PRIVATE SCHOOLS SERVING COWETA COUNTY

By Leigh Knight

Choosing the right school for your child can be a tough decision. Schools, like children, come in all shapes and sizes. When choosing a private school, keep in mind academic curriculum, class size, technology, atmosphere, accreditation as well as other criteria important to you and your family. Above all, choose the school that best suits your child's needs. Following are some of the private schools serving Coweta County.

All Stars Academy, 2493 Hwy. 34 E., Newnan, GA 30263; 770-252-5252; www.allstarsacademy.net
A Christian preschool for ages 6 wks.-12 yrs. that uses age appropriate A Beka curriculum. Amenities include a gymnasium, batting cages, and summer camp with swimming pool.

Arlington Christian School, 4500 Ridge Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213; 770-964-9871; www.arlingtonchristian.org
An independent, private Christian college preparatory school that offers a quality education for grades K-5 to 12, including music, art, foreign languages, a variety of athletic programs and extra-curricular activities.

The Bedford School, 5665 Milam Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213; 770-774-8001 www.thebedfordschool.org
A private school for children in grades 1-9 with specific learning disabilities and ADD/ADHD that offers small class sizes, a challenging academic curriculum, modern multi-faceted facilities, extra-curricular activities, and summer academic and recreational programs such as Squirrel Hollow Camp, all in a structured special education setting.

Carolyn Barron Montessori School, 195 Jackson St., Newnan, GA 30263; 770-253-2135; www.cbms.net
A non-profit educational organization that offers a stimulating learning environment to families in Coweta and surrounding counties. Programs are available for toddlers as well as Montessori classes for ages 3-14 yrs. old.

Counterpane School, 839 Hwy. 314, Fayetteville, GA 30214; 770-461-2304; www.counterpane.org
Located on 16 wooded acres featuring organic gardens and farm animals, Counterpane School offers a Montessori environment to children preschool-high school.

Discovery Point Child Development Centers, 11 Market Square Rd. and 3052 Sharpsburg-McCollum Rd., Newnan, GA 30265;
770-252-2166 and 770-254-1880; discoverypointchilddevelopmentcenters.lbu.com
This school offers before/after school programs, certified teachers, age appropriate curriculum, GA-Pre-K and summer camps in a modern facility.

First Baptist Church, 15 W. Washington St., Newnan, GA 30263; 678-423-9431; www.fbcnewnan.com
This preschool seeks to provide a learning environment that encourages and enables a child to become all that God planned. Serves ages infant-Pre-K and uses the Wee Learn curriculum; Separate day care also available

First United Methodist Church Preschool and Kindergarten, 33 Greenville St., Newnan, GA 30263; 770-253-1237; www.nfumcpreschool.org
This non-profit school seeks to provide weekday programs which bring together the best of education for young children along with the highest understanding of Christian faith.

The Heritage School, 2093 Hwy. 29 N., Newnan, GA 30263; 770-253-9898; www.heritagehawks.org
An independent, non-sectarian, college preparatory, co-educational private school founded in 1970 that serves age 3 to graduation from high school. The campus is located on 62 picturesque acres, which includes a large producing pecan grove.

Heritage Christian School, 3613 Hwy. 34 E., Sharpsburg, GA 30277; 770-252-1234; www.heritagechristianschool.cc
Heritage is Georgia's third oldest Christian School, founded in 1965 with its first graduating class in 1974. In 1988, 47 acres were purchased in Coweta County for its current facilities. The school offers excellent academic and athletic programs for children ages K-4 to12.

Hill Country Montessori, 8225 Atlanta Newnan Rd., Palmetto, GA 30268; 770-463-2221; www.chcneighborhoodschool.org
Located in beautiful Chattahoochee Hill Country, this school offers place-based Montessori from ages 3 to 8th grade and utilizes a hands-on approach in a multi-age setting.

The Joseph Sams School, 280 Brandywine Blvd., Fayetteville, GA 30214; 770-461-5894; www.josephsams.org
A private, non-profit school serving children ages 2-15 who have mild to severe intellectual and/or physical disabilities or diagnosed developmental disabilities.

Landmark Christian School, 50 SE Broad St. Fairburn, GA 30213; 770-306-0647, 2nd location 777 Robinson Rd., Peachtree City, GA 30269 www.landmarkchristianschool.org
An SACS-accredited, non-denominational, Christian college preparatory school that emphasizes servant leadership and academic excellence. The K4-12 Fairburn campus sits on 60 acres featuring 100,000 square feet of building space including two stadiums and numerous sports practice fields. The 18-acre PTC campus has 28,000 square feet of building space which includes a media center, computer lab and a multipurpose 600-seat fine arts auditorium.

Newnan Academy of Preschool and Child Care, 210 Jefferson Pkwy., Newnan, GA 30263; 770-253-6629; newnanacademy.com
This academy uses the Creative Curriculum throughout the center; early drop-off/late pick-up available for ages 6 wks.-12 yrs.

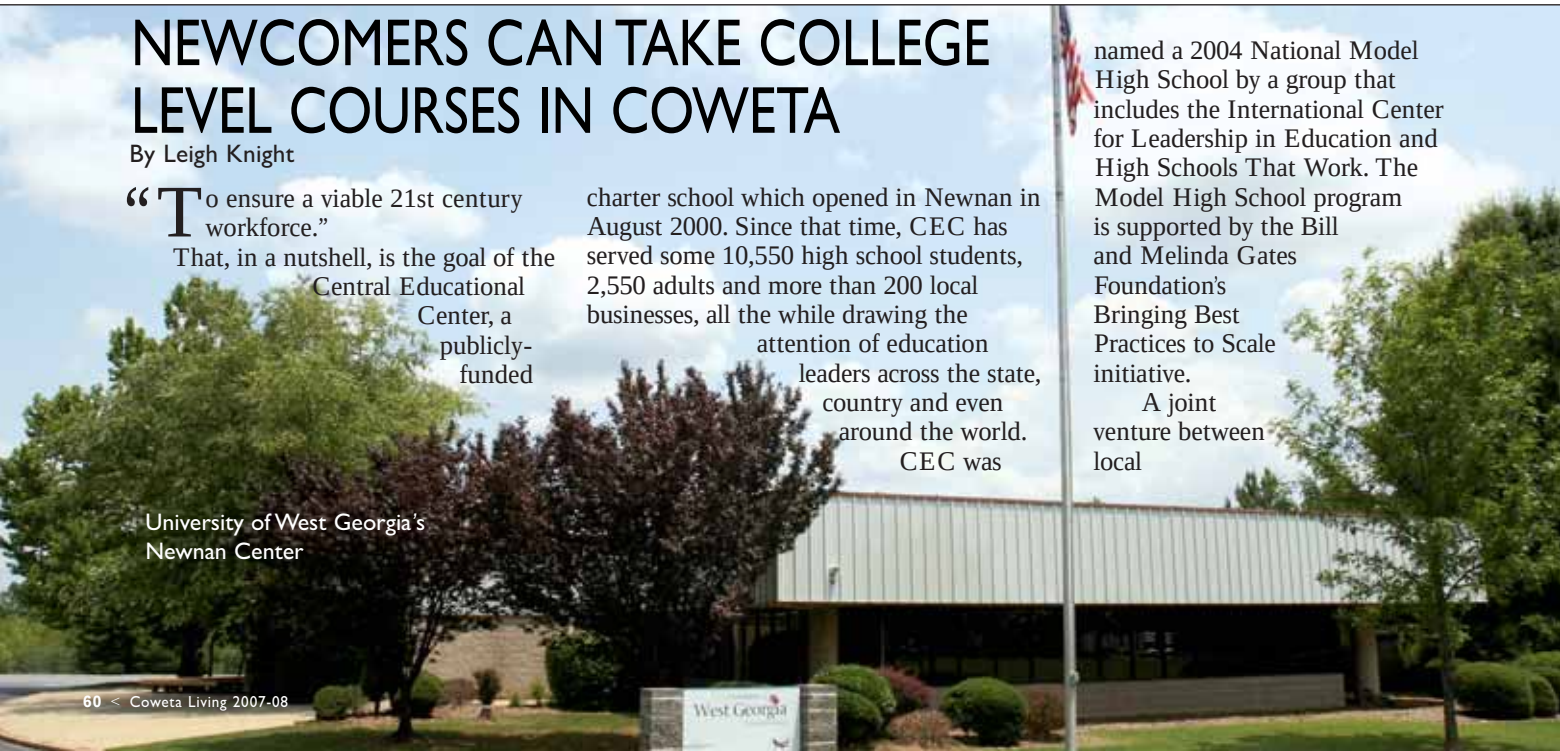
Newnan Christian School, 1608 N. Hwy. 29, Newnan, GA 30263; 770-253-7175

NEWCOMERS CAN TAKE COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES IN COWETA

By Leigh Knight

"To ensure a viable 21st century workforce." That, in a nutshell, is the goal of the Central Educational Center, a publicly-funded charter school which opened in Newnan in August 2000. Since that time, CEC has served some 10,550 high school students, 2,550 adults and more than 200 local businesses, all the while drawing the attention of education leaders across the state, country and even around the world. CEC was named a 2004 National Model High School by a group that includes the International Center for Leadership in Education and High Schools That Work. The Model High School program is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Bringing Best Practices to Scale initiative.

A joint venture between local



University of West Georgia's Newnan Center

www.biblebaptistchurchofnewnan.com
Coweta's oldest Christian school celebrates 32 years of serving grades K-4 through 12, offering advanced A Beka curriculum.

Newnan Classical School, 14 Saint Johns Circle, Newnan, GA 30265; 770-252-7223; www.newnanclassical.org
This school's mission is to instill a passion for learning in a Christ-centered environment using classical methods. Newnan Classical serves K-9th grade and has a 5-year plan calling for the establishment of a Rhetoric School (grades 10-12).

Newnan Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten, 38 Greenville St., Newnan, GA 30263; 770-253-5018; www.newnanpres.org
Established in 1983 as an Outreach Ministry, this school provides high-quality, early Christian education with a low student/teacher ratio for ages 6 wks.-Kindergarten. Morning and afternoon classes available.

Oak Mountain Academy, 222 Cross Plains Rd., Carrollton, GA 30116; 770-834-6651; www.oakmountain.us
This private school's mission is to provide a challenging college preparatory education in a safe, positive, nurturing family environment for grades K-12.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, 211 Kirkley Rd., Tyrone, GA 30290; 770-306-9026; www.olvpatriots.org
Founded by the Archdiocese of Atlanta six years ago as a response to the overwhelming need for Catholic education in the south Atlanta metro area, OLV serves ages Pre-K-8th grade.

Spirit of Excellence Christian School, 27 1st Ave., Newnan, GA; 770-253-3822;
This private Christian school is conveniently located in downtown Newnan across from the new First Avenue Park and serves ages 3 yrs.-1st grade.

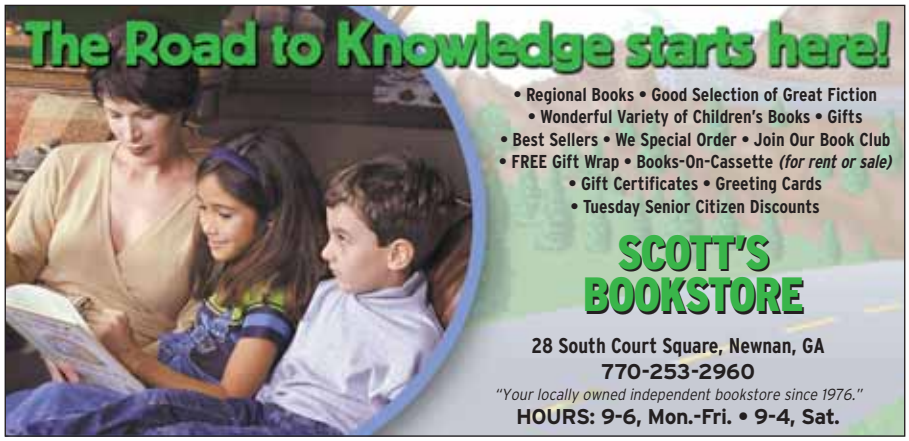
Trinity Christian School, 8817 Hwy. 54 W., Sharpsburg, GA 30277; 770-251-6770; www.tcslions.org
An interdenominational, private Christian school with over 500 students from Coweta and Fayette counties offering Pre-K-3-high school.

businesses, the Coweta County School System and West Central Technical College, CEC serves students in grades 9-12 who attend voluntarily from each of the county's three base high schools for all or part of each school day.

"We design our curriculum around the needs and expectations of business," says Mark Whitlock, CEO. "We regularly ask businesses what they 'need.'"

Officials have learned that local businesses want them to focus as much on "soft skills," or work ethic, as much as on academic and technical skills. To help meet

Central Educational Center



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that goal, CEC assigns students a "work ethic grade" in each class along with the course grade.

By collaborating with local businesses, CEC is able to offer students opportunities such as job shadowing, internships and apprenticeships. Because CEC is the Coweta County campus for West Central Technical College, students enrolled in CEC can earn dual-enrollment college certifications.

Whitlock calls CEC the county's "workplace development center" and a resource for lifelong learning. In addition to its programs for high school age students, CEC also teaches adults through the Technical College programs and offers both day and evening courses for those trying to earn a GED.

Central Educational Center is located at 160 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. in Newnan. For more information on CEC, visit the center's Web site at www.gacec.com or call 678-423-2000.

Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Ga. has its Newnan campus located at the nationally recognized Central Educational Center.

College officials call it "a friendly learning environment with large classrooms, state-of-the-art labs, and individual attention from an excellent group of faculty (who) work together to bring a Christian-based education to its student body made up of traditional college students who have just graduated from high school, as well as non-traditional students who juggle full-time job responsibilities." All Newnan campus classes are offered in the evening.

Brewton-Parker students may begin or simply continue their college education in Newnan. All core curriculum classes are offered along with degree programs such as a Bachelor of Business Administration, a Bachelor of Ministry, a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies and an Associate of Arts.

The Newnan Educational Center offers a program for working adults that allows qualified students to earn a business degree in as little as two years. For more information, visit www.bpc.edu.

Assistant Director Pat Tidwell began serving July 1, and the Newnan Site Director, Janie Lore, may be contacted at 770-683-3245 or by e-mail at jlore@bpc.edu.

Through a cooperative effort by the University of West Georgia (UWG), the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce, Coweta County Board of Education, and other business, civic and educational leaders in Newnan and Coweta County, the Newnan Center of UWG was established and approved by the Board of Regents in August 1988.

The program began at Newnan High School with 15 students in two classes. In 1990, classes moved to the Shenandoah Center, serving 100 students. From there, UWG now operates a 14-acre campus in the Shenandoah Industrial Park and serves more than 2,100 students a year in more than 115 credit classes. With the help of its partner organizations, more than 20,000 people pass through the UWG Newnan Center's doors each year.

This campus offers college courses to students in the Newnan area who would like to begin or continue their education locally. Core curriculum, graduate-level Education, Master of Public Administration (MPA), and Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses are offered at the center. Students may see an advisor, register for courses and order books at the center.

In an effort to accommodate the course schedule needs of both traditional and nontraditional students, classes are scheduled in the morning, afternoon and evening. Students may attend full or part time.

In the summer of 2005, the center began offering the B.S. in Registered Nursing Program. The Newnan Center also regularly offers Continuing Education courses on a variety of topics, including computer courses and home decorating classes.

For more information on the center and its offerings, visit www.newnan.westga.edu or call 770-254-7280.

COWETANS WORK FOR LITERACY

By Leigh Knight

Imagine the possibilities if every child in our community enters Kindergarten having been read to regularly by the most important teachers they will ever have — their parents. That is the mission of the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy (FFCL), a non-profit public foundation that seeks to provide books for local communities to prepare all Georgia's preschool children for reading and learning success. Ferst, in collaboration with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Tennessee, provides free books each month to registered children ages birth to 5.

"Statistics show that 61% of homes don't have a single book in them," says volunteer Anne Josey. "Not having books limits children's exposure to vocabulary words and just basic things you want them to have before Kindergarten."