

History of

Charles Brant Chesney Elementary School

Charles Brant Chesney Elementary School is located just blocks from the busy Pleasant Hill/Interstate-85 business district but is surrounded on three sides by the tree-studded neighborhoods it serves. Chesney Elementary opened in August of 2004 to relieve overcrowding at Berkeley Lake and B. B. Harris elementary schools. The building was constructed to house up to 770 students with 46 classrooms, 2 computer labs and a media center.

When it was decided that a new elementary school would be built in the Duluth Cluster

a grassroots movement to name the school for Charles Brant Chesney began. Brant Chesney, a Gwinnett and Forsyth County fireman who was killed while fighting a fire on Lake Lanier, was dedicated to educating children and was responsible for teaching hundreds of Gwinnett students about fire safety.

Chesney Elementary School opened under the direction of Principal Carlotta Rozzi with 692 students and 96 teachers and staff. Chesney's diverse student population originates from 47 countries and speaks 27 different languages. The Chesney staff has its origins on five continents and speaks 12 languages.

FAST FACTS

Address: 3878 Old Norcross Road,
Duluth, Georgia 30096

The following have been principals of Charles Brant Chesney Elementary School:

2004–2011	Carlotta Rozzi
2011–Present	Margaret Ackerman

School Colors: Purple and White

School Mascot: "Sparky" Dalmatian

The Charter Chesney PTA was formed in the spring of 2004. During the school's first spring and fall registrations, parents assisted Chesney students in voting for the school mascot. Supporting a fire safety theme, students voted to have a Dalmatian serve as the Chesney mascot. After school opened in the fall of 2004, students suggested names for their mascot and selected Sparky as their pet's permanent name. A lifelike statue of Sparky greets visitors to Chesney as they enter the front lobby.

During the first year, Chesney students worked



with their art teacher and an artist in residence to create a unique sculptural representation entitled Once in a Bamboo Moon. This sculpture was dedicated to the school in a ceremony that took place in April of 2005. During the second school year, 5th grade students continued the tradition of presenting a gift to the school by planting a Kousa Dogwood tree dedicated to Charles Brant Chesney. Chesney students and staff worked hard to develop partnerships with local businesses and community groups, and participate in the annual Duluth Fall Festival, Barefoot in the Park Arts Festival and other community activities. The school is following the legacy of Charles Brant Chesney by becoming an integral part of the Duluth community and developing a culture of shared commitment to excellence.