

New Information

Happy Friday! We are ready to welcome our jaguars back to full face to face instruction beginning Wednesday, 10/14. We are so excited about having so many of our scholars in the building and are looking forward to working with all students and families (**face to face and remote**) to ensure that each of them have the best experience possible.

I am so proud of our staff for persevering and going above and beyond for our students. We received the most staff recognition statements for this parent letter than we've ever received. It brings my heart so much joy to know that parents see the same wonderful things that I see in our teachers. **#JaguarPride**

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



Lesson #3 – Choose to be Humble and Hungry

Humble and hungry are a powerful combination. The minute you think you have arrived at the door of greatness; it will get slammed in your face. The key to success is to be a lifelong learner who continuously works hard to improve.

Every time I think I have a handle on our current reality, I am reminded that we are living through a global pandemic and that things can change by the minute. I have to stay humble and hungry if I want to be the best possible leader I can be for our community. When you stay humble and hungry and focus on the process, you will love what the process produces. I am looking forward to the end result of this unprecedented time!

Action: How do you encourage your students to stay humble and hungry?

Back to School

Beginning 10/14, we will have about 75% of our students in the building for face to face instruction and 25% working remotely. I know the next few weeks will be an adjustment for all and while we are excited and ready for this next phase, I ask in advance for your patience and grace as we transition. A few things to consider:

- ✓ Due to our class sizes, our teachers will work *simultaneously* with face to face and remote students.
- ✓ Students will continue working with their current teacher.
- ✓ Teachers will work directly with parents and remote students to ensure that they have a manageable virtual schedule that allows students to be part of the class and work in small groups with the teacher.
- ✓ Students are coded in Infinite Campus for attendance according to the model of instruction chosen by parents. If a student who is assigned to face to face instruction needs to miss school for any reason, they will be marked absent even if they join the class virtually.
- ✓ The District has asked parents to make a commitment to their decision for the entire semester. However, if for some reason you need to change your child's learning model, please contact our Data Clerk, Ms. Pingarron at pingarronc@fultonschools.org.
- ✓ We continue to have restrictions on visitors to the building. If you need to come inside for a student, please be sure that you are wearing a mask. We ask that you make an appointment for visits other than dropping off or picking up a student or item(s).

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 14th. 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.*

Math/Literacy Parent University

Save the date: We will host our first *virtual* Parent University for all families of students at Esther Jackson on Thursday, October 22 at 4:00 p.m. A link to access via TEAMS will be emailed closer to the event. We will use the attendance list from TEAMS to provide students of parents who attend a free resource to support learning at home.

Domino's Fundraiser

Our PTA is partnering with Domino's Pizza to raise money for mini grants for our wonderful teachers. The best part is our students can sell these online and cards will be shipped to the buyer. There is no face to face contact.

- The card only costs \$10! Use it once and it more than pays for itself.
- Every time you buy a large pizza at menu price, you get a large pizza FREE.
- Get double the large pizzas regardless of how many you order.
- Unlimited use of card through 6/30/2021.

Please help support our PTA and EJ teachers by participating in this fundraiser using the following link:
<https://slicethepricecard.com/34397>.

Don't forget to share the link via email and social media with your friends and family. We appreciate you!

Teacher and Staff Recognition

- **Ms. Kiess and Ms. Boyajan** - both Mrs. Boyajan and Mrs. Kiess have been amazing. They have both been so patient and positive. I don't know how we'd do virtual learning without teachers like them and I feel so much better sending my boys to school knowing they will be there to help them with the transition back. **(Ms. Payment, parent of 1st and 3rd grader)**
- **Samantha Thayer** - Ms. Thayer has been our saving grace in these challenging times. Every time I hear her on the class team meetings, she is positive and encouraging. She always treats the students with empathy and helps to guide them through any issues they're having. My son and I feel so blessed to have her on his learning journey! (Ms. Owens, parent of 5th grader)
- **Avery Sather** - While doing the iReady diagnostics, Anna was struggling with motivation. She logged into teams and notices Ms. Sather was online. On a Friday afternoon, Ms. Sather spoke to Anna over teams. It was a great help to her and showed how much Ms. Sather cares about her students ♡! **(Ms. Halter, parent of 1st grader)**
- **Kaitlyn Mills** - Mrs. Mills does an excellent job of maintaining her class in the difficult online setting. Specifically she seems to pull the best work out of Ryann by engaging and exciting her about the subject. And she teaches the whole child, following up with a phone call and/or email to check in or with praise. Remote learning can be challenging but it has given us a gift to see and hear our child in class and we're so lucky to be on the journey with Mrs. Mills! **(PTA President and parent of 2nd and 4th grader)**
- **Kelly O'Connell** - Ms. O'Connell has gone above and beyond to help Alexia. I love the reading lessons she has assigned her and the spelling lessons. I see how these structured lesson can help her learn. The lessons are progressive and have allowed her to continue to improve in her comprehension. She has sent her so many books to read and she really cares about her students. Alexia is much more confident and is doing well. She is loving school and I'm so pleased with her progress. **(Ms. Hunter, parent of 5th grader)**
- **Julie Paz** - For your support, your help, your attention and effort to make us parents aware and involved in school and our children. **(Ms. Zamora, parent of Kinder and 3rd grader)**

- **Christopher Massie** - Mr. Massie has been very patient and helpful. When I encountered technology issues regarding accessing specials, he helped troubleshoot the issues until they were resolved. He was kind, helpful, and did not make me feel like I was bothering him. Throughout remote learning, he has had age-appropriate creative and fun lessons for all of my children. I am very grateful he is at Esther Jackson. **(Ms. Hoschek, parent of Kinder, 2nd, and 5th grader)**
- **Morgan Wylie** - Ms. Wylie is an excellent teacher. My youngest was fortunate enough to have her the first 5 weeks of school for Kindergarten. She was extremely patient, caring, enthusiastic, and fun. She was very creative at engaging the children and maintaining a positive attitude all of the time. Even though we were learning remotely, she developed a bond with my son. She truly made learning fun for him. She engaged the children in so many creative ways such as using many songs for learning, stuffed animals, making fireworks with their hands, etc. **(Ms. Hoschek, parent of KK, 2nd, & 5th grader)**
- **Rhonda Tucker** - Mrs. Tucker is very good with my daughter, and all the other students. She is patient, super nice, and very loving to all students. I know it must be hard being a teacher during these past few weeks. Having to teach students in school and online takes a lot. I would love to thank her for her hard work! And let her know she's a super woman for having 10+ kids to teach and have students in school. **(Ms. Lopez, parent of PreK student)**

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

October 12 – Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL

October 13 – Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL for students

October 14 – Full Face to Face Instruction begins

October 16 – Report Cards available via Parent Portal in Infinite Campus

October 21 – College Day (students wear clothes to represent their favorite college)

October 22 – Math/Literacy Parent University @3:30

October 30 – Halloween observed

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

Recurring School and Community News

Meal Distribution

Food Stop meal distribution times have changed on Wednesdays to 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. This is the time when parents who have elected remote learning for the remainder of the semester can pick up free meals for their student(s) 18 years of age and under.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is overflowing! If your child is attending school face to face, please encourage him/her to visit the lost and found when they are here to see if any lost items belong to them. We are planning to donate all items to charity soon but would like to give students the opportunity to claim items first.

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.

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

In Partnership,
Nikol