

# History of

## Centerville Elementary School

Centerville Elementary School takes pride in being a direct descendant of the original Centerville School erected in the late 1930s. At that time, the school was located in the Centerville community on Highway 124, five miles south of Snellville. It consisted of three teachers, three rooms, eight grades, 120 students (71 of whom attended), and operated within a budget of \$1,205 per annum.

The original Centerville School closed in June of 1969, and the Centerville students were moved to Snellville Elementary, which was replaced by W. C. Britt Elementary.

The current Centerville Elementary School was constructed and completed for the 1973-74 school term. The school experienced double-session status with Britt Elementary in Snellville for the beginning of the term, since the new building was not complete when school was scheduled to begin. The building was completed for occupancy on February 11, 1974, and students and faculty reported to the new school on the present site.

### FAST FACTS

Address: 3115 Centerville Highway  
Snellville, GA 30039

The following have been principals of Centerville Elementary School:

1973–83	Jimmie J. Powell
1983–86	Dr. Wanda Warner
1986–90	Marian Hicks
1990–2003	Becky Hopcraft
2003–2007	Barbara Schmich
Jan. 2008–2009	Allan Gee
2009–Nov. 2012	Kimberly McDermon
Nov. 2012–Present	Dr. Brenda Johnson

School Colors: Green and Gold

School Mascot: Cougar

Historian: Judith Ford



Initially, the building had 23 classrooms. However, with continuing growth in the area, it was necessary to construct 10 additional classrooms for the school term 1978–79. The following year, the school's growing enrollment reached 1,235 students. Prior to this peak in enrollment, the Centerville area and the population had been rezoned two different times because of the increase in the number of students. A 1976 rezoning moved students to Gwin Oaks Elementary and a 1977 rezoning sent Centerville students to R.D. Head Elementary. In 1980, more than 500 students were moved to another new school named Annistown Elementary. The Centerville area continued to grow and R. L. Norton Elementary opened in the fall of 1986 to relieve Centerville of 300 of its 1,150 students.

The Cougar was selected as Centerville's mascot in 1978, by representatives from PTA, faculty and staff, parents and students; school colors of green and gold also were chosen at that time.

Jimmie J. Powell opened Centerville Elementary and served as principal for 10 years. He retired June 30, 1983, after 35 years with the Gwinnett County Board of Education. Dr. Wanda Warner was principal at Centerville from August of 1983 until Norton Elementary was constructed, at which time she left to become the first principal at that school. Marian Hicks came to Centerville in 1986, serving as principal through the spring of 1990. She left that fall to become principal of Shiloh Elementary. Becky Hopcraft became principal of Centerville Elementary in the fall of 1990, leading the school for 14 years. During those years the student body decreased due to the opening of Shiloh and Partee elementary schools. Centerville's enrollment was 750 students when Becky Hopcraft retired in 2003. Barbara Schmich became the school's fifth principal in July of 2003. Centerville's population began rising and reached 890 students by the spring of 2006.

The vision of Centerville Elementary is:

We as a school envision a learning experience that inspires the pursuit of excellence, where respect, discussion, and personal choice are valued. We will provide an educational experience that not only transforms the learner but the teacher and community creating lifelong learners and responsible citizens.