

Bobcat Blast for Week of April 27-May 1, 2020

Good evening, Ellis families!

This week, our school-wide grace and courtesy focus is ACCEPTANCE. It can be said that the first step of acceptance is identifying, acknowledging, and validating the emotions attached to the events in our lives. Let's take extra time this week to recognize how our students are feeling and to encourage them that it is perfectly normal to have strong feelings about what they are going through. Our students' emotional well-being is one of our biggest concerns right now.

On that note, please continue to visit the Ellis School Counseling website regularly for updated information and resources from Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Ivey.

This week, Primary and Upper Elementary students have new choice boards that were sent to you by your classroom teachers and uploaded to the Ellis website under the "Grade Levels" tab. Lower Elementary students will continue to work on the choice boards that were sent out last week. Keep in mind that Explorations choice boards are also available to enrich your child's independent learning experience.

There is a limited quantity of yearbooks still available for purchase online at <https://www.strawbridge.net/> (Use code: YB108996). Strawbridge customer service is closed at this time. So if you have questions concerning whether you have already ordered a yearbook, you can email Ms. Lisa (lisa.odonnell@sccps.com) for that information. Again, there is no distribution plan available at this time, but, if you order a yearbook, it will be held for you.

That is all for now, Bobcats! Stay safe and keep in touch.

Bobcat Blast for Friday, April 24, 2020

Dear Ellis Family,

This is Ms. Tanya your principal. I hope that everyone is feeling well and looking for the pockets of joy. This week I have seen some of the students on their classroom zoom meetings and that has reset my compass as I search for the wonder in this current situation.

Speaking of joy and wonder, last Friday a new member of my family arrived. Her name is Gorse and she is a Dudley Lab with green eyes and a pink nose. She is a beautiful bundle of delight who has brightened my week with her curiosity and unconditional love. I have watched her explore her new environs; sniffing out new smells and mouthing every piece of furniture, rugs and electrical wires. She is setting up patterns in her home; a place to eat, a place to lie on the cool tiles of the hearth and a place to dig in the compost heap. She too is an explorer, creating her "prepared environment" while building connections to the things and people that will serve

her basic needs. Just like us humans, she is craving the comforts of home.

Let's remind ourselves that in the most challenging of times there is "No place like home!"

Have a wonderful weekend and stay joyful!

[SCCPSS Notification for Thursday, April 23, 2020](#)

Good evening Parents,

The SCCPSS Meal Delivery Plan continues while schools are closed. Beginning the week of April 27th, SCCPSS will move to a once a week delivery plan. Each week the delivery schedule may be adjusted to avoid deliveries on a day when inclement weather is expected. Monitor the District's website for regular updates.

For the week of April 27th, meals will be distributed on Tuesday, April 28th at more than 400 bus stops across the county. On that day, students will receive five days of meals – a breakfast and a lunch for Tuesday through Monday excluding the weekend. The change to a once a week delivery is being made based on staffing and efficiency. Meals provided have a shelf life and should be stored appropriately.

While there is a "shelter-at-home" order in effect for the City of Savannah, families may proceed to the stops for the purpose of receiving food, an essential need. Visit SCCPSS.com for a complete list of meal delivery locations and times. Simply look for the route departing from the school closest to you to find your nearest stop and time.

For any questions or concerns about Meal Stops, families should call the District's Transportation Line at 912-395-5591.

[Bobcat Blast for the Week of April 20-24, 2020](#)

Good evening, Ellis families!

This week, we conclude our school-wide grace and courtesy focus on COURAGE. Thank you for all that you are doing to support your children and their well-being both emotionally and academically. We know that this is a difficult time for everyone and we want you to know that you are appreciated.

The PTA is working on a "secret" project and they are looking for creative students in every class/grade level to help. If your student is interested in participating, please contact Yvette Upton either through the Ellis PTA Facebook page or at the email address provided (yupton@icloud.com) for more details.

All Primary, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary students will have new Ellis-created choice boards made available to them this week. These will be sent to you by your child's

classroom teacher and/or uploaded on the digital platform that your child's teacher is using. Choice boards can also be found on the Ellis website under the "Grade Levels" tab in the "Documents" section of each grade level webpage. New Explorations choice boards are also available this week and can be accessed the same way as the classroom choice boards. Erdkinder students will continue to work through their learning cycle as assigned by their classroom teacher in Google Classroom.

If you have a Pre-K student joining our Ellis family for the 2020/2021 school year, the deadline to register them is April 30th. More information is available on the SCCPSS District website.

Please continue to check the Ellis website for the latest information and resources for our school community.

That is all for now, Bobcats! Stay safe and connected with your teachers. Have a great week!

[SCCPSS Notification for Friday, April 17, 2020](#)

Good evening Parents,

The SCCPSS **Meal Delivery Plan** continues for the week of April 20th. Buses will deliver to over 400 stops across the county on Tuesday and Thursday next week. Buses will not run on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Make sure to check SCCPSS.com for the latest schedule and list of delivery locations and times. For any questions or concerns about Meal Stops, families should call the District's Transportation Line at 912-395-5591.

In addition, we want to alert our families who have Comcast cable in their home, to an opportunity for students to see lessons from some of their favorite teachers on Comcast Channel 195. The new SCCPSS-TV debuted this week thanks to the generosity of our Comcast community partner. The channel will enable students to connect with the classroom by viewing lessons at all grade levels presented by instructors from across the district.

We soon hope to upload those lessons to the district's YouTube channel as well for our families who don't subscribe to Comcast. We'll keep you updated. We hope our families are staying safe and healthy during the school closure. Thank you for your support of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

[Bobcat Blast for Friday, April 17, 2020](#)

This is your principal, Ms. Tanya.

In times like these, we are called to "dig deep" into our psyche and mine for resources such as resilience, perseverance, and grit. These resources are also the attributes of good learning. In our Montessori classrooms we challenge children to explore the unknown and to sit in the

discomfort of working through problems both academic and social.

“The Map that Changed the World” by Simon Winchester is a biography of William Smith, a man with grit, who despite the challenges of his background, persevered to become a renowned and pioneering geologist. Smith created the first geological map that told the scientific story of the formation of our earth. Each year, in the Montessori Great Lessons, our elementary students explore this geological story, by studying rocks, minerals and fossils, and by fitting their findings into the history of our planet.

This exploration of rocks reminds me of my favorite place to disconnect. Linton is an obscure town in Georgia, located on the “Fall Line” where the ancient ocean meets the beginnings of the ancient shore of our American continent. While in Linton, I have been out in the woods collecting rocks, but not just any rocks. I have hauled great lumps of gleaming white quartz, placing them in a heap at the edge of a field. Back and forth I go, building muscle and determination. My goal is to build a labyrinth, and I will need more than 500 rocks to make this project a reality. On a side note, if you are at all familiar with labyrinths, then you will know that unlike a maze, there are no roadblocks.

I refuse to see our current situation as a road block, but rather a turn in the path. With William Smith and our Ellis students as my inspiration, I intend to create a map. An inner map connecting myself to a timeless story that reaches into and spirals out from the knowledge that we are all on this journey together. Let’s dig deep, persevere, and continue to create a map that will lead us back to those we love.

[Bobcat Blast for Sunday, April 12, 2020](#)

Good evening, Ellis families!

We hope that you had a restful three-day weekend. We look forward to connecting with you this week as best as we all can.

Our school-wide grace and courtesy focus continues to be on COURAGE. Ernest Hemingway said, "Courage is grace under pressure." Let's consider that as we move forward with our independent learning.

This week, Primary and Lower Elementary students should continue to work on the choice boards that they received from their teachers last week. Upper Elementary students will receive an updated choice board from their classroom teacher which will encourage them to extend their learning from last week. The Explorations choice boards for all developmental levels remain the same this week. All documents can be found on the Ellis website. Erdkinder students should continue to work on assignments provided by their teachers in Google Classroom.

Some families have experienced digital access issues with the district Google platform. You can read the district's response and information on their continued efforts to resolve the issues at the link in your email (<https://spwww.sccpss.com/Pages/SCCPSS-Statement-on-Digital-Access-Issues.aspx>).

The 2019/2020 Ellis Yearbooks have been received and there is a limited quantity still available for sale. A distribution plan is not available at this time, but if you order (or have already ordered) a yearbook, Ms. Lisa will hold it for you. To order a yearbook, visit the link in your email and use the code provided (<https://www.strawbridge.net/> Use code: YB108996). This is certainly a school year that we will all remember for years to come. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Lisa (lisa.odonnell@sccpss.com).

That is all for now, Bobcats. Take care of yourselves, do your best in all things, and stay connected with your teachers.

[SCCPSS Notification for Thursday, April 9, 2020](#)

Our school **Meal Delivery Plan** continues for the week of April 13th, 2020. Buses will deliver to over 400 stops across the county on Tuesday and Thursday. Buses will not run on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Make sure to check our website for the updated schedule and list of delivery locations and times. For any questions or concerns about Meal Stops, families should call the District's Transportation Line at 912-395-5591.

Visit this [link](#) for an updated and complete list of meal delivery locations and times.

Visit this [link](#) for next week's [meal delivery schedule at a glance](#).

Student learning continues through our **Independent Learning Plan**. Ensure your child stays connected with their teacher for assignments and updates. Teaching will continue through the end of the year. We encourage all students to stay engaged to enhance or remediate grades. The school year calendar remains unchanged and the last day of school is May 15, 2020. And remember, if an elementary or middle grade student does not have computer or internet access, a printed copy of our Independent Learning Packet may be picked up. Just visit the Student and Family Services Center located at the Early Learning Center at Formey School at 400 East Broad Street in Savannah. Packets will be placed outside in a weatherproof bin for pickup. Questions? Call our instructional hotline at 912-395-5514. Assistance for High School students should be direct to their school principal.

Friday, April 10 is a Holiday for all. There will be no school for students. Please enjoy your long weekend and we look forward to continued teaching and learning on Monday, April 13, 2020.

Bobcat Blast for Thursday, April 9, 2020

Dear Ellis Families,

This is your principal Ms. Tanya,

In an attempt to rest my eyes during a day full of virtual meetings, I venture out into my garden to see what is new and to FaceTime my parents in Ireland, who because of health issues, are quarantined at home for 14 weeks. I tell my parents that this is their daily floral update. I have several amaryllis the size of dinner plates and the gerbera daisies are a rainbow of colors from yellow to scarlet, to deep cerise pink. Blue Dutch irises, my grandmother's favorite, have bloomed and spent their petals all in a week and the buds of the Easter lilies are fattening themselves for a glorious explosion.

While all these flowers delight, there is one plant that continues to captivate my attention, - "milkweed". Currently the milkweed is flowering, and each tiny orange florette entices an exploration by an occasional butterfly. Each butterfly feeds on the nectar, its long tongue digging deep into the sugary well. But if you look closely the butterfly, while feeding, is also laying its eggs on the underside of the plant's leaves. Soon these eggs will become caterpillars feeding on the milkweed and often on the fennel that is planted close by. These caterpillars, when ready, will find other darker parts of the garden to spin their cocoons. Then on a given day, butterflies will emerge into the sun to continue this cycle of life.

During these strange times, perhaps we need to rest our sights on the miracle of life. When we pay attention to our children, many great discoveries will come into focus. I invite you to keenly observe each child's development but more importantly, take time to witness how they, like the butterfly, search out ways to feed their spirit, fatten themselves on their surroundings, wrap themselves in the love of their family and others, and emerge time and again into the sun of new beginnings.

Bobcat Blast for Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Tomorrow, Thursday April 9th, is a district "Do It Your Way Day"!

Students, you can choose to continue with scheduled classroom meetings/ google classroom, and activities chosen from the Ellis developmental level Choice Boards, which are found on the Ellis Website

or

Students, you can learn however you want to on Thursday, without your teacher guiding you. Want to learn more about the bugs in your backyard...go for it! Want to learn how to put together a simple machine, do it! IT IS YOUR DAY TO DO IT YOUR WAY!"

Have a TERRIFIC "DO IT YOUR WAY!" THURSDAY

Peace to all,
Ms. Tanya

[Bobcat Blast for the week of April 6-10, 2020](#)

Good evening, Ellis families!

We hope all of you are doing as well as you can during this difficult and uncertain time. Thank you for your patience and understanding as our teachers/staff have been working hard together these last two weeks on a thoughtful and meaningful lesson plan for your students.

This week, our school-wide grace and courtesy focus is COURAGE. Let's keep in mind that it takes a lot of courage to try new things. Let's model fierce grace for each other, our students, and ourselves during this time of adjustment.

Monday, April 6th, classroom teachers of all PreK-6th grade students will be sending out new Ellis-created Math, ELA, and Explorations choice boards to every family through their already established mode of communication (email, Transparent Classroom, Remind, etc.). The choice boards will also be located on the Ellis website under the "Grade Levels" tab. Once you select your student(s) grade level, you will find the choice boards under the "Documents" section on the page. A brief introduction of the theme, instructions for completing the choice boards, and a reading log are included. All Erdkinder students will continue their Montessori work cycles as assigned by their teachers in Google Classroom. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

You are encouraged to visit the school counseling tab on the Ellis website for a link to the brand new "Virtual School Counseling Office" created by Ms.Rebecca and Ms.Ivey which includes resources, activities, and much more. Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Ivey continue to update the site regularly so keep checking back for the latest from them.

In case you ever miss a notification from the district or a Bobcat Blast from Ellis, you can find a running transcript of those posted on the Ellis website under the "SCCPSS/Bobcat Blasts" tab.

Friday, April 10th, is a school holiday. There will be no school for students or staff on this day. We hope that you take this time to rest, relax, and recharge.

It is now more important than ever before for you to visit the SCCPSS district and Ellis websites regularly for the most up-to-date information, resources, and news for our Ellis community.

That is all for now, Bobcats! Stay safe, "virtually" connected with us, and full of wonder and grace.

[SCCPSS Notification for Friday, April 3, 2020](#)

Good evening Parents,

As a result of our extended emergency school closure, students will continue their learning through Independent Learning Days.

Teachers will continue to provide assignments via electronic platforms like Google Classroom, Zoom, or others they may have used with their students this year. Check with your child's teacher for details if you aren't sure how to connect with them.

If digital access is not available at home, new Independent Learning Packets will be available for pick-up at the entrance of each Elementary, K8, and Middle school site beginning at Noon on Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 10. After April 10th, packets may be picked up outside the Student and Family Services Center located at the Early Learning Center at Formey School at 400 East Broad Street in Savannah. In addition, the Independent learning packets will be available on SCCPSS.com beginning Monday, April 6. Simply click the Independent Learning button on the front page of the site.

Each printed Independent Learning Packet contains a weekly schedule for work completion through the remainder of the school year. Assignment return will be established between the parent and teacher for the purpose of grading.

Teachers will continue to be available to all students and parents for virtual "office hours" during which time they will provide instruction, offer guidance on instructional tasks, and be available to answer questions. Teachers will notify parents of the specific times for their virtual office hours. If you are unable to reach your child's teacher, please contact your child's principal by email.

In addition, an updated meal delivery schedule and listing of routes has been posted on SCCPSS.com for the week of April 6th. Just click the Meal Delivery button to find details.

We hope our students and their families are staying safe and healthy while schools are shut down. Thank you for your support of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

[Bobcat Blast for Friday, April 3, 2020](#)

Dear Ellis Families,

This is your Principal Ms. Tanya.

Again, this has been a week to channel our efforts in preparing a Montessori environment that will continue to nurture our students as self-disciplined, self-motivated and independent learners. The Charles Ellis Montessori Academy staff have rallied together to construct learning opportunities that will take us through Phase 2 of the district's Independent Learning Days. Primary and Elementary students should be on the lookout for Montessori CHOICE BOARDS to be sent from your classroom teacher on Monday April 6th. Erdkinder students will continue

with their Montessori Cycle. All instructional Guidance documents will be posted on the Charles Ellis Website. (more information will be sent via Sunday's BOBCAT BLAST)

To guide children and capitalize on their innate capacity to self-educate, Dr. Maria Montessori constructed a curriculum framework sourced from the wonders of our universe and from our own continuing human story. She identified "Human Needs & Tendancies" as the underlying impetus for this evolving human story. Today, as I speak with you, one "tendency" that comes to mind, is each human's tendency toward exploration.

For the staff, I bookended the work week with a reflection on the Apollo 8 mission. Truly this was a mission greater than the importance of landing on the moon. NASA needed to not only to know how to get to the moon, but also how to get back to earth. Anders, Lovell and Borman were the brave explorers who define this journey for the many missions that would come after their heroic flight. The astronauts also knew that a part of this journey would put them on the dark side of the moon without radio contact.

In these times it may feel that we have journeyed to the dark side of the universe as we know it, but here at Ellis we will keep a steady orbit knowing that there will be a path homeward. This time is fulfilling our need to explore new horizons and like the famous "Earthrise" photo it will provide us with a glorious perspective on our humanity and our Montessori mission for PEACE!

[SCCPSS Notification for Wednesday, April 1, 2020](#)

Good evening parents,

Today, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp issued an Executive Order calling for Public Schools in the state to remain closed for in-person instruction through the end of this school year. As a result, SCCPSS schools will now remain closed and students will continue Independent Learning through the scheduled end of the school year on May 15, 2020.

More information regarding the continuation of Independent Learning will be communicated in the coming days. While all school buildings remain closed, the District's Central Office and other administrative facilities are open to the public by appointment only for essential business. Additional information will be provided to our families through the usual parent notification calls and emails, district social media accounts, SCCPSS.com, and local media.

Earlier this month, Governor Brian Kemp placed Georgia under a State of Emergency due to the spread of Coronavirus. The school District continues to maintain regular contact with the Georgia Department of Public Health, Chatham County Health Department, and the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, to monitor Coronavirus impacts in our area.

Once again, all Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools will remain closed through the end of this school year by order of the Governor. Please make sure to check our website – www.sccps.com, and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for further updates.