

# History of

## Patrick Elementary School

Patrick Elementary School opened its doors in August of 2007 as the newest member of the Mill Creek Cluster. The new facility opened its 53 classrooms, proudly serving more than 800 children in grades K-5 that first year.

Service has been a hallmark of the school since its opening... especially a focus on public service. After all, the school is named for Bobby Patrick, a man who devoted his life to helping people in dire need. He led a life of valor, integrity, and sacrifice. His fellow firefighters described him as courageous, compassionate, an officer, a gentleman, loving husband, builder, mentor, leader, teacher, friend, team member, collaborator, comedian, spiritual, and "Our loving friend and brother."

Mr. Patrick was a firefighter for 24 years, as well as an emergency medical technician. He was employed by the Gwinnett County Fire Department for 15 years, and served the Rome, Georgia, Fire Department prior to that time. He graduated from recruit school in 1988 and was named 1989 Rookie of the Year. He was promoted to the position of lieutenant on April 18, 1998.

During his service, this distinguished firefighter was awarded eight Letters of Commendation and several Unit Citation Awards. Lt. Patrick assisted with the fire engineer testing process and made significant contributions to the entire department with his assistance in training personnel on the proper techniques in the use of large diameter fire hoses. He was on the High Angle Rope and Rescue Team and the Trench Rescue Team with the Gwinnett County Fire Department. In August 2001, Mr. Patrick was recognized by Roswell Fire and Rescue for his assistance in rescuing two trapped workers while serving as a member

### FAST FACTS

Address: 2707 Kilgore Road  
Buford, GA 30519

The following have served as principals of Patrick Elementary School:

Aug. 2004–Dec., 2012	Margaret Ackerman
Dec. 2012–Dec. 2016	Tyese Scott
Jan. 2017–Present	Stephanie Stewart

School Colors: Red and Black  
School Mascot: Dalmatian

of the Technical Rescue Team.

Mr. Patrick was an Industrial Arts teacher in the Polk County School System prior to becoming a firefighter. He owned B P Builders, Inc., where he built custom homes in Gwinnett, Hall, and Floyd counties when he was not on the job as a firefighter.

On April 14, 2003, Bobby lost his life while fighting a business fire in Lilburn, Georgia. He was respected as a "Firefighter's Firefighter." The men who

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Gwinnett County Public Schools

Board of Education  
Dr. Robert McClure - Chairman  
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CEO/Superintendent  
J. Alvin Wilbanks

Architect  
Chapman Griffin Lanier Sussenbach Architects  
Contractor  
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2007



worked with him said he was “someone who had a position of leadership but was always out there right beside his men.” This was, indeed, where he was on the night he died... on the roof of a burning building with his men. He was the first Gwinnett County firefighter to lose his life in the line of duty.

Patrick Elementary School honors Mr. Patrick’s memory, service, and accomplishments. He would want the children, faculty, and staff of this school to give their very best each day in all they do and to always consider and help others. One way the school does this is through its annual Firefighters Breakfast. During the event, students, staff, and the community come together to pay tribute to the firefighters who serve our community. Another example of service to the community is found in the school’s participation in Gwinnett’s Great Days of Service which provide foods and essential care items to families in need.

Mr. Patrick’s legacy of service and helping others also was kept alive through his wife, Mary Patrick. Mrs. Patrick was a retired educator who taught at Sugar Hill Elementary and who was passionate about literacy. In 2008–09, the school honored her service and commitment to students by naming the media center in her honor. Mary Patrick took pride in the school and could often be found reading to classes. She was an active supporter of the school up until her death in 2018.

Patrick Elementary is fortunate to have a supportive community, including a very active PTA. Our PTA includes a large number of our parents and staff members who are committed to providing resources and opportunities for the students of Patrick. For example, at its 10th annual Dalmatian Derby, the PTA raised funds for playground upgrades, including soccer goals and swings.

Patrick Elementary students participate in a variety of enrichment activities, including Chorus, Patrick Players, Art Club, Junior Beta Club, Coding Club, FIRST Lego League Robotics Team, STEM Scouts, and Peer Leadership. The school’s 5th grade students produce “Good Morning Patrick,” the school’s morning broadcast. These student producers develop leadership skills as they direct, film, and coordinate the morning news for the school.

Instructionally, Patrick Elementary School focuses on providing students with a solid foundation in reading, writing and math. The school also has been recognized by the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center as a partner in STEM education.



*Patrick Elementary proudly sponsors a “Firefighter Breakfast” each year as part of its American Education Week celebration. It is just one way the school stays connected to those who serve the community.*



Other examples of the school’s efforts to teach students about service and community is its work to recognize students for academic excellence and good citizenship. Patrick Elementary participates in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) program which encourages positive behaviors with recognition for students who exhibit appropriate school conduct.

In November of 2015, Gwinnett County Public Schools launched a redistricting process to balance enrollment and provide relief to the growing Mill Creek Cluster. As a result of this redistricting, Patrick Elementary moved from the Mill Creek Cluster to join the Mountain View Cluster. Our students now continue their learning at Twin Rivers Middle School and Mountain View High School. The feeder pattern for our school may have changed but our community’s commitment to its children and school has remained constant.

For more than 10 years, Patrick Elementary has worked to make a difference in the lives of children, just as the man the school was named for worked to make a difference in the world while he was here. Bobby Patrick loved his life and gave his all. He loved people, especially those who needed help. Bobby Patrick taught hundreds of children about fire safety and spent many hours volunteering in schools. He is remembered by friends and family as a kind man who cared deeply for his community, his family and his faith. Patrick Elementary School seeks to honor Mr. Patrick’s legacy by not only educating the minds of its children, but also engaging their hearts. The school’s vision is to become a school of excellence where high academic performance and servant leadership prepare students for lifelong success.