

**School Vision Statement** - *Esther Jackson will be a loving community where every child is valued and supported to grow as a caring individual and a successful scholar.*

## New Information

Monday is the start of Black History Month and although I am excited about what this month brings, I am reminded that Black History is American History. As Marty Meehan said, "Black History Month must be more than just a month of remembrance; it should be a tribute to our history and reminder of the work that lies in the months and years ahead.

Maya Angelou stated so eloquently that, "Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, and penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope." It is my hope that every jaguar feels loved each time they walk through our doors or log into their remote TEAM.

### The HARD Hat by Jon Gordon **#WeCanDoHARDthings**



Lesson #11 from the book: **Treat Everyone with Respect and Expect Everyone to Do the Same**

For lesson 11 they stated that you should always treat everyone with respect, including the food service workers, janitors, plumbers, service people, etc. It is a good practice to respect everyone and if someone isn't showing respect, stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves.

To be a great teammate, it's important to respect and value each person for who they are, not what they do. When you respect everyone, everyone will respect you.

This is such an appropriate message after the events that occurred in our country lately. Let's continue to be respectful and operate in love and light.

### Valentine's Day Reminder

We will recognize Valentine's Day on Thursday, 2/11. Students are able to bring in valentine cards to exchange with friends; however, Fulton County has stated that candy, desserts, baked/store bought goods, or any other edible items are not to be distributed at school this year.

Please know that taking this measure will help us maintain a safe environment for all students. You can help us protect your student(s) by requesting that they not eat anything given to them by another person, anything that they have not brought from your home or anything not in its original sealed package. Also, to reduce the interaction of front office staff with visitors, **any valentine deliveries will not be accepted.**

### Staffing Update

I am saddened to share that our TAG teacher, Melissa Zappulla, will be leaving Esther Jackson. Today will be her last day in the building; however, she will have email access until 2/12. Please join me in wishing her the very best... we will miss her immensely!

### Thank You

We continue to receive generous donations for our snack pantry from our community. I can't thank you enough for supporting our students and school. Please remember to send your child to school with a healthy snack each day (if you are able). This allows us to have snacks available for students who need them.

## School Tours

This is the time of year when we typically begin scheduling tours for perspective families. Due to COVID, we have delayed this until the middle or end of March. I will send more information about how to schedule a tour once we resume in-person school visitation. Cailin Hannan, our CST, is the contact should a parent want to reach out for information about Esther Jackson. She can be reached at [Hannan@fultonschools.org](mailto:Hannan@fultonschools.org).

## School Governance Council (SGC) Elections

It is time for the election of new members to our School Governance Council. The School Governance Council has both parent/guardian and teacher positions open for election. Parents or guardians of students who will be attending our school during **both** the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years are eligible to run for the parent/guardian SGC positions.

Our School Governance Council (SGC) plays a critical role in the success of our school. The SGC works with school leadership and the community to help determine the long-term direction of the school, design innovative solutions to increase academic achievement, and serve as school ambassadors to the local community. Specifically, the School Governance Council has the following powers:

- Create, approve, and monitor the implementation of the school strategic plan
- Manage the Request for Flexibility process
- Approve the annual budget recommendations and related allocations
- Participate in the hiring of the principal, in the case of a vacancy
- Provide annual feedback to the Area Superintendent on principal performance

If you are interested in running for a position on the School Governance Council, please complete and submit a Parent/Guardian [Candidate Declaration Form](#). Forms will be available on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We are very excited about the work and value-add of our SGC. We hope that you will consider running for a position! **The Candidate Declaration period ends February 26<sup>th</sup> and voting in the SGC occurs from March 17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>.** In the meantime, if you would like more information about the charter system or SGC elections visit our school's website or our [Charter System Website](#).

## Teacher and Staff Recognition

**Kellie Cleveland**– Ms. Cleveland is my daughter Rebeca's teacher and I have observed how excellent she is. She starts her virtual classes singing a song and I see that my daughter likes that very much. She has a very happy spirit and transmits it to her students, making my daughter love her class. Ms. Cleveland is always attentive to the messages we send, even if it is in Spanish, she always gives an answer. It is very satisfying to have her as my daughter's teacher. **Nohemi Rojas Sanchez (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade parent)**

If you would like to recognize an EJ staff member, please complete this short form: <https://tinyurl.com/StaffRecognitionEJ> We would love to hear from you!

## Dates to Remember

February 1 – Start of Black History Month

February 1 – 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

February 5 – Title I Parent Input Meeting

February 11 – Valentine's Day Recognition

**February 12 – Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**February 15 – President's Day/NO SCHOOL**

## Recurring School and Community News

## Learning Environment Hardship

For second semester, parents have made a 9-week commitment for the learning environment (face-to-face or remote learning) that works best for their family. However, unforeseen circumstances may warrant a change in the learning environment. If you experience a hardship or special circumstances and would like to change your student(s) learning environment at any time during the next nine weeks, you will need to email Ms. Boyd ([boydn@fultonschools.org](mailto:boydn@fultonschools.org)) and Ms. Poole ([poole@fultonschools.org](mailto:poole@fultonschools.org)). You will be sent a *Learning Environment Hardship form* to complete that will need to be approved by **both the principal and zone superintendent**. Please remember that this process is for unforeseen circumstances and is not meant to be a regular practice.

My door is always open, and I welcome your feedback.

In Partnership,  
Nikol