



Elsie Whitlow Stokes

Community Freedom Public Charter School

HISTORY HERSTORY #OURSTORY

20+



October 2019

The Stokes Banner

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*Cover photo: First Grade French working on word recognition and patterns with Ms. Turner



Letter from the Executive Director



Photo by: Satsun Photography

Greetings Stokes School Community,

Even though it feels as if the school year has just begun, we are, in fact, nearing the end of our first trimester. Students and staff are back into the rhythm of the school year and the cadence of teaching and learning. Families are enthusiastically engaged in school activities and we are actively working toward achieving our mission of preparing Stokes School students to be leaders, scholars, and responsible citizens who are committed to social justice.

We believe that in order to effectively prepare our students for life beyond 5th grade, we need to provide them with a well-rounded educational experience while they are here at Stokes School. We're very proud of the program that we've developed over the past 20 years. Many of the opportunities that we provide to Stokes students surpass the offerings of a typical elementary school. Our students deserve an education that is broad and rich in content and includes classes not only in language arts, math, science, and social studies, but also in art, music, technology, health, and physical education. Also, our students' ability to leave the school walls and explore our local, regional, and global communities enhances tremendously the teaching and learning that takes place in the classroom. This is why we work to offer multiple field trips throughout the school year to engage in hands-on, authentic learning experiences. Stokes School uses a variety of methods to understand and assess scholars' growth as learners and thinkers, including standardized assessments, in-class assessments and activities, projects, writing pieces, and self-reflection. This progress is reported to families through our trimester report cards and parent/family meetings. First trimester report cards will soon be completed and distributed.



Letter from the Executive Director

Stokes School uses a standards-based report card which reflect goals in all content areas. Goals stated on the report cards are end-of-year goals, but scholars are not graded with the expectation that end-of-year goals are mastered in the first trimester; grades are based upon the work completed in the trimester towards meeting goals by the end of the academic year. The following codes are used to describe scholars' progress:

- **Emerging:** Beginning to develop understanding; requires extra support
- **Progressing:** Making progress toward understanding; benefits from extra support
- **Demonstrating:** Demonstrates secure understanding independently
- **Extending:** Applies learning to new settings comfortably; extends learning to next level
- **N/A:** Not assessed

Returning kindergarten through 5th grade families will notice a change in the standards used for evaluating Target Language progress. This year, target language evaluation will be based upon American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards. ACTFL standards focus on interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational speaking skills. All proficiency benchmarks are described in easily understood and distinguishable "I can," statements. For more information on the change and why the ACTFL standards will improve language learning for Stokes scholars, we invite families to attend the November 1st First Friday parent presentation. Presentations will take place on both the Brookland and East End campuses beginning at 8:30AM. Parents will have an opportunity to ask any questions they have about language learning and evaluation at Stokes School.



Letter from the Executive Director

Families are invited to discuss their scholars' overall academic progress with teachers during parent-teacher conferences. This year, 2nd – 4th grades will participate in Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT). The APTT schedule consists of a 1-on-1 parent-teacher meeting for the first trimester and a large group meeting for each trimester. Pre-kindergarten - 1st and 5th grades will participate in 1-on-1 parent-teacher conferences each trimester. Regardless of format, teachers will reach out to schedule conferences with all families.

As we enter new units of inquiry, we look forward to our continued collaborative work toward the success of all Stokes scholars.

Best Regards,



Erika Bryant

Executive Director



IMPORTANT DATES

First Friday	November 1
Taste of Stokes	November 2
Joyful Market	November 7
Teacher Records Day (No School)	November 11
Picture Day Make-up	November 18
1st Trimester Celebration of Learning	November 21
Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)	November 22 & 25
Professional Development (No School)	November 26
Thanksgiving Break (No School)	November 27-29



Drop Off

The gate to the Blaine Street parking lot is opened from 7:30am-8:30am for drop-off. For safety reasons, we ask that parents drive East from 55th Street on Blaine Street NE, turn right into the gate, right at the bottom of the hill, right into and around the north parking loop, left towards the school building and drop their scholar off onto the sidewalk on the school side of the driveway between the hoop house and the Stokes School rear door. Please, do not park in the parking lot or the driveway; school staff will escort your child into the building. When exiting the gate, please turn right to continue East on Blaine Street NE towards 57th Street NE. The East Capitol Street Door, located under the Stokes School awning, is available from 7:30am until 6:00pm (unless otherwise noted). To use this door please park on either 55th St., Blaine St., or 57th Pl and walk your scholar inside.

Pick Up

Scholars are to be picked up by parents in their classrooms, unless staying for After School. To pick up your scholar, please park on either 55th St., Blaine St., or 57th Pl. and walk to the East Capitol St. entrance door. Scholars will not be released from After School until a parent or authorized pick up arrives and signs them out. Scholars typical day ends at 3:00 PM for Pre-K and 3:30 PM for Kindergarten, with After School running from 3-6:00PM. Fridays end at 1:00PM and After School will run from 1- 6:00PM.



Stokes Scholars at Watkins Park

Fall Outing

Stokes scholars enjoyed their fall outing field trips to Watkins Park. During these trips scholars were able to explore the nature exhibit , take a hike on the trails, visit the Wizard of Oz playground and were even able to enjoy some hayrides!



Stokes Scholars at Watkins Park Fall Outing



We would like to thank the Watkins Park staff for being so wonderful with the scholars, as well as, all of our parent and staff chaperones that made this trip possible.



GET INVOLVED

- Box Tops goes digital. For a limited time, to celebrate the launch of the new Box Tops for Education app, you can double box tops! Scan your receipts on the apps and give your box tops to Stokes School for 2x points.



- We are seeking parent volunteers for our Joyful Markets happening the first Thursday of every month. If interested in donating your time, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/JoyfulMarket2019-20> or email TylerP@ewstokes.org for more information.



GET INVOLVED

- Join the Stokes PTA by going to StokesEastEndPTA.org. Keep abreast of what the PTA is up to by checking the listserv for PTA related messages and looking out for PTA informative flyers posted around the school.
- The PTA will be holding nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer at their Tuesday, November 5th general board meeting.
- Shopping? Use smile.amazon.com and select Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter school as your charity of choice.
- We are always seeking parent volunteers for scholars' lunch period. If interested in donating your time, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/LunchDuty1TriEE> or email TylerP@ewstokes.org for more information.
- We are encouraging interested and able families to bring a traditional soup, chili, or bread to share at Taste of Stokes, Saturday, Nov. 2nd. If you are interested, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/y5p8taf9>.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chicken Fajitas



- 10 oz chicken breast (diced)
 - 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
 - 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1/2 teaspoons chili powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
 - 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
 - 1/2 teaspoon Mexican seasoning
 - 1 oz diced bell pepper
 - 1 oz diced onion
 - Whole wheat tortillas
- OPTIONAL
- Low-sodium salsa
 - Kernel corn
 - Diced tomatoes

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

1. Combine chicken, pepper, garlic powder, chili powder, cumin, oregano, and Mexican seasoning in a large bowl. Stir well. Cover tightly. Allow chicken mixture to marinate for 12–24 hours
2. Place marinated chicken in a large s pot. Cook uncovered over medium–high heat for 2 minutes and set aside.
3. In a medium pot, add peppers and onions. Cook uncovered over medium–high heat until onions are translucent and set aside.
4. Combine chicken peppers and onions mixture in a bowl and toss well.
5. Serve mixture on a whole wheat tortilla. Add salsa, corn, and tomatoes to taste. For extra zest, add a squeeze of lime juice!



***Replace chicken with tofu or lentils for a tasty vegetarian alternative

[Click here for November Menus](#)

