

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF EACH BCSD SCHOOL OPERATIONAL IN 2022-2023

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## **Bibb County School District Operating Schools in 2022-2023**

### **Elementary Schools**

Alexander II	1156 College St., 31210
Florence Bernd	4160 Ocmulgee E. Blvd, 31217
Charles H. Bruce	3660 Houston Ave., 31206
Burdell-Hunt	972 Fort Hill St., 31217
Sonny Carter	5910 Zebulon Rd., 31210
Matilda M. Hartley	2230 Anthony Rd., 31204
John H. Heard	6515 Houston Rd., 31216
Heritage	6050 Thomaston Rd., 31220
Ingram-Pye	855 Anthony Rd., 31204
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	1301 Shurling Dr., 31211
McKibben Lane	990 Newport Rd., 31210
John R. Lewis	3522 Greenbriar Rd., 31204
James H. Porter	5802 School Rd. 31216
Skyview	5700 Fulton Mill Rd., 31052
Southfield	4375 Bloomfield Dr., Ext., 31206
Springdale	4965 Northside Dr., 31210
Rosa Taylor	2976 Crestline Dr., 31204
Union	4831 Mamie Carter Dr., 31210
Veterans	4901 Faubus Ave., 31204
Vineville	2260 Vineville Ave., 31204
Lewis H. Williams	325 Pursley St., 31201

### **Middle Schools**

Peter G. Appling	1646-B upper River Rd., 31211
Ballard-Hudson	1070 Anthony Rd., 31204
Howard	6600 Forsyth Rd., 31210
Miller	751 Hendley St., 31204
Rutland	6260 skipper Rd., 31216
Weaver	2570 Heath Rd., 31206
Westside	2851 Heath Rd., 31206

### **High Schools**

Central	2155 Napier Ave., 31204
Howard	6400 Forsyth Rd., 31210
Northeast	1646-A Upper River Rd., 31211
Rutland	6250 Skipper Rd., 31216
Southwest	1775 Williamson Rd., 31206
Westside	2851 Heath Rd., 31206

### **Specialty Programs**

Elam Alexander Academy (Burke Campus)	2051 Second St., 31201
(Southwest Campus)	1775 Williamson Rd., 31206
W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy	1780 Anthony Rd., 31204
Northwoods Academy	709 Pierce Ave., 31204
SOAR Academy	2011 Riverside Dr., 31204

### **Virtual School**

VIP Academy	2011 Riverside Dr., 31204
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## SCHOOL HISTORIES

### **Alexander II Magnet School**

What is now Alexander II Magnet School was originally built in 1901 at the request of the Alexander Free School Board. Ground was broken on College Street across from Tattnell Square Park and Alexander II school was completed in 1902.

In 1976, a magnet school was defined by Congress as a school having a special curriculum that would attract students of different racial backgrounds. Three years later, Alexander II was established as the first magnet school in the state of Georgia. A school of choice, Alex II responded to the community's desire for a school with a math and science focus.

In 1984, 1993, 2001, and 2011, Alexander II was named a Georgia School of Excellence. Through the years the school has maintained close ties with Mercer University, which is adjacent to it, and the community in which it is located.

In 1981 funding was given to the Bibb County Board of Education for restoration work at Alexander II Magnet School. In 1984 the Elam Alexander Fund provided \$8,000 for air conditioning.

The Alexander II 1902 restoration project was completed during the 2002-2003 school year while Alexander II resided at a temporary location, 1270 Birch Street. Modern classroom wings, which complement the original building, have been added. Students returned to the new school in September of 2003.

In 2006 and in 2015, Alexander II Magnet school was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. The tradition of academic achievement established long ago continues to this day with a staff and student body committed to excellence.

In 2021, Alexander II Magnet School was certified as a state STEM school by the Georgia Department of Education.

### **Bernd Elementary School**

Florence G. Bernd School was organized in fall 1947 by Dr. Mark Smith who was Superintendent of Bibb County schools at that time. Although Mrs. Little who was teaching the sixth grade at the time at Whittle School was asked to serve as principal, Bernd was named for a woman who had taught 50 years in Bibb County, retiring from Lanier Junior High School for Boys.

Old Hopewell Hospital was used to house the school. The building was white stucco, built in two sections, which were connected by a long corridor. Off from the center of the corridor, there was a small room, which was used as a kitchen. In 1955, one section of the old hospital was torn down and the primary hall was built in its place. In 1958, the other section of Hopewell Hospital was replaced with the upper grades hall, the auditorium, and the new kitchen.

Bernd has changed over time with renovations in the past decade, but the staff remains dedicated to the teaching of children.

### **Bruce Elementary School**

The original Charles H. Bruce Elementary School was built in 1927 as a new facility for the former Newberg School. It was named for the late Charles H. Bruce, who had been the Superintendent before he died on August 7, 1926. Miss Mamie Holt, who had served as principal of the Newberg School, was the first principal.

In July 2006, the reconstructed building for Bruce Elementary School opened.

### **Burdell-Hunt Magnet School**

Burdell-Hunt Magnet School is located in historic East Macon, the birthplace of the city.

In August 2003, M.M. Burdell Elementary School merged with H.A. Hunt Elementary School on the Burdell site due to low student enrollment; thus creating the birth of Burdell-Hunt Magnet Elementary School. Burdell-Hunt Magnet School strives for academic excellence. The primary focus is the academic achievement of its students. The school provides a quality education in a safe and positive learning environment with effective instruction in every classroom. The curriculum is strong and focuses on the core subjects with explorations in the communicative arts including multimedia, writing, and Spanish. The purpose of the magnet program is to integrate multimedia, Spanish, and writing into the basic curriculum in order to produce responsible citizens who are proficient in communication and problem solving.

### **Carter Elementary School**

Sonny Carter Elementary School, named for Manley Lanier "Sonny" Carter, Jr., the American chemist, physician, professional soccer player, naval officer and aviator, test pilot and NASA astronaut from Macon, was built on Zebulon Road in 1994. Carter has been named a Leader in Me Lighthouse School and recently made the Lighthouse Academic Honor Roll.

### **Hartley Elementary School**

Hartley Elementary School opened in September 1968 after a survey of needs indicated that an elementary school was needed in the West Anthony Road area. It was named for a local African American educator, Matilda McKenny Hartley. Mrs. Hartley was a committed educator and spent long hours reading to and tutoring children in the African American communities of Macon. She taught in the district from 1923 to 1965.

Matilda Hartley Elementary is located on Anthony Road and is the nucleus for the community known as "Bird City." Matilda Hartley's alumni, known as the Tigers, often come back to visit and acknowledge the Purple and Gold and the rich heritage of the school community.

### **Heard Elementary School**

Dr. John H. Heard Elementary Academic Magnet School is named after a prominent community leader and Board of Education member Dr. John H. Heard. The current location at 6515 Houston Road has been home to a community school since the mid-1800s. It began as a one-story structure to house

students from four one-room schools in the Rutland Community. It became the first rural consolidated school in Georgia.

In 2015, a new Heard Elementary School was opened on the site of the old school. Now, it is home to more than 500 students in grades Pre-K through fifth grade. Its focus is on providing students with engaging learning activities. The school originally served the students of farming families. Today, the school has a strong STEAM focus and integrates agricultural concepts throughout the curriculum. Heard has come full circle and embraces its heritage.

### **Heritage Elementary School**

Heritage Elementary opened in western Bibb County in 2002. In 2018, Heritage was named a Title I Reward School (High-Progress Reward School). Heritage has been the top school fund raiser for Jay's Hope since 2012. Heritage was named the Best of the Best in 2019 by the Macon Telegraph. Heritage is a Leader In Me school and is currently preparing for a Lighthouse Review.

### **Ingram-Pye Elementary School**

Ingram-Pye Elementary School, home of the Wildcats, was built in 2009, as the composition of several Bibb County schools that were closed over the years: B.S. Ingram, Maude C. Pye, Eugenia Hamilton, and John W. Burke. The schools' namesakes were all pivotal members of the Macon community dating as early as 1852. Their contributions to the Macon community ranged from literacy development, civic mindedness, and entrepreneurship.

Ingram-Pye currently houses more than 400 students from Pre-K ages through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Ingram-Pye has maintained and added several key partnerships with Mercer University, Griffith Foundation, Macon Housing Authority, Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church and several other civic and church organizations.

### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School**

In August 2016, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, named for the civil rights icon, opened on the former Appling A Middle School location on Shurling Drive. The current building, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School was newly constructed in 2013 after merging two community elementary schools, Walter P. Jones and King Danforth. The new building replaced the old King Danforth Elementary which was turned into The Boys and Girls Club of America. The building is located in the East Macon community where it currently serves 630 students.

### **Lane Elementary School**

McKibben Lane Elementary School opened in 1966 after a study of the rapid growth in the Glen Cove area. It was named for McKibben Lane, a former member of the Board of Education, in January 1965. In May 1966, Miss Francis Oliver was named principal of McKibben Lane Elementary School. McKibben Lane Elementary opened in September 1966.

### **John R. Lewis Elementary School**

John R. Lewis Elementary School opened in fall 2020 as a consolidation of Joseph B. Riley Elementary School and Brookdale Elementary School on the former Riley site. It was named after John Robert Lewis,

who served in the U.S. House of Representatives for more than three decades and was honored multiple times for his part in the Civil Rights effort.

### **Porter Elementary School**

Due to rapid housing development near Heard Elementary in 1966, the Board of Education approved land purchase and construction of a new elementary school in Porterfield Estates. This school opened in September 1968 and was named for James Hyde Porter, a local businessman and philanthropist who served as a member of the Board of Education from 1935 to 1949. Educator Harry Trawick was appointed as Porter's first principal.

Porter currently serves a diverse population of more than 400 students and has recently undergone major renovations to its classrooms, front office area, gym, roof, and HVAC system.

### **Skyview Elementary School**

Skyview Elementary School opened in August 2002 and was renovated in 2021. Skyview was built to replace the beloved, historic Lizella neighborhood school Redding Elementary. Through the years, Skyview has been recognized for outstanding academic successes and consistency and excellence in educating the hearts and minds of students.

Along with many local awards for various academic activities, clubs, and individual student achievements, Skyview has received several national honors. In 2007, Skyview was recognized as a National School of Character, and also as a Georgia Title I School of Distinction. In 2019, Skyview was chosen as a National Title I School of Distinction, and in 2022, Skyview was recognized as a PBIS Distinguished School.

### **Southfield Elementary School**

Due to shifting population and enrollment needs, the Board voted to convert Bloomfield Middle School, located in South Macon on Bloomfield Drive Extension, into Southfield Elementary School. Jessie Rice and Minnie Burghard Elementary schools were closed and combined to create Southfield Elementary. Students from Bloomfield Middle were transferred to Ballard-Hudson, after Bloomfield Middle and Ballard-Hudson Middle consolidated. Southfield Elementary officially opened in August 2015.

### **Springdale Elementary School**

The land for Springdale Elementary School was repurposed from its original designation for a high school. It was officially named in 1970 and was to be used as a model school to test innovations. Springdale Elementary officially opened in 1971.

### **Taylor Elementary School**

Rosa Taylor Elementary was established in 1958. It was named after longtime educator Miss Rosa Taylor. Rosa Taylor Elementary has been instrumental in educating the students and future citizens of Bibb County. In 2004, Rosa Taylor was combined with T.D. Tinsley Elementary, a neighboring elementary school, and a new, updated Rosa Taylor was built on the existing site. In 2018, the school celebrated its 60th anniversary.

Rosa Taylor serves students from across the district that have special learning needs and students that are deaf or hard of hearing.

Today, Rosa Taylor Elementary serves more than 500 students, including students from across the district who have special learning needs and students that are deaf or hard of hearing. In addition, Taylor serves as a hub of learning for many students and families in the Central Georgia area. It is a Leader In Me School, and students and staff practice living Stephen Covey's 7 habits in their school lives and personal lives. Staff members work hard create a positive, inclusive learning environment that encourages student learning and exceeding expectations.

### **Union Elementary School**

Union Elementary School was built in 1888. Two earlier schools were discontinued at this time, which may have been the reason for the school being named "Union School." Until Agnes Barden School was built in 1954, all children in the Bloomfield Community attended Union School.

Union Elementary School received the PBIS Distinguished Recognition and the Georgia Department of Education "No Designation" Recognition for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Veterans Elementary School**

In 2016, a new elementary school opened under the name Veterans Elementary School. The W.T. Morgan Elementary School was demolished, and Veterans was built on this site near the intersection of Eisenhower Parkway and Log Cabin Drive. Agnes Barden Elementary School and W.T. Morgan Elementary School were closed. Students from these schools were consolidated and transferred to Veterans Elementary.

### **Vineville Academy of the Arts**

Vineville Academy of the Arts opened its Fine Arts Program in fall 2002. The inception began with the merging of two former magnet schools of Bibb County School District: Joseph H. Clisby - Art Magnet and General Emory Winship - Social Studies Magnet. The vision and mission of Vineville Academy of the Arts is to prepare students for academic and personal success through the arts through the dynamic programs of dance, music, strings, drama and art. Vineville Academy of the Arts is celebrating its 20th year "lighting and leading" the way through the arts. Vineville Academy of the Arts is a Leader In Me Lighthouse School, School Choice School and PBIS Distinguished School.

### **Williams Elementary School**

Originally constructed as the Pleasant Hill School, L.H. Williams School was rebuilt and renamed after former Pleasant Hill teacher Lewis H. Williams in December 1936. Lewis H. Williams had taught at the Pleasant Hill School from 1888 to 1901 and from 1901 to 1918 at the Green Street School. The school was rebuilt as part of a wider effort to renovate schools for African Americans in Bibb County.

### **Appling Middle School**

Peter G. Appling High School opened its doors in 1958 as the second high school for African Americans in Macon with an enrollment of 932 co-ed students. The school was named after one of Macon's renowned educators and pastors, Mr. Peter George Appling.

After integration in 1970, the school was renamed Appling B Junior High School and later changed to Appling Middle School. In fall 2020, the school was constructed and opened on Upper River Road, where it took the name of the old middle school, Peter G. Appling Middle School.

### **Ballard-Hudson Middle School**

This historic campus has a very rich history. Since 1949, doctors, lawyers, educators, clergymen, businessmen, politicians, scientists, law enforcers, and more have received their secondary educational preparation on these grounds and the tradition of high expectations continues.

Built in 1949, Ballard-Hudson Senior High School was the only high school in Macon for African Americans in grades 9-12. The school represented the merger of two schools: Ballard High School, a private school with roots in Lewis High School, established in 1868 by the American Missionary Association; and Hudson High School, a public industrial high school.

Ballard-Hudson Junior High opened in 1965 sharing grounds with the senior high school. In 1970, the same year a federal court required the integration of all public schools in Georgia, Ballard-Hudson Senior High School was reorganized and renamed Southwest High School. In later years, this very site was the home of Ballard B Middle School and Southeast High School. The doors of Southeast High School closed in 2003.

In 2005, the Macon-Bibb County community supported the improvement of facilities across the Bibb County School District by passing an Education Special Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), which included the new Ballard-Hudson Middle School facility, a 110,000-square-foot 21st century building that sits on 24.5 acres. The campus remained closed until ground was broken in 2006 to rebuild what is now known as the new Ballard-Hudson Middle School. Students began attending classes in the new facility on January 7, 2008.

### **Howard Middle School**

After the success of a combined campus in the Rutland zone, the Board of Education decided to build a similar design on Forsyth Road. The middle school portion of the campus opened in 2004. Howard Middle School has built a reputation of strong academics, winning athletics, exceptional artistic talent, and caring faculty. Since its opening in 2004, Howard Middle has received numerous awards and recognitions for its teachers and students. Four HMS teachers have been a finalist for BCSD Teacher of the Year.

### **Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School**

Integration in 1970 combined the original Miller schools into what became Central High School. Later that decade, Miller became a junior high school before its eventual transition into a middle school serving grades 6-8. It now serves as a fine arts magnet school.



### **Rutland Middle School**

In 2003, the Board of Education opened a joint-campus middle and high school on Skipper Road. Schools in this area of the county have used the Rutland name since at least 1914.

### **Weaver Middle School**

H.G. Weaver Middle School was built on Heath Road in 1996. The school was named after a community leader, Hulette G. Weaver, and opened under the leadership of Mrs. Jeanetta Echols. Initially called the Wildcats, Weaver eventually switched to the Seminoles nickname, also used by Westside High School, for the 2008-2009 school year. The building has received upgrades in recent years to the hallways, flooring, and gymnasium.

The school began with a focus on STEM and, today, students continue to excel in athletics, academics, the arts, and CTAE. Weaver Middle School's current shared vision of teaching and learning is, "Weaver Middle School will empower learners to grow where they are planted through high-quality academic environments fueled by faculty and staff collaboration, personalized learning, and a culture built to produce future leaders."

A few fun facts: Lafelicia Hayes-Brown opened the school in 1996 and is still employed at Weaver as the school's registrar. The 2023 Bibb County Teacher of the Year, CaTeah Collins, a physical education teacher at Weaver, is the daughter of retired Weaver Access teacher Shyelma Collins, who also opened Weaver in 1996.

### **Central High School**

Miller-Lanier-Central Legacy began in 1913 when the co-ed Lanier High School opened on Forsyth Street in downtown Macon. In 1924, Sidney Lanier Senior High School for Boys was opened on Holt Avenue, followed by A. L. Miller Senior High School for Girls in 1932 on Montpelier Ave, with a junior high school on Hendley Steet. The original Forsyth Street campus continued to house a junior high school for girls until 1950, when Miller Junior High School opened next door to Miller Senior High School.

Lanier Boys forged a reputation of state-wide academic and athletic renown in a distinctive, mandatory Army JROTC environment. Miller's young women learned in a unique, all-female environment, which many alumnae credit with one-of-a-kind leadership training.

After a tragic fire in 1967 and desegregation in 1970, Lanier and Miller were merged into Central High School. Central maintained the "We Lead" traditions of Lanier and Miller through JROTC, comprehensive athletics and award-winning International Baccalaureate and Fine Arts magnet programs.

In 1992, Central began offering courses in preparation for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) curriculum; the first exams were given in May 1996. Central began the program as a county-wide magnet program under the guidance of principal Leontine Espy and IB coordinator Elizabeth Hinesley.

The IB, Fine Arts, and JROTC magnet programs continue to draw many students to Central. At the same time, Miller Middle added a core knowledge/cultural literacy magnet program. Students from anywhere in Bibb County may apply to attend Miller and Central.

### **Howard High School**

Built adjoining to the previously opened Howard Middle, Howard High School opened on Forsyth Road in July 2008 with 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades. The first Senior Class graduated in 2010.

The original name for the middle school on the campus, which opened first, was Northwest Middle School, and that was the name on all the construction blueprints. Rutland, which opened not long before, was named for the community it was built in or near. It was decided before this school opened to name it Howard after the Howard community it is located in or near. The Howard Community building – and former school – is still in use and is located behind Martha Bowman Church on Forsyth Road.

A parent committee met to help determine the middle school colors and mascot. The mascot was the Husky and the colors were burgundy, black, and silver. When the high school was built, the high school colors were changed to cardinal instead of burgundy. The black and silver remained, as did the mascot.

The school was designed with a “cafetorium” like Rutland, but before construction was finished, the Board decided to build an auditorium off the gym, so the stage was never built in the cafeteria. The stage area became more student seating. The backstage area became the Faculty Dining Room, and for the first couple of years, faculty and staff ate there together.

### **Northeast High School**

In 1970, integration led to the consolidation of the Appling, Lasseter, and Mark A. Smith schools into a single Northeast High School on Upper River Road. This sprawling campus was replaced with a new building on the same site in 2019.

### **Rutland High School**

In 2003, the Board of Education opened a joint-campus middle and high school on Skipper Road. Schools in this area of the county have used the Rutland name since at least 1914.

### **Southwest High School**

In 1971, Southwest High School was born out of the integration and co-ed movements of the late 1960s and early 1970s, during which the Alfred R. Willingham High School for Boys, the adjacent Margaret McEvoy High School for Girls, and nearby Ballard-Hudson High School merged, and eventually rose to national prominence under the leadership of complex principals W. C. Whitley and Gloria Washington.

Its sprawling campus complex comprised four classroom buildings (McEvoy A, McEvoy B, Willingham A, Willingham B), three of which had their own gymnasium. In the 1970s, Macon residents often claimed that Southwest was the largest high school in the United States in both campus size and attendance number.

Southwest's large student body enabled the school to have successful teams in baseball, track and field, football and basketball, as well as numerous academic teams. Southwest was also nationally known for its marching band, "The Southwest Marching Patriots Band," or the "Big Red Machine," and its concert and jazz bands, all of which succeeded under the direction of Bill Hunter and Oscar Jackson.

### **Westside High School**

Westside Pre-Engineering Magnet High School began serving the students of Bibb County in fall 1997 to accommodate the increasing population in western Bibb County, drawing students primarily from the surrounding areas of the existing Central and Southwest zones. The student population continued to grow rapidly, exceeding 2,000 by the 2007-2008 school year. Multiple modular classrooms were added to accommodate the expanding student population.

In May 2008, Westside became the focus of one of the largest undertakings of the Bibb County School District, as the “Mother’s Day Tornado” struck the Westside community. The tornado caused extensive damage to Westside, which was deemed uninhabitable for the rest of the school year. The faculty and staff of Westside and the recently opened Rutland campus quickly formulated a plan to finish out the remaining weeks of the school year with each high school alternating days of attendance. This unprecedented collaboration created a safe and friendly environment where students from both high schools successfully completed the school year and seniors finished critical tests necessary for graduation.

As population in the north and west areas of Bibb County continued to grow, the Howard campus was opened in fall 2008, drawing students primarily from the existing Westside zone and reducing the student population to around 1,200.

During summer 2013, Westside was fully renovated with modernizations designed to reduce energy consumption, alleviate labor-intensive maintenance, increase security, improve comfort, and enhance educational technologies. The addition of a modern Fine Arts Auditorium in fall 2020, along with subsequent improvements in athletic facilities, have ensured that Westside has a comprehensive physical plant designed to meet the needs and interests of an increasingly diverse student population.

### **Elam Alexander Academy (GNETS Program)**

Elam Alexander is one of the largest GNETS programs in the state. It serves Bibb County and seven surrounding counties. The GNETS program is spread across Georgia in 24 locations. Since opening in Athens in 1970, the program has admitted tens of thousands of children, with a range of disabilities, under the umbrella of “emotional and behavioral disorders.” The Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) is a service available within the continuum of supports for LEAs to consider when determining the least restrictive environment for students with disabilities, ages 5-21.

Currently, Elam Alexander Academy has two main campus sites in Bibb County – Burke and Southwest High School. The John W. Burke Elementary School campus was renovated and became Elam Alexander Academy at Burke in July 2011. The previous main campus for Elam Alexander Academy had been Alexander IV on Ridge Avenue, while a previous iteration of the high school program was housed at Northeast High School.

### **W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy**

The W.S. Hutchings Career Center High School opened on Riverside Drive in July 2009. Several years later, Hutchings transitioned into a college and career academy program with a CTAE (Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education) focus. This program would eventually move to Anthony Road. One of the old

Ballard-Hudson buildings on Anthony Road was remodeled and renovated to accommodate the re-opening of the W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy program in July 2015.

**Northwoods Academy**

Northwoods Academy, hosting a specialty education preschool program, opened on Pierce Avenue in July 2009 on the site of the old T.D. Tinsley School.

**SOAR Academy**

SOAR Academy, an alternative education opportunity program, opened in the Burghard building upon its closure in 2015, but later moved to the district's former W.S. Hutchings building located on Riverside Drive.

**VIP Academy**

The VIP Academy, Bibb County's first entirely virtual K-12 program, opened in 2020. The Board later voted to approve the VIP Academy's transition from a virtual program to a virtual school. It opened as a virtual school in July 2021, and its offices are housed in the former W.S. Hutchings building on Riverside Drive.