing a Pre-Pharmacy (Biology) degree and then advancing on to earn her PharmD. Lily-Ann Parrish is the daughter of Andy and Heather Parrish.



April 2027



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationIsBetterinMetter

Sunday

Lots of fun was had at Books and Burgers -- one of the SWIRL Literacy Council's Community Events!

Monday



Tuesday



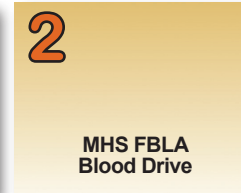
Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



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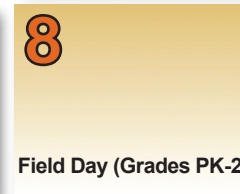
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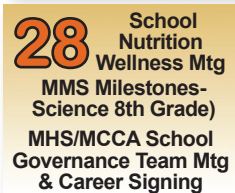
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Coming up next month....the annual Senior March! Heartfelt event where our Senior Tigers walk the halls of all schools one last time.



We are so grateful for our many community partners who help provide resources for our students, safety for our students and staff, and so much more!



MES Selected by the Governor to Decorate the Official Georgia Tree in Washington, DC

Governor Brian Kemp selected Metter Elementary School's Art Program to decorate the Georgia tree near the National Christmas Tree outside of the White House in Washington, DC, during last year's Christmas season.

Jodie Kemp, MES Art Teacher, and her students decorated ornaments with the theme of 'What makes your state beautiful?' In addition to the decorating of the ornaments, each child had to write a 100-word essay explaining their inspiration for their artwork. Over 300 ornaments were submitted by MES's artists. They were then narrowed down to only 24 as required by the National Park Service.

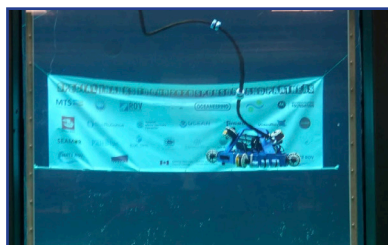
Those 24 students then were able to visit Washington, DC last December to see their ornaments on the Georgia tree, thanks to donations from individuals and businesses in our community. What a wonderful opportunity for our students and a great way to show why it's Better in Metter!

MHS Robotics Team Earns a Trip to the MATE ROV World Competition in Canada!

With their first-place finish at the Regional Competition, Tiger Shark Tech qualified to compete at the MATE ROV World Championship in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. The team represented Metter High School and the local community while competing against top robotics teams from around the world.

The MATE ROV Competition challenges students to design, build, and operate underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) while solving real-world engineering and science problems. Tiger Shark Tech's success reflects months of hard work, innovation, teamwork, and dedication from the students and mentors involved in the program.

The team would like to express their extreme gratitude to everyone, individuals and businesses, that help fund their way to Canada. While they didn't win, one of our team members, Jay Ulmer, was awarded an Engineer MVP Award, and everyone learned so much through this amazing experience.



Dr. Fordham Earns Runner-Up Title as Georgia's Teacher of the Year

Metter High School social studies teacher Dr. Vic Fordham was awarded the 2027 Georgia Teacher of the Year Runner-up award!

"Out of the hundreds of thousands of teachers in the state to be in the top ten was genuinely an honor and then to be a runner up, I was just overwhelmed. It was just totally overwhelming. I'm so grateful."

Fordham was not only honored for his work in the classroom but also his interview during the finalist process. It was here that he shared an important challenge he believes educators are facing and influencing high position turnover across the state.

"What I talked about was teacher mental health," Fordham said. "That is a tremendous problem that I think our state needs to deal with. 44% of teachers leave the profession within the first three years and a lot of teachers are in therapy and on high blood pressure medicine. Recent data shows that we're feeling burnout."

Fordham suggested the option of mental health days as a possible solution.

"We received some information that said that having quality teachers was a problem in Georgia, I totally disagree," Fordham said. "I don't think we have a problem finding quality teachers; We have a problem keeping them."

"I'll be serving on some boards, the Georgia Public Foundation for Education," he said. "I'll be being asked to do some speaking engagements and there may be some opportunities for me when Charm is unable to speak or she'll ask me to step in for her. I'm happy to do that and just continue representing teachers and advocating for them around the state."

Fordham is the first finalist and award winner in his school's history.

Written by Evan Smoak, WSAV Reporter



May 2027



#WINatEVERYTHING
#EducationisBetterinMetter

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

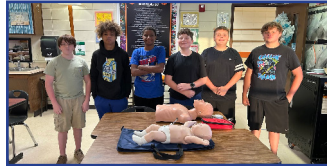
Thursday

Friday

Saturday



MHS/MCCA
graduated 172
Seniors this
past school year!



MMS Life Skill Tiger Time with an important topic--CPR and choking response! Students worked hard to complete the course and gain valuable skills that could one day help save a life.



1

2

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Senior Honors Night
MES/MMS Milestones-
ELA

5

MES/MMS Milestones-
ELA
MHS/MCCA Milestones-
Lit & Comp II

6

MES/MMS Milestones-
Math
MHS/MCCA Milestones-
Lit & Comp II

7

Senior March
MHS/MCCA Senior Cap
& Gown Photos
MHS/MCCA
Future Teacher
Signing Day

8



9



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11

MHS/MCCA Milestones-
US History

12



MHS/MCCA Milestones-
Biology
MHS/MCCA Senior
Baccalaureate

13

MMS/MHS/MCCA
Milestones-
Algebra: Concepts &
Connections

14

15



16

17

MES School
Governance Team Mtg
MES Comprehensive
Needs Assessment

18

Board Workshop 8 am

19

MMS Sorting of
rising 6th Grade
MMS House Cup

20

MHS/MCCA 9th-11th
Grade Honors Day
MMS Honors Night
Board Meeting 5 pm

21

MES 5th Grade
Exit Ceremony

22

23

24

MMS 8th Grade
Send Off Ceremony

25



LAST DAY
OF SCHOOL!
End of 4th 9 Weeks
MMS School
Governance Team Mtg

26

Professional Learning
Day

27

28

29

30

31



School
Holiday



Fifteen students from MHS/MCCA traveled to Germany this past Summer to participate in a German Exchange Program! We also had several Germans on campus with us last year!



Mrs. Catherine Beecher, MES 3rd grade Math teacher, was surprised by Mike Cihla from WTOC as a Top Teacher! Nominated by Bowen-Anne Brantley, Mrs. Catherine was recognized for her dedication, passion, and the difference she makes in the lives of her students every single day.

METTER FOOTBALL 2026 SCHEDULES

VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE				
Week	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
0	Aug. 6 (Thr)	Long Co. (Scrimmage)	HOME	7:00 PM
1	Aug. 21	@ ECI	AWAY	7:30 PM
2	Aug. 28	@ Rabun Co.	AWAY	7:30 PM
3	Sep. 4	Jeff Davis	HOME	7:30 PM
4	Sep. 11	Vidalia	HOME	7:30 PM
5	Sep. 18	East Laurens (Homecoming)	HOME	7:30 PM
6	Sep. 25	BYE		
7	Oct. 2	Calvary Day*	HOME	7:30 PM
8	Oct. 9	@ Savannah Christian *	AWAY	7:30 PM
9	Oct. 16	BYE		
10	Oct. 23	@ Bryan Co. *	AWAY	7:30 PM
11	Oct. 30	Savannah * (Senior Night)	HOME	7:30 PM
12	Nov. 6	@ Screven Co. *	AWAY	7:30 PM

* Denotes Region Game

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE				
Week	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
3	Sep. 3	@ Bryan Co.	AWAY	5:00 PM
4	Sep. 10	Toombs Co.	HOME	5:00 PM
6	Sep. 24	Bryan Co.	HOME	5:00 PM
7	Oct. 1	@ Portal	AWAY	5:00 PM
8	Oct. 8	@ Jeff Davis	AWAY	5:00 PM
9	Oct. 15	@ Screven Co.	AWAY	5:00 PM
10	Oct. 22	ECI	HOME	5:00 PM

Region 3A-D2 has determined that admission for regular season games will be \$10. Metter Booster Passes will be accepted at all home games (except play-games (except playoffs). Cash will be accepted for admission, but we will also have electronic Go-Fan tickets on sale. Download the app today and search Metter High School!



For all Metter Middle School Sports Schedules, visit www.metter.org/o/mms

for all Metter High School Sports Schedules, visit www.metter.org/o/mhs

2026 Metter High Softball Varsity Schedule			
Date	Location	Opponent	Time
August 4	Away	ECI	5:30
August 6	Home	Swainsboro	5:30
August 11	Home	Jenkins Co.	5:30
August 12	Away	ECHS (JV/V)	4:00/ 6:00
August 13	Home	Statesboro	5:30
August 18	Away	*Calvary	5:30
August 19	Home	ECHS (JV/V)	4:00/ 6:00
August 20	Home	*Screven Co.	5:30
August 24	Home	Wayne Co.	5:30
August 26	Home	Johnson Co.	5:30
August 27	Home	*Bryan	5:30
September 1	Away	*SCPS	5:30
September 2	Away	Treutlen County (JV/V)	4:30/ 6:00
September 3	Home	*St. Vincent's	5:30
September 9	Away	Jenkins Co.	5:30
September 10	Home	*Calvary	5:30
September 15	Away	*Screven	5:30
September 16	Home	ECI	5:30
September 22	Home	*SCPS	5:30
September 24	Away	*St. Vincent's	5:30
September 29	Away	*Bryan	5:30
October 1	Away	GSIC	6:00
October 5	Home	Treutlen County	5:30
October 6	Home	Portal	5:30
October 7	Away	Statesboro (Mill Creek)	5:00

*- Region Game

2026 Metter High Softball JV Schedule			
Date	Location	Opponent	Time
August 12	Away	ECHS (JV/V)	4:00/ 6:00
August 17	Home	Swainsboro	5:00
August 19	Home	ECHS (JV/V)	4:00/ 6:00
August 31	Home	RHHS	5:30
September 2	Away	Treutlen County (JV/V)	4:30/ 6:00
September 14	Home	South Effingham	5:00
September 21	Home	Wheeler DH	4:30/ 5:30

JUNE 2027

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4 New Moon ●	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Full Moon ○	19 Juneteenth
20 Father's Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3



JULY 2027



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 New Moon ●
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Full Moon ○	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CANDLER COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2027-2028

APPROVED 05.21.26

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1st day/last day of school
 School In-session
 School Holiday for all
 Professional Learning/No Students

1st Semester 89
 2nd semester 87
 176 Students
 190 Teachers



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<https://www.metter.org/page/metter-tiger-boosters>



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#EducationisBetterinMetter

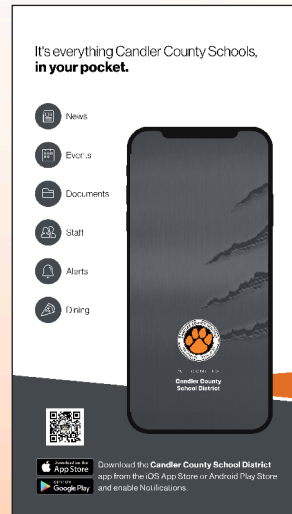


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Candler County Schools
Metter Elementary School
Metter Middle School
Metter High School
Metter College & Career Academy



Vision

Our vision for Candler County Charter School System is for all students to meet or exceed Georgia Accountability measures, for the graduation rate to continuously improve, exceeding 90% and above, and for the system to perform on or above state averages in all subject areas. We will accomplish this vision with high expectations inclusive of acceleration opportunities, high impact literacy practices, multiple interventions, student, community and parent engagement and alignment from Pre-K-12. As a result of our success, we will attract high performing teachers and new business and industry, and our graduates will be prepared to continue post-secondary options and/or pursue gainful employment through a variety of CTAE (Career, Technology, and Agriculture Education) offerings and a broad based soft skills curriculum.

Mission

To stimulate growth in student achievement by continuing efforts to advance the development of all stakeholders—students, parents, staff, and the community – thus creating outstanding citizens and employees.

We believe and are committed to...

- Continuously improving the graduation rate;
- An aligned standards-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment that provides for extended learning opportunities for all students;
- Innovative learning opportunities in the areas of Fine Arts, CTAE (Career, Technology, Agriculture Education) offerings and Acceleration with emphasis on a broad based soft skills curriculum to enhance career opportunities for students;
- Effective teaching that energizes and maximizes active learning for all students;
- Significantly improving the literacy level of all students;
- Data driven collaborative decision making;
- Professional growth for all of our colleagues;
- Student, parent and community involvement to enhance learning.

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METTER GRAPHICS

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The Candler County School District is accredited by Cognia and it's Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement