

## New Information

I can't believe all that we have been faced with in 2020! I'm so fortunate that we have a team that is dedicated, flexible, and able to adapt so that our students don't miss a beat! This team consists of the entire staff at Esther Jackson, and our engaged and supportive parents. Thank you 😊.

### The HARD Hat by Jon Gordon #WeCanDoHARDthings

#### Lesson #4 – Pursue Excellence

Each day, it's important to wake up and strive to be better today than you were yesterday. We should all identify what we need to work on to get better and focus on improving each day. Do not settle for average. Instead, chase greatness. Realize that everyone wants to *do* what the great ones do but very few are willing to do what they *did* to become great. Be willing. Be humble and hungry. Pursue excellence. To help yourself and your students, implement the 1 percent rule, which says that **a little more time and energy, effort, practice, focus, and care can bring big results.**

**Action:** Try encouraging your student(s) to implement the 1% rule in their lives. Ask them this question: **If you could push yourself to give just 1% more to something that will make you better, what would it be?** I'd love for them to email me to share 😊.



#### “Dress Up Day” Fun

Given that the students missed school today, students may wear Halloween costumes on Monday, November 2. Students should not wear costumes with weapons, blood, eye coverings, or full masks. We have to be strict about face coverings this year as students are *already* required to wear a mask, and we do not want their entire face to be covered. We know this is a difficult time for everyone, especially our students. We would like to take every possible opportunity to allow students to engage in fun activities at school.

#### Picture Day

Picture Day is coming on November 13<sup>th</sup>! I am excited that we will offer this opportunity to students working remotely. **All families can place orders for pictures on mylifetouch.com.** We have set aside the following times for virtual students who wish to come and have their picture taken.

- 8:00 – 8:30 AM  
or
- 1:30 – 2:00 PM

If you would like for your child to have their picture taken, **you will pull up to the front door and have your child enter while you stay in the car.** A staff member will let your child in and check their temperature prior to taking the picture. Once their photo has been taken, the student will return to their car. We will let parents know when the photo packages are delivered to the school.

#### Dismissal Changes

If you have a change to your child's dismissal, it is extremely important that you put it in writing and send it to school with your child. As a reminder for safety reasons, we can NOT accept emails or phone calls for dismissal changes. If you email your child's teacher about a dismissal change during the school day, they have been instructed not to respond. If you have an emergency, please call the front desk and if possible, we will try to accommodate.

## Carpool

With our current state of COVID, many parents have opted to bring their students to school as opposed to allowing them to ride the bus. This is completely understandable, and we support all decisions made by parents. We do want to ask you to please be patient with us as we use a new system this year (numbers) with an increase in student participation. Thank you in advance!

## Math/Literacy Parent University

Our first Parent University was a success! Thanks to our coaches, Erin Shurbutt and Jessica Hodge, for an informational session that equipped parents with ways to support their student(s) at home. We know how busy this time is for everyone, and we appreciate all parents who were able to participate. Resources will be given to identified students for home use.

## Teacher and Staff Recognition

**Ms. Cristy Thomas** - I am very clear that the work of a teacher is not easy and each of them deserve to be recognized as HEROES... but on this occasion I want to recognize the excellent work that Mrs. Thomas is doing as a teacher. My son is currently in virtual classes, so I have witnessed the patience and love with which she teaches children. The work she does is very admirable. She is able to capture the attention of the children and teach them in a fun way. As a mother, I feel very grateful because my son has an excellent teacher, and I am very happy that he belongs to Esther Jackson's family! **(Ms. Lopez, Kindergarten 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

November 2 – Halloween observed

**November 3 – Election Day – NO SCHOOL for students**

November 13 – Picture Day

November 18 – College Day (spirit wear from favorite college)

**November 23-27 – Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL**

## Recurring School and Community News

### Device Expectations – Grades 2-5

Students in grades 2-5 should bring their FCS issued device with them to school each day beginning Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Devices should be charged overnight and placed in the students backpack when traveling to and from school to prevent loss or damage.

Per the FCS Device Agreement that you received when you picked up a student device *If for any reason the device is lost, stolen, or damaged during the time it is issued to the student, whether intentionally or due to negligence, the student and the student's parent/guardian will be assessed a fine.*

### Esther Jackson Foundation

Our Esther Jackson Community Foundation has devices to approximately 10 students this year. We are so thankful for their efforts to support our community. If you would like to get involved with the foundation, please reach out to Jennifer Holle at [jennifer@ejcommunity.org](mailto:jennifer@ejcommunity.org).

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

In Partnership,  
Nikol