



Elsie Whitlow Stokes

Community Freedom Public Charter School

HISTORY HERSTORY #OURSTORY

20+



October 2019

The Stokes Banner

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*Cover photo: Kindergarten French gathered on the carpet with Mme. Aurelie



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



IMPORTANT DATES

First Friday	November 1
Make-Up Picture Day	November 4
Student Government Swearing-In	November 8
Teacher Records Day (No School)	November 11
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
First Friday	December 6



Drop Off

Please do not drive up Oakview Terrace to drop your scholar off in the morning unless you have a handicap placard or are pregnant. We welcome you to park at the bottom of the hill (Perry Street) and walk your scholar up the hill. Otherwise, please drive through our carpool lane on Otis Street and allow our Safety Patrols to open your car door and help your scholar up the stairs and into the building. As another option, you are welcome to park on the side of Otis Street across from the school and walk your scholar in. Please be mindful of our neighbors and do not block their driveways or litter in their yards. As always, thank you for taking care of our community.

Pick Up

Please obey DC traffic laws throughout the community and be courteous by not blocking our neighbors driveways on Oakview Terrace. All first through fifth grade scholars are dismissed from the multi-purpose room with the exception of those who attend after school. Students will not be released to their parents until they are sitting down in their classroom line and their teacher has checked them off. Students will not be permitted to play in the courtyard after school. If you wish to stay and play after 3:30 PM, please use the Pre-K playground or the playground in the front of the building. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will continue to be picked up from their classrooms at dismissal time (3:00 PM for Pre-K and 3:30 PM for K).



Stokes Scholars Impress at French Embassy

Second Grade French went to the embassy and interviewed Solene Burtz, who is in charge of the bilingual education in the USA. During their first IB unit, "How we organize ourselves," scholars studied not just our community, but also the organization of our society as a whole and the government. Consequently, they also got a chance to go to the Capitol and have a better understanding of the US government. After both field trips, they compared the French and the American governments, created two journals, and presented them to the class.



Stokes Scholars Impress at French Embassy

At the embassy, students not only visited the facility, but also realized how the embassy is important to our community and how French is widely spoken in the DMV with a significant francophone presence. We then decided we would come back to the embassy to watch a movie in French, enjoyed a French author coming to our school, and tried to connect with other French immersion schools in the area.

As the only public elementary school in the District of Columbia that offers a French immersion program, Stokes School has a special bond with the French embassy and we look forward to strengthening that bond in the future.



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.



- The wellness committee needs YOU to help with the Green Team. We are entering our second year providing multi-stream waste management in the cafeteria. Our students are enthusiastic about the program, but often need some adult guidance to make sure it's done correctly. Mondays during lunch (11-1) are the time of most acute need. [Sign Up Here!](#)

GET INVOLVED

- Join the Stokes PTA. Keep abreast of what the PTA is up to by checking the PTA bulletin board (located across the hall from Kindergarten).
- 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 periods. If interested in donating your time, email AnaD@ewstokes.org for more information.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

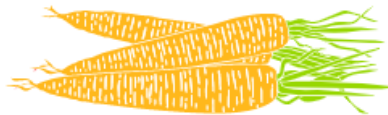
Chicken Fajitas



- 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](#)

