

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Puckett’s Mill ES, Simonton ES, and Suwanee ES: Three Gwinnett leaders appointed as school principals**

Students at three Gwinnett County schools soon will see a new face greeting them every morning with the appointment of new principals at their schools. During its monthly Board meeting in January, the **Gwinnett County Board of Education** named the veteran educators as school principals. The School Board approved **Ms. Ruth Westbrooks** as the new principal at **Puckett’s Mill Elementary**, **Mr. Clifton Alexander** will lead **Simonton Elementary**, and **Dr. Michele Smith** transitions to the leadership position at **Suwanee Elementary**.

### **GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Louise Radloff**  
2012 Chairman  
District V

**Carole Boyce**  
2012 Vice Chairman  
District I

**Dr. Robert McClure**  
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District III

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**J. Alvin Wilbanks**  
CEO/Superintendent

### **THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*is to pursue excellence  
in academic knowledge,  
skills, and behavior  
for each student,  
resulting in measured  
improvement against  
local, national, and  
world-class standards.*

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW  
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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools  
not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex,  
religion, national origin, age, or disability in any  
employment practice, educational program, or  
any other program, activity, or service.

### **Ms. Ruth Westbrooks, Principal of Puckett’s Mill Elementary**

#### **GCPS Employment:**

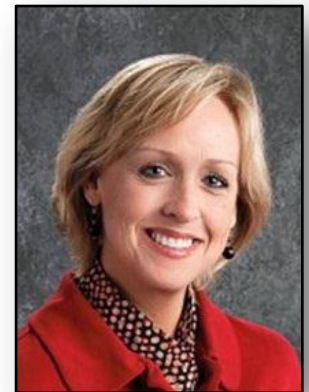
2008-Present Assistant Principal, Partee Elementary  
2001-2008 Literacy Coach, Simonton Elementary  
1995-2001 1st Grade Teacher, Simonton Elementary  
1987-1990 Kindergarten Teacher, Head Elementary

#### **Other Employment:**

1991-1995 Teacher/Director of Mother’s  
Morning-Out Program,  
Harmony Grove United Methodist Church

#### **Education:**

- Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education – Georgia State University
- Master’s degree in Reading and Literacy – Walden University
- Certification in Educational Leadership –University of West Georgia



Ms. Westbrooks is currently a member of the school district’s 2013 Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program. She becomes the new leader at Puckett’s Mill Elementary in the Mill Creek Cluster as Principal Michelle Farmer transfers to the Division of Human Resources as Director of Leadership Development.

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2010 Winner of



**Mr. Clifton Alexander, Principal of Simonton Elementary**

***GCPS Employment:***

2009-Present Assistant Principal, Meadowcreek Elementary

***Other Employment:***

2006-2009 4th Grade Teacher, Kelley Lake Elementary  
(*DeKalb County*)

2003-2006 5th Grade Teacher,  
Alice Coachman Elementary  
(*Dougherty County*)

***Education:***

- Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education – Albany State University
- Master's degree in Psychology and Counseling – Troy State University
- Specialist's degree in Educational Administration – Central Michigan University



A member of the school district's 2013 Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program, Mr. Alexander moves to the Central Gwinnett Cluster as Principal Dr. Chandra Young transitions to her new post as Director of Leadership Development in the Division of Human Resources.

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**Dr. Michele Smith, Principal of Suwanee Elementary**

***GCPS Employment:***

2010-Present Assistant Principal, Jenkins Elementary

2005-2010 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher,  
Dacula Middle

2001-2005 4th Grade Teacher, Cedar Hill Elementary

***Other Employment:***

2001 Children and Family Psychotherapist,  
Carolina Health Care Systems  
(*Matthews, North Carolina*)

1992-2001 School Social Worker,  
Detroit Public Schools (*Detroit, Michigan*)

1990-1992 Social Worker and Parent Facilitator,  
Lutheran Child and Family Services  
(*Detroit, Michigan*)

***Education:***

- Bachelor's degree in Social Work – Western Michigan University
- Master's degree in Social Work – Wayne State University
- Specialist's degree in Educational Leadership – Argosy University
- Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership – Argosy University



Dr. Smith will lead Suwanee Elementary in the North Gwinnett Cluster, replacing Dr. Kimberly Smith, who was named as the district's Director of Health and Social Services in the Division of School Leadership and Operations. Dr. Michele Smith is a member of the 2013 Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program.