



Photo by: Beverlie Lord

Dear Stokes School Families,

If you are new to our school, welcome to the Stokes family! If you are returning, we look forward to seeing you again soon. We hope that everyone enjoyed the summer break and had an opportunity to relax and rejuvenate. In just a few short weeks we'll be ready to begin our 21st year of educating children in the District of Columbia, and we continue to be fully dedicated to our mission of preparing culturally diverse elementary school students to be leaders, scholars, and responsible citizens who are committed to social justice. In support of our mission, over the summer months many members of Stokes School faculty and staff have and been working zealously to prepare for the new school year. In the last two months we have:

- Completed all of the DC Public Charter School Board's administrative requirements to open our second campus;
- Interviewed and hired approximately 25 new staff members for both the Brookland and East End campuses;
- Managed and completed the first phase of the renovation of our East End campus (we will complete phase two of the renovations in the summer of 2019);
- Received a \$100,000 grant from Kaboom and the MLB Players Trust for a new playground at our East End Campus;
- Met with a playground architect to discuss and plan for the renovation of our Brookland playground;
- Participated in multiple conferences and professional development trainings on topics ranging from language immersion instruction to culturally responsive teaching to the use of restorative practices in schools;
- Prepared for and completed our New Employee Orientation; and
- Welcomed back all returning employees for our Summer Professional Development Institute.

As the summer ends and we prepare to begin the new year, we are eager to continue our work on behalf of our scholars, families and community members and work in partnership throughout school year 2018-19. Prior to the first day of school there are a few updates and reminders that we would like to share with you.

East End Campus

After almost four years of discussions, planning and preparation, on August 22nd Stokes School will open our second campus with 140 bright and beautiful pre-kindergarten and kindergarten scholars. The East End campus is located at 5600 East Capitol St, NE in a former DCPS building shared by Maya Angelou PCS. The second campus will be a replication of our current Brookland campus and will increase by one grade level each year until reaching 5th grade. By school year 2024-25 Stokes School will serve up to 750 diverse students and families between both campuses. The list of board members, faculty and staff, families and community members, funders and city officials who helped to bring our vision of the East End campus to fruition is extensive. We are extremely grateful for the support and guidance of everyone who contributed to this process.

Organizational Restructuring

In conjunction with our school's replication and expansion, we now have a new leadership structure. A network of senior level administrators will work to support both the Brookland campus and the East End campus. Network level administrators include:

- 'Abdu'l-Karim Ewing Boyd, Director of Special Programs (based on East End campus)
- Ana Maria Donado, Parent Engagement Coordinator (split time between both campuses)
- Bill Moczydowski, Director of Finance (based on Brookland campus)
- Bobby Caballero, Director of Student Support (based on Brookland campus)
- Erika Bryant, Executive Director (split time between both campuses)
- Fresia Cortes, Director of Operations (based on East End campus)
- Julia Senerchia, Director of Data, Planning and Accountability (based on Brookland campus)
- Linda Moore, Founder/Senior Advisor (split time between both campuses)

In addition to the network level administrators, each campus will have on-site administrative and instructional leadership staff. On the Brookland Campus, Bobby Caballero will serve as the Campus Director and will coordinate and manage all school level activities. Constanza Rosas will continue to serve as the Director of Teaching and Learning and will provide leadership and support for the campus' instructional program.

On the East End campus, `Abdu'l-Karim Ewing Boyd will serve as the Campus Director and will coordinate and manage all school level activities. David Bravo will serve as the East End Director of Teaching and Learning and will provide leadership and support for the campus' instructional program.

Other Staffing Changes

Dr. Willa Jones, Stokes School Psychologist for 15 years, as well as Ms. Lauren Cagney, 1st Grade Teacher and former Catholic University Student Teacher, have both taken positions at other schools. We will miss them and wish them all of the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Achille Ango, our cherished Kindergarten French teacher, has retired as a classroom teacher but will return as a part-time music teacher.

Several existing employees will assume new roles in the coming school year. We have also hired approximately 25 new employees to support the opening of the East End campus and to fill openings at our Brookland campus. We will post bios and/or pictures of all employees on our updated school website before the beginning of the new school year. Families will also have multiple opportunities to meet and get to know new staff as the school year progresses.

20 Year Anniversary Gala

The celebration of our 20th Anniversary continues! In keeping with this momentous milestone, we will hold our 20th Anniversary Gala at La Maison Française - the French Embassy - on October 27, 2018. This is a beautiful venue and the event should be a fun filled evening with great food, music, dancing and festivity. Please mark your calendars now and we will share more information soon.

Updated Website

Please check out our new and improved Stokes School website (www.ewstokes.org). It reflects our new, two-campus structure and provides details on Stokes School's history, governance, academic and student support programs, alumni, the school calendar as well as information about Stokes School in the news and upcoming events.

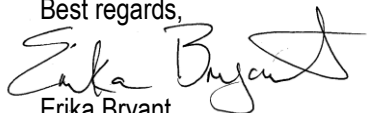
Home Visits

Stokes School faculty and staff participate in home visits to learn about our scholars and their families, answer any questions that families may have, and develop a strong relationship with our families. Teachers have already begun to reach out to families over the summer and will continue to do so early in the school year. We will work with families to schedule these visits at times and locations that are most convenient for them. Last school year, we reached 79% of our families with home visits and we are looking forward to reaching and exceeding that goal in the coming year.

We look forward to seeing you on the first day of school, August 22nd for K-5th grade students and August 23rd for Pre-K students. In addition, we will hold Family Orientations on August 14th (East End) and August 15th (Brookland) from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. All families (but especially new families) are invited and encouraged to get to know other families, faculty and staff, learn about first day procedures, daily drop-off and pick-up procedures, important policy reminders, and get a brief curricular overview. We hope to see you there.

Take care and enjoy the last few days of summer!

Best regards,



Erika Bryant
Executive Director