



Elsie Whitlow Stokes

Community Freedom Public Charter School

HISTORY HERSTORY #OURSTORY

20+



September 2019

The Stokes Banner

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*Cover photo: 4th grade students visiting the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History 9/6/2019



Letter from the Executive Director



Photo by: Satsun Photography

Dear Stokes School Community,

During the previous two school years the Stokes School Board of Trustees and School Leadership Team engaged in a rigorous strategic planning process to review and build upon the successes of Stokes School, learn from our challenges, and plan a vibrant future that expands our reach to children and families who seek our services. The development of this strategic plan included internal and external stakeholder input on how we are functioning and our impact; articulation of our guiding logic model for future planning; and development of strategic goals and outcome measures focused on the next five years of educating scholars and sustaining growth.

As a result of these activities we created a strategic plan that accomplishes the following:

- aligns our capacity to support the mission, vision, and related priorities of the school
- builds on a legacy of educational success, while strengthening our position as a thought leader in urban education and impacting lives well into the future.
- updates of our most recent strategic plan—the work that remains and new areas to explore, an overview of our theory of change, and presentation of the strategic goals and outcome measures that cover the next five years.

Letter from the Executive Director

Based on the results of stakeholder feedback, identification of unmet needs, development of our theory of change and logic model, and subsequent internal planning, the Stokes School's Board of Trustees, Executive Director, and School Leadership Team have prioritized the next iteration of our work.

Perhaps, more at any other time in the school's history, this plan reflects a real stretch in Board and staff commitment and leadership for the future. We intend to address that which we left unfinished in the last strategic plan—specific instructional enhancements and consistent board governance based on best practices—and to build on our legacy to solidly reach future generations.

The following are goal statements that over the next five years, that will strengthen our capacity and position the Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School to:

- Sustain and improve our scholars' academic, social, wellness, and social justice outcomes;
- Strengthen internal systems and policies;
- Expand, strengthen, and sustain our resources (i.e., human, social, and financial)
- Increase the numbers of students and families served by the school; and
- Enhance our position as an advocate and thought leader in urban education.

Letter from the Executive Director

These strategic goals build upon each of the gains made to date, address unmet needs, and target areas in need of additional planning and/or investment to ensure continued success and long-term sustainability.

Reaching these goals will require vision, determination, hard work, and grit. The Elsie Whitlow Stokes School community is more determined than ever to ensure that children in the District of Columbia have access to an exemplary education—one that prepares children for success and to become committed and capable stewards and servants of our global community.

To read more about Stokes School's 2019-2024 strategic plan, it is posted on our website [here](#).



IMPORTANT DATES

Asado Soccer Game	October 5; 11:30AM
Picture Day	October 7-8
Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly	October 11
Indigenous Peoples Day (No School)	October 14
Taste of Stokes	October 26; 10:00AM-12:30PM
Fall Outing (Pre-K & Kindergarten)	October 30
Fall Outing (Grades 1—5)	October 31
First Friday	November 1



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).



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.



GET INVOLVED

Presented by the Stokes School PTA:

Team French vs. Team Spanish! Cheer on your teachers, the staff, and parents as they engage in this friendly, yet competitive game. Popcorn and refreshments will be available for purchase. Stay after the game for the ASADO celebration.

When: Saturday, October 5, 2019 **Where:** Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center (501 Riggs Rd. NE, Washington, DC 20011)

Time: 11:30AM until 2:00PM.

Sign up to play to play and/or volunteer [here!](#)



TASTE OF STOKES

Saturday, October 26, 2019

10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

EXPERIENCE ALL ASPECTS OF WELLNESS



Celebrating the remarkable work of the Stokes School's Health and Wellness Program

Sample food from some of the Brookland community food vendors, including our very own kitchen!

Family Friendly
Activities

Play and do some
Yoga

Learn about
Gardening and
composting

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Indian Mango Dhal

More than 60 types of dhal are made across India. The basic dish contains lentils or other legumes flavored with spices. Yellow lentils and mango are cooked in a more traditionally Southern Indian style—more soup-like. Both ripe and under-ripe mango work: less-ripe mango imparts a tart flavor and riper mango imparts a sweeter taste. Serve over basmati rice or with roasted chicken.



- 1 cup yellow lentils
- 4 cups water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- .5 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- .5 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 4 garlic cloves (minced)
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger
- .5 teaspoon ground coriander
- .25 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 mangoes peeled & diced
- .5 cup fresh cilantro (chopped)

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

1. Rinse lentils until the water runs clear. Combine lentils, water, .5 teaspoons of salt, and turmeric in a large pan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer, partially cover and cook, stirring occasionally for 15 minutes.
2. In a nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add cumin seeds and cook until they start to brown. (about 30 seconds). Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally until they are soft (about 4-6 minutes). Add garlic, ginger, coriander, and the remaining .5 teaspoons of salt. Stir for 1 more minute.
3. Stir the garlic mixture and mangoes into the lentils. Return to a simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, until the lentils are falling apart (10-15 minutes more). Stir in cilantro and enjoy!

[Click here for October Menus](#)

