



# BETHUNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

CATCH THE WAVE TO EXCELLENCE

Mrs. Zina Bethune Rhodes, Principal  
Mr. Ishmael Abdul-Salaam, Assistant Principal

January 13, 2012

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardian(s):

As you know, In September, 2011, our third and fifth grade students took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The ITBS is a norm referenced test used to measure how well our students perform compared to other students across the United States. The minimum criteria for satisfactory performance is a score at or above the 50 percentile in each content area. I am happy to share with you that Bethune meet and exceeded the minimum criteria in several content areas. I am asking for your continued support as we press forward towards reaching higher levels of academic performance.

I need your help in the following ways:

- School starts at 7:40 A.M. each morning, I need each student on time and in their seat ready to begin instruction at that time. Our teachers have raised the bar and they are committed to providing quality instruction with this highest level of customer services to students and our parents, but we must have your support.
- Ensure that your child completes his/her homework each night.
- School ends at 2:20 P.M. each day and students must be picked up by 2:20 P.M. We have an excessive number of students who are not picked up on time. This interferes with our ability to give teachers the additional post planning time and opportunities for their professional learning and growth.

Thank you for your continued support.

Educationally yours,

Mrs. Zina Bethune Rhodes

ITBS PERFORMANCE RESULTS are on the back of this newsletter.

## AWARDS DAY

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

1st - 3rd Grade  
8:15 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Kindergarten  
8:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.

4th - 5th Grade  
8:45 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Remember the story of the tortoise and the hare? The tortoise won the race because he was more motivated than the hare. He just kept plugging away until he reached his goal. In real life, motivation is even more important. Children who are motivated seem excited to try new things. They do their schoolwork (and their household jobs) without a lot of nagging. They say yes more than they say no.

Not surprisingly, motivation also helps kids do better in school. They always do their best. They enjoy the challenge of learning something new. And studies show that they often do better than bright students who just don't try. No one has more influence over your child's motivation than you. Your actions can help your child develop the "can do" attitude.

Below are ways you can motivate your child that will lead to success in school...and in life:

1. Teach your child to set goals for themselves
2. Talk about schoolwork every day
3. Give your child some undivided attention
4. Help your child develop a realistic attitude
5. Appreciation motivates children to do their best
6. Help your child see the progress they're making
7. Encourage your child's creativity
8. Keep track of every book your child finishes
9. Praise from parents is important

## SCHOOL NEWS

- ◆ Spelling Bee - January 18, 2012, 8:30 A.M.
- ◆ Science 4 Kids - January 23, 2012

## PARENT NEWS / IMPORTANT UPDATES

- ⇒ Hardship "season" begins January 4 and continues through February 15. The link for the online application is [www.fultonschools.org/studentassignment](http://www.fultonschools.org/studentassignment).
- ⇒ Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - January 16, 2012 - **School Closed**
- ⇒ Community Board Meeting (Catherine Maddox) - January 17, 2012
- ⇒ LSAC Meeting - January 25, 2012, 7:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M.
- ⇒ How To Reach Prime Time - 770-991-7940 Ext. 141

### When Severe Weather Occur -

Check your local television and radio stations for local forecast and weather news, including school closings.



# ITBS Data Report

## ITBS 5th Grade

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>GAINS</u>
Reading	50	42	8
Math	55	42	13
Language	57	55	2
Social Studies	52	46	6
Science	50	40	10

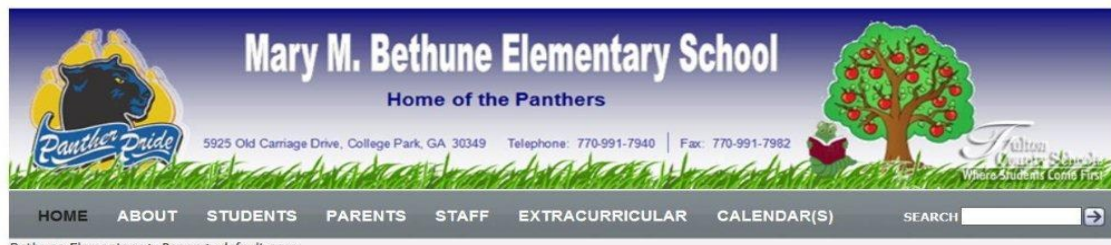
## ITBS 3rd Grade

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>GAINS</u>
Reading	50	40	10
Math	56	42	14
Language	63	47	16
Social Studies	55	44	11
Science	50	41	9

Mary M. Bethune Elementary School has a new website: <http://school.fultonschools.org/es/bethune/>

Click on all Tab on the menu to find out the information you are seeking. Example: click on "Parent"

Lillie Canty, M.Ed. | Technology Specialist | Bethune Elementary School | 770-991-7940 |



**Welcome To Our School**

**"Title 1 Distinguished School" Since 2004**



**WeatherBug Forecast**