



## Big Shanty Intermediate A-Z

Event

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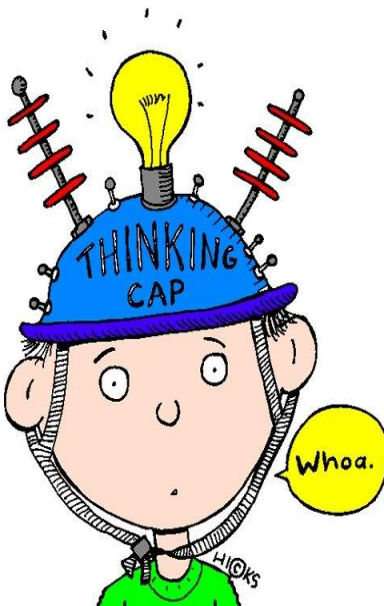
Description

### Attendance



When your child is absent from school, a note should be sent with them on the day they return to school. Please make sure the note contains your child's name, date(s) of absence, and a brief explanation. A doctor's note is not required unless requested by social worker. Automated absence phone call from Cobb County School District (CCSD) will be received daily until your child returns to school. To be counted present, a student must be at school until 11:05 or at least 3 hours and 15 minutes.

### Advanced Content



Advanced Content (AC) is programmatic instruction for 4th and 5th grade students homogeneously grouped on the basis of academic performance/achievement in a specific academic content area. Classes include gifted and highly-able students who have demonstrated exceptional ability and motivation in a particular content area as determined by criteria. The courses include accelerated pacing of spiraled material, performance tasks that extend grade-level standards and expectations, and an introduction to above grade-level standards and concepts. Students do not need to be in Target to be eligible for AC.

## AdvancED STEM Certification



Big Shanty earned this honored STEM certification in the Spring of 2018. BSI is one of the only elementary schools in the world to hold this distinction. <http://www.advanced.org/services/stem-certification>

## Arrival



Students may arrive at Big Shanty as early as 7:15am. Students must be in the classroom promptly at 7:50am or they are tardy. If tardy, they are required to be signed in at the front office by a parent to receive a tardy slip. No early arrivals prior to 7:15am are allowed.

## ASP





Big Shanty After School Program (ASP) is a STEM enriched program available every school day from dismissal until 6:00 pm. ASP offers students opportunities to explore or expand interests and skills in areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, math, literacy, physical fitness, and culture. There is an annual \$10 registration fee per child with a daily attendance fee of \$7. There is a late fee of \$1/minute after 6:00 pm.

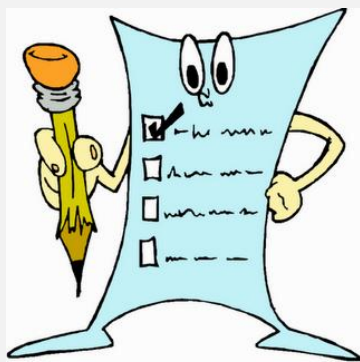
## Backpacks



Please ensure your child always brings a suitable-sized backpack for transporting homework, books, snacks, etc. Make sure to clearly label your child's backpack with first and last names. Remind your student(s) to pack everything they need each day – returning to the classroom after school has been dismissed is not allowed. Rolling backpacks are not allowed for safety reason.

<p><b>Back to School Jamboree</b></p>	<p><b>Sept</b></p>	<p>The “Back to School” Carnival is PTA’s biggest event of the year! This is a fun filled day with inflatable, games, food, music and our classroom basket raffle. This is a wonderful family event sponsored by our PTA. This year it will be in mid-September and we will have Kennesaw PTA and families join us!</p>
<p><b>Big Shanty APP</b></p>		
<p><b>Bike Riders/Walkers</b></p> 		<p>Please be aware if your student walks to school or rides their bike that they need to park their bike in the back of the school by the bus port. In the afternoon, walkers will be dismissed and walked to the sidewalk.</p>
<p><b>Boosterthon</b></p> 	<p><b>August</b></p>	<p>Boosterthon is PTA’s one fundraiser of the year. This fundraiser is a high energy fitness, character building, fun run experience that all children can participate in while on campus. More information will be given out at Open House. PTA helps support the learning taking place at Big Shanty in a variety of ways.</p>
<p><b>Bus Passes</b></p> 		<p>When your child is a guest bus rider, you must send in a note with your child the morning of the change. The note must be approved, logged, and stamped in the front office. The pass will be given to the bus driver in the afternoon. No child will be granted permission to ride a different bus without written consent and office approval.</p>
<p><b>CarPool</b></p> 		<p>Carpool runs in front of the school outside of the main entrance from 7:15-7:50am and 2:15-2:40pm. Any student arriving after 7:50 am is considered tardy and any student not picked up by 2:40pm will be placed in ASP.</p>

## CoGAT Testing



Sept

Cognitive Abilities Test, or CogAT, is a nationally standardized non-referenced test (NRT) for 3rd grade only. The CogAT measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which also contribute importantly to school achievement.

## Computer Lab



There are two computer labs at Big Shanty. One lab (Room 122) is devoted to classroom sign-ups by teachers while the other located in our Learning Commons.

## Conference Week



Oct

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in October. Your child's teacher will discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress. Dismissal will occur 2 hours early each day during conference week. ASP is open during this week until 6:00 pm. If you have concerns throughout the year, contact your child's teacher to schedule an additional conference.

## Dismissal Changes



When there is any change to your child's normal transportation method, you must send in a written note to your child's teacher the morning of the change.

**If a change is necessary during the day, you must notify the front office. You must fax or email a front office employee and then call the office to ensure they received the change no later than 1:45 pm.**

## Dress Code



Students should come to school in clothes appropriate for learning. The school day is active with daily opportunities for recess and frequent movement. Tennis shoes are recommended and clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for the playground, PE, Art, STEM Lab and learning that could be a little messy. We advise that your child dress in layers during the winter months. Please label all outdoor clothing with your child's name.

## Eaglenasium



Eaglenasium - Reading Incentive Program  
Students can log their reading with this engaging online reading program! Students need only to login to Destiny to access the program. Look for challenges throughout the year for reading excitement! For more information go to [www.cobblearning.net/bigshantymediacentereagle-eye-on-reading/](http://www.cobblearning.net/bigshantymediacentereagle-eye-on-reading/)

## Early Release



There are several Early Release Days built into the school calendar. On these days we release at 12:30. That is 1 hour and 50 minutes earlier than our normal dismissal time of 2:20pm. Please plan accordingly for car riders or bus riders. ASP will begin at 12:30.

## Early Intervention Program (EIP)



Early Intervention Program (EIP) is designed to serve students who are at risk of not reaching or maintaining academic grade level (in reading, writing and math only). The purpose of the Early Intervention Program is to provide additional instructional resources to help students who are performing below grade level obtain the necessary academic skills to reach grade level performance.

## Emergency Drills



Emergency drills (fire, tornado and code red lockdown) are held throughout the year. All students will participate and are expected to follow safety procedures.

## Ernie



ERNIE is our Big Shanty mascot. ERNIE attends many events around our school. Look for ERNIE at our next event and have your picture made with him.

## ESOL



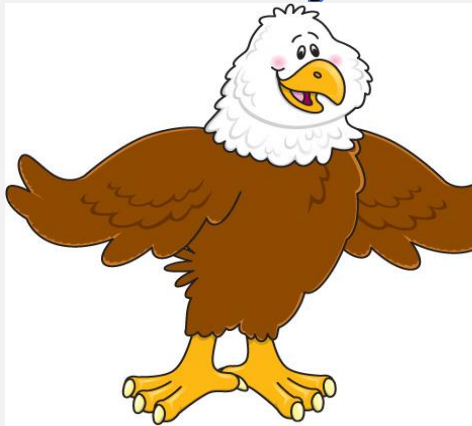
The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program's mission is to help ensure the English language development and academic success of English Learners (ELs). The ESOL Program aims to work with all teachers at all grade levels and administrators of ELs to provide high-quality instructional programs designed to develop proficiency in English, while meeting challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards. <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/alternativeeducation/ESOL/>

## Exceptional Children's Week



The purpose of Exceptional Children's Week provides an opportunity for special educators, parents, administrators, and others to build support for and honor the accomplishments of children with disabilities and the educators who serve them. Activities vary year to year.

## Excellent Eagles



The Big Shanty faculty and staff are dedicated to providing the best educational environment possible for our students at Big Shanty. We want all of our students to achieve their maximum potential. Students learn best in an environment that is safe, orderly, and nurturing.

**The school expectations and policy that follow will ensure that an orderly environment will exist in which teachers can teach and students can learn.**

## Feeder Schools



Big Shanty Intermediate students go to middle school at either Awtry or Palmer depending on attendance zone. The great news is that once they go to high school, all of the students are reunited at North Cobb High School – Home of the Warriors!

## Field Day



Field Day is a fun day at the end of the year for all students showcasing many of the different activities taught during PE classes as well as some activities just for fun. There are lots of parent volunteer opportunities, or you can just come to watch

## First in Math



All students 3-5 are issued a FIM login. This is an interactive math game that reinforces math skills and promotes a positive competition among peers. Weekly grade level winners are announced on the Monday morning announcements and the overall weekly school leader's picture is posted on the school website and marquee

## Forgotten Items



If your child forgets a backpack, lunch, glasses etc. at home, you may bring them to the front office and they will be delivered to the classroom in a timely manner.

## Friends and Family Lunch



Nov

Friends and Family are invited to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Feast in the cafeteria. The schedule will be posted in early November on the Big Shanty website.

## Georgia Milestones



April

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System is a comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades three through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state adopted content standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The Georgia Milestones **End of Grade Assessments (EOG)** will be administered to all **3rd through 8th grade** students each spring.

## Gardens



We always need volunteers to help maintain our gardens. We have monthly Saturday garden days so grab your work gloves and come help keep our gardens flourishing! And the best part is you get to keep some veggies for your family!



## Garden Gala

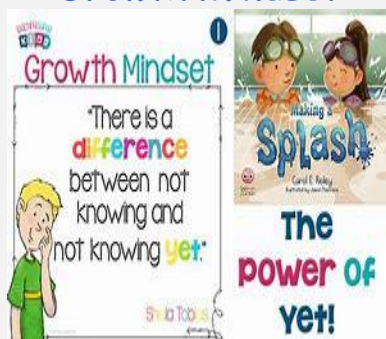


May

Every student who comes through the doors of Big Shanty has a beautiful, unique story, but one thing brings us all together: Our school. Big Shanty is a place where students learn about many different things in order to discover their interests. The students work so hard throughout the year and now it is time to celebrate their accomplishments! The Garden Gala is a night of food, fun, family, and friendship. A night that showcases the hard work of every student. Projects done in class, musical performances, hands-on activities, and student-created products are just some of the things you will see this night. We hope you can join us!

## Grading Policy

## Growth Mindset



Growth Mindsets are a way of thinking that can help students and adults strive for their best, without giving up or feeling the anxiety of being perfect. Mindsets recognize that it is not just our abilities and talent that bring us success, but whether we approach our goals with a fixed or growth mindset (i.e., **“The Power of YET!”** instead of **“I can’t do it”**...think **“I can’t do it YET!”**). The counseling department, along with the support of the administration and staff, will be implementing a program to teach the students about growth mindsets. There will also be multiple opportunities for parents to learn about it.

## Illness



Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. You can refer to the CCSD ‘School Health Services’ site to read the, ‘Is my student well enough to go to school’ rule. Students will be sent home from school with low-grade fever if other symptoms (e.g. cough, sore throat, headache, abdominal discomfort, etc.) are present.

<http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/studentssupport/schoolhealth/>

### Inclement Weather



Emergency closings and delayed openings are broadcast on major radio and television stations. If an emergency occurs during the day, information will be announced through radio, television, CCSD website, CCSD Mobile Alerts and email (time permitting). Due to time constraints during an emergency release, individual phone calls to parents cannot be made and Big Shanty will follow your directions on your child's Inclement Weather card. Please keep your copy of the card easily accessible (taking a picture on your Smart Phone is a great option!) When school is closed/cancelled, ASP is closed/cancelled.

### IOWA Testing



THE  
IOWA  
TESTS

Oct

The Iowa Assessment (Iowa) is administered to 3rd and 5th grade only. The purpose of the Iowa is to obtain information about how the performance of Cobb students compares with that of other students across the nation. Results of these tests will also be used by schools to help improve instruction.

### Learning Commons



Our Learning Commons takes Big Shanty's Media Center/Library into the 21st century by continuing to provide printed text books along with research and technological resources. There will be a buzz of activity with students talking, learning, and searching for information on a variety of devices, focusing on content creation and synthesizing of information.

### Lost and Found

We have a Lost and Found area outside of the Gym. We encourage parents and children to check the lost and found collection for any missing items. Every Break we donate unclaimed Lost and Found items to local charities. Please write your child's name in all clothing items to prevent items being lost.



### Lunch



Children may either purchase their lunch (\$2.35) or bring it from home. A monthly menu is available on the CCSD web site

(<http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/foodservices/indexMenus.aspx>). You may send in a check payable to the 'Big Shanty' or cash to add money to your child's lunch account. You may also add money to their account on-line. Please visit [www.mealpayplus.com](http://www.mealpayplus.com) and follow the directions.

### Maker Space In the Learning Commons



The MakerSpace offers the students a place to gather, as a whole class, small groups, or individuals to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge. We have plenty of supplies, from sewing machines to snap circuits, to help the students be creative and free thinkers while developing critical thinking skills.

### Medication



Medications must be in the original container and labeled with the child's name and not expired. It must be appropriate for the child's age and must have the proper forms completed. There are certain types we are not allowed to give to a student without a doctor's order. You can get answers to Medication Questions at the CCSD 'School Health Services' site by clicking on the link 'Questions and Answers'

<http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/studentupport/schoolhealth/medicine.aspx>

### Mission



The MISSION at Big Shanty is:

One Team, One Goal, Big Shanty Success!

### Money



When sending money to school, it is very important that the student's first AND last names are legibly printed on an envelope.

Also, please make sure that the purpose of the money is indicated on the envelope as well (remember, no change can be returned).

Lunch money, ASP money and field trip money cannot be combined.

### Nurse



Nurse Jones' office is located down the 4<sup>th</sup> grade hall. She is available from 7:30 am until 2:30 pm daily and the clinic phone number is ext. 027. The children go to Nurse Jones for persistent complaints, injuries, and illnesses. She will contact you if needed based on your child's symptoms. Nurse Jones dispenses necessary medications to children during the school day. If your child requires medication, please see "Medications" section above.

### Parent Teacher Association



Parent Teacher Association (PTA) provides supplies for the school and school upgrades and improvements. The PTA also sponsors several community building events throughout the year such as: Back to School Jamboree, Exceptional Children's Week, Red Ribbon Week and Staff Appreciation Week and many more! The PTA holds one main fundraiser each year to accommodate the above events which is Boosterthon.

### Parent Volunteers

Big Shanty is lucky to have an army of volunteers.



Hundreds of hours are spent each month keeping the school running, and no opportunity is too big or too small. There are opportunities to help in the classroom, outside of the classroom and throughout the PTA and Foundation. If you want to volunteer but aren't sure where to start, email anyone on the PTA or Foundation board and they can help you find the right position to fit your availability.

### Recess



Students go outside for a 15-20 minute recess every day (weather permitting). Please keep this in mind when your child is dressing for the day. As the seasons change, please dress your child in layers and clearly label coats, jackets, and sweatshirts.

### Report Cards



All students receive report cards each nine weeks. The first report card will be distributed during your Parent-Teacher Conference in October. Kindergarten through 3rd grade have a standards-based report card. 4th and 5th grades receive letter grades

### Safety Patrol/ Student Leadership Student Council



Student Leadership (SLT) is comprised of students from fourth and fifth grades that were selected by their teachers, due to their desire to want to help the world around them. As part of our mission of developing critical thinkers and problem solvers, we are working to increase our students' awareness of challenges that our local community and broader global society has. Student Council is elected by Big Shanty's 5th grade students and are responsible for meeting with staff to be the voice of the students. The student council will work to keep our school moving forward to fulfill its mission statement. The student council will actively work to improve Big Shanty both with short and long term goals, while developing organization and leadership skills.

### School Council

School Council is made up of seven members who serve a two-year term. The members are comprised of the principal who serves as the chair, two certified teachers,



two parents of enrolled students and two parents who are businesspersons. The School Council meets four times a school year and their goal is to provide advice, recommendations and assistance, linking the school and the community together.

### School Supplies



All grade level school supply lists are posted on the Big Shanty website starting in June. School supplies should be brought with you to Meet and Greet (Open House).

### School Store



Big Shanty's school store is open on rotating grade levels. Students will go to the school store on their grade level date and use Eagle Bucks to buy fun things!

### Science Fair



Science Fair is a wonderful way for elementary-aged students to participate in and experience a scientific project. Each science fair project must consist of a student- led scientific investigation following accepted scientific methods. Parents are encouraged to guide students, but not build the project. Projects should be experiment-based with data-driven results. Our school competition is every January, and the top projects will go on to the Cobb County Science Fair in February.

### Signing your child in/out of school

If your child arrives at school late or is returning from an appointment, he or she must sign in at the office. If you need to pick your child up for an appointment during the school day, please come into the front office. Please do not go directly to your child's classroom. It is helpful to

**PLEASE  
SIGN IN & OUT  
HERE**

send a note to your child's teacher telling him/her of the change.

**Social Media**



Below are links to the various Big Shanty social media pages. Be sure to follow us for the latest information:

BSI Twitter: @bigshantyeagles

Big Shanty App:

**Specials**



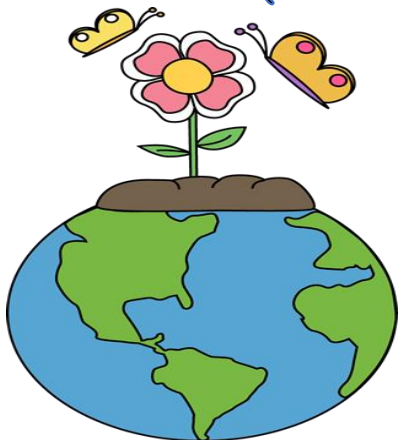
Specials at Big Shanty consist of Art, Music, Physical Education (PE) and STEM Lab which are on a 5 day rotation. Students go to one of these classes every day for a 40-minute segment. *If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, we do not skip days on the Specials calendar.*

**Spirit Nights**



Big Shanty has monthly spirit nights sponsored by PTA or Foundation. Check out the Big Shanty website for updated activities. <http://www.cobbk12.org/Bigshanty/>

**STEM Outdoor  
Innovation Lab (S.O.I.L)**



Big Shanty is very proud of our S.O.I.L which is the outdoor classroom. The S.O.I.L has an entire nature trail, creek and other environmentally engaging opportunities to help students connect with the natural world. Students can see butterflies flutter, hear birds sing, smell the flowers and feel earth textures by digging in the soil. The Outdoor Classroom features a sensory garden, wildlife habitats, and interactive stations that support STEM learning activities.

**STEM**

Big Shanty began a journey in STEM (**S**cience,



STEM

Technology, Engineering, Math) education in 2012. It was the acknowledgment of what our nation and world calls for in the workforce currently, coupled with the vision and anticipation of future needs that led our school in the direction of STEM curriculum and certification. We are excited to have reached our goal in the Spring of 2018 with a National Accreditation from AdvancED in STEM! Next, we plan to add the 'A' for Arts and become a certified STEAM school.

Square One Art

Our new Art Teacher Mrs. Thompson will be spearheading a new Art Fundraising Program.

STEM Curriculum Nights



STEM Family Nights are held twice a year. These are free family fun and engaging evenings!

Talent Show

Mar



The Big Shanty Talent Show is open to all students. Auditions are in early January and the show is usually held in early March. Come out for a night of entertainment and see all the talented students at Big Shanty perform. This event is sponsored by our Music and Art Programs.

Target



Target (aka Advanced Learning Program "ALP") is Cobb County's primary elementary gifted service model. Students meeting state criteria receive services one day a week. The Target day focuses on cognitive and affective growth through process-based curriculum.



## Transportation



Any change in transportation must be communicated via a written note and received no later than 1:45 pm. Verbal instructions cannot be followed (with one exception-keeping a child in ASP.) Do not send an email to your child's teacher or front office staff regarding transportation changes. Staff may be absent or may not always have the opportunity to check email before dismissal. If no written note is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation. This is for the safety of all the children.

## Vision



Student vision is tested early in the year for all of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Other students will have hearing and vision tested when further testing is needed.

## Visitors

Hello  
my name is

In compliance with Georgia state law, Big Shanty has a policy requiring all visitors to show a valid I.D., sign in at the Front Office and wear a visitor's sticker. This is required beginning at 7:15 a.m. The presence of the sticker will help identify visitors to all faculty and staff. Even if you are wearing a PTA you must wear a visitor sticker.

## Website



Big Shanty's website is <http://www.cobbk12.org/bigshanty/>. It is updated frequently to provide Big Shanty families with information about events going on at the school. There are links to the PTA, Cobb County School District (CCSD) website, educational opportunities on the web, etc. Additionally, each teacher maintains a blog that is linked to from the Big Shanty website.