

**September 15, 2009**

***Newton County School System Announces Early Release Day For Students***

All Newton County public schools will release students early on Thursday, September 17 and Friday, September 18 for elementary and middle school parent conferences and high school professional learning activities.

Elementary students will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m. with middle and high school students scheduled to depart at 1:15 p.m. Fairview Theme School will dismiss students at 12:45 p.m. and Clements Theme School students will leave at 1:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served before students are dismissed and all students who ride school buses home in the afternoons will be transported to their normal bus stops.

The Newton County School System recommends that all parents of elementary and middle school children schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss the academic progress of their child/children before report cards are issued in October.

“Parent involvement is a key component to student success,” said Newton County School Superintendent, Dr. Steve Whatley. “I encourage parents not only to schedule a parent teacher conference but also to play an active role in their student’s education by communicating with teachers throughout the school year, attending PTO meetings, and most importantly, monitoring student homework and study habits at home. Our new student portal, Infinite Campus is now online and accessible through our website at [www.newtoncountyschools.org](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org). The portal is available 24 hours a day so parents can log on anytime and view grades, discipline, and attendance information for their students.”

“*Be There*’ is the name of our new parent involvement campaign and its message is very clear,” added Whatley. “We encourage parents to *Be There*’ for their students. Just taking the time to talk to your child or involve him or her in everyday activities, like driving in the car, going to the bank, or fixing dinner, can make a difference with a child.”

For more information about scheduling a parent/teacher conference, contact your child’s teacher or principal.

**School Dismissal Times for Early Release Day:**

Elementary Schools	12:15 p.m.
Middle Schools	1:15 p.m.
High Schools	1:15 p.m.
Fairview Theme School	12:45 p.m.
Clements Theme School	1:00 p.m.

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