



Tawanna Swinney

April 20, 1969 - May 14, 2025

Ms. Tawanna Swinney was born in Sandersville, Georgia to Susie Swiney and grew up in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia, where she was a 1987 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, 1991 graduate of Atlanta Metropolitan College and a proud alumna of Georgia State University, where she received her Bachelor's of Social Work in 1994 and Master's of Education in 2023.

A dedicated educator, Tawanna taught Language Arts at Cedar Grove Middle School, Columbia Middle School, Mundy's Mill Middle School, and most recently at Freedom Middle School where she served as team leader. She also taught at Oak View Elementary School. She earned certifications in Middle Grades (4-8) Language Arts, Reading (P-12); Reading Endorsement, Gifted In-Field, ESOL Endorsement and Special Education Cognitive and Consultative Level: All Content Areas.

She was a sports enthusiast, often watching several games at the same time and officiating from her seat or feet. She enjoyed talking about sports and her favorite radio station was 92.9 The Game. Tawanna was a huge Atlanta Falcons and Braves fan. She also enjoyed reviewing technology and keeping family and friends up to date with the latest gadgets. She was also an avid sneaker collector. Tawanna loved spending time with family and friends and cooking. She often spent her evenings and weekends planning lessons and activities for her students.

Tawanna is survived by her mother, Susie Swiney; brother, Eric Swinney; beloved aunt Wylene Swinney and cousin, Felicia Swinney. She will be

forever remembered by a host of aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins and longtime friends. She shared a special bond with her friend, Mrs. Karen Bryant.

Tawanna had a positive, hardworking attitude, a great sense of humor, and always encouraged students to be their best, believing that reading was the key to success. While she is deeply missed her family hopes everyone will remember her life, legacy, and passion for reading, motivating students and coworkers.

Tawanna was preceded in death by her grandparents, Johnny and Susie Swinney, aunt, Mae Frances Swinney, and cousin, Charlotte Swinney.

Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Rainbow Park Baptist Church 2941 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30034. Please express your condolences here on our website. Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, South Dekalb Chapel 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy, Decatur, GA 30034.

Cemetery Details

Kennedy Memorial Cemetery

2500 River Road
Ellenwood, Ga 30294

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **23**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Dr
Decatur, GA 30034

Celebration of Life

MAY **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Dr
Decatur, GA 30034

Repast

MAY **24**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Cedar Grove United Methodist
3430 Bouldercrest Road
Conley, GA 30288-1720

Tribute Wall

OB

“ Ms. Swinney, it's hard to believe that you are no longer with us. I will always cherish the support you provided me during my days at Freedom M. S. I could always depend on you to share resources, ideas, and words of wisdom. During my last full year at Freedom, most of my homeroom students were in your ELA class during the sixth grade. They would tease me and say "Ms. Swinney feeds us doughnuts and give us hot chocolate all of the time." lol The students truly loved you, and I did too. You inspired me to push and grow my students in ELA, and I will always admire your strength and dedication toward your craft. Between you and Ms. Hill, you both taught me what it means to be a humble and patient servant when it comes to educating children, and I am forever thankful. I hope that I have made you proud.

Mrs. Omeka Bolden-Williams

Omeka Bolden-Williams - May 24, 2025 at 07:33 AM

TF

“ Ms Swinney, our time together wasn't long but I knew you were such a kind and genuine soul. Take your rest. We will miss you.



T. Fana - May 23, 2025 at 10:04 PM

DS

“ Ms. Swinney.....Thank you for everything you've done! Your unwavering support, both in and out of the classroom, has made a lasting impact on countless educators

I'll always remember our afternoon conversations about sports—whether we were debating the best basketball teams or reminiscing about unforgettable games. Those moments brought so much joy and camaraderie to our days.

But beyond the laughs and discussions, it was your kindness and dedication that truly stood out. You always took the time to listen, to guide, and to encourage.

As we reflect on the profound impact you had on our lives, we find solace in the belief that sometimes, God calls the best to be with Him. In His wisdom, He has taken back a soul who touched so many, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire and guide us.

May we honor your memory by carrying forward the lessons you imparted and the love you shared. Rest in peace, dear teacher. You will forever remain in our hearts.

Dr. Smith-Salter

Dr. Smith-Salter - May 23, 2025 at 03:25 PM

FF

“ From Eric Sterling Law Firm purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Tawanna Swinney.



From Eric Sterling Law Firm - May 23, 2025 at 07:22 AM

IF

“ My SWINNEY!! Thank you for everything! I will miss all of our talks and laughs on the 6th Grade Hallway. You inspired me in many ways, and I will never forget your impact. My heart is broken, but I know you would want me to carry the torch! I love you my dear friend. Take your rest!

Ivy Ford - May 22, 2025 at 07:55 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tawanna Swinney.

May 20, 2025 at 07:45 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Tawanna Swinney.



May 20, 2025 at 05:09 PM

HB

“ Howard and Karen Bryant purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Tawanna Swinney.



Howard and Karen Bryant - May 20, 2025 at 03:07 PM

JH

“ Julia & Ceterion Hudson purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Tawanna Swinney.



Julia & Ceterion Hudson - May 20, 2025 at 10:25 AM

JH

“ Julia & Ceterion Hudson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tawanna Swinney.

Julia & Ceterion Hudson - May 20, 2025 at 10:25 AM

WS

“ God has called you to a better place my friend. A place without pain, sorrow or worries. I will miss you all the days of my life and enjoy all the memories that I have of you. In the sweet by and by we shall meet on that beautiful shore.
May God continue to hold your family in his unchanging hand as he opens the gates of heaven for your soul.
I

Wanda Small - May 19, 2025 at 07:50 PM



“ Blue & White Mixed Half Casket Cover was purchased for the family of Tawanna Swinney.



May 19, 2025 at 07:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tawanna Swinney.

May 19, 2025 at 07:32 PM



“ Tammy Hayes lit a candle in memory of Tawanna Swinney



Tammy Hayes - May 19, 2025 at 04:06 PM



A dear friend and a wonderful classmate. Although we haven't spoken in a while but I remember our time in high school and the classes we took together. As I remember like it was yesterday. You was such a sweet person and humble to others. You made an impact on people lives of being that person to treat others with kindness. Thank you my friend. May you rest now and gain your heavenly wings. 🙏🌸😭

Tammy Hayes - May 19, 2025 at 04:12 PM



You will be truly missed

Tammy Hayes - May 19, 2025 at 04:16 PM



“ I will always remember our good times together over the years and will remember you with love, peace, and compassion. I will never forget you. May God bless and keep your mother and family, and his prayers always and forever.



Karen C. Bryant - May 19, 2025 at 03:42 PM

VT

“ May God grant peace to your soul. You will be truly missed at FMS. I will miss the talks about our families, you asking how are my boys and correcting yourself by saying young men now. You were one of the best ELA teachers I encountered in my 35 years of teaching. You definitely made a difference. Rest well my dear friend.

Vivilora Thompson - May 19, 2025 at 03:40 PM

SE

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My sincere condolences to all her loved ones. May her soul rest in eternal peace and rise in Glory.
S.Eversley (School Nurse)



Sybil Eversley - May 19, 2025 at 12:53 PM

SM

“ I will truly miss speaking to u anytime of the day .S.Mcdaniel



Stephanie McDaniel - May 19, 2025 at 08:40 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Tawanna Swinney.



May 16, 2025 at 09:22 AM