

Bobcat Blast for Friday, May 15, 2020

Dear Ellis Family,

On this the last day of the 2019-2020 school year for students, I want to send out a huge thank you to all of our community, for sustaining our mission ...”To Educate the Whole Child for a Whole World”. We have been truly blessed to nurture a sense of joy and wonder for the gifts our world has to offer and we have been endowed with the gentle power of reaching out to heal hearts and minds, as we continue on our journey towards a peaceful world. The Ellis Experience has much to offer during these strange and challenging times.

Yesterday was our Charles Ellis Montessori Academy 8th Grade Bridging Ceremony. It was an emotional event full of joy, gratitude and celebration. The presence of these wonderful humans has filled our Ellis Experience with much hope for the future. Later in the evening I received a letter from 8th grade student Takayla Smith, our student representative on the Superintendent’s Student Senate. I am sharing with you a snippet of that letter today as I feel it speaks to the foundation of who we are as a community.

Takayla writes “I want to thank you so much for all of the many opportunities that you’ve given me throughout the 10 amazing years I’ve been at that school. I have shared many memorable moments with my fellow friends at the school.... I will never forget the glow on my face when I got chosen to be the student advisor, it showed me that I have a voice and I should share what I believe in. This school has taught me more than I could ever imagine. I’ve learned to be independent, and it’s okay to work with others when needed. So much joy, tears, laughter, and fun goes into this school, my second home. I’ve always felt welcomed, important, wanted, and needed at Charles Ellis. There’s no other school like the one you are running. ...the reality hit all of us when we knew we had to say goodbye, for now. I will always come back to visit. Charles Ellis will forever be my home away from home.”

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER. BE BRAVE & EXPLORE THE WONDER!!!

Love & Peace,

Ms. Tanya

SCCPSS Notification for Wednesday, May 14, 2020

Good Evening Parents,

You may have received a survey recently from the Savannah-Chatham Council of PTAs that seeks your opinion on possible options for the next school year including half days or a split schedule. We appreciate the PTA’s efforts to help gather information on public opinion.

Please know that no decisions regarding the structure of classes for the 2020-21 school year have been made by the district.

It is our hope that school will resume in August in the classroom, but there is no way of knowing, at this time, what we will be facing later this summer with crowd restrictions and closures due to the Coronavirus. As we finish this school year, be assured that district staff are considering all options while looking to the CDC, the Department of Public Health, and the Georgia Department of Education for guidance on whether a full reopening will be allowed this fall and what operational conditions, if any, will be required for students and staff to return to an in-person form of instruction. Any decisions made will be communicated to our families as soon as possible.

We thank you for your support of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

SCCPSS Notification for Monday, May 11, 2020

This message is from Savannah-Chatham Public Schools with a few end-of-the-year reminders as we finish out the last week of school for the 2019-2020 School Year. The last day of school is Friday, May 15, 2020. This will be the last day of remote instruction for students in this school year. Please remember, as part of our annual school closeout, Parent Access will be unavailable beginning tonight as we prepare for the end of the quarter. Final Report Cards will be accessible in the Parent Portal Friday, May 22nd after 5 PM. As a look-ahead reminder, the 2020-21 school year student data and schedules will not be available in the Parent Portal until after the 10th day of school. Students will receive their schedules during open house events. Details on next year's school opening will be provided in future communications. Please ensure your contact information is up to date with your school!

And don't forget, tomorrow is the last day of meal service for this school year. Meals will be distributed Tuesday, May 12, at more than 400 bus stops across the county. Students will receive five days of meals – a breakfast and a lunch for Tuesday through Monday (excluding the weekend.) All meals provided have a shelf life and should be stored appropriately.

Finally, join us as we recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the Class of 2020! Starting Wednesday, the District is proud to offer Virtual Graduation Ceremonies that will recognize more than 2,000 graduates. The name and photo of each graduating senior will be broadcast and viewers will hear special messages from each school principal, the Superintendent of Schools, and Board of Education members. Recordings of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian messages will be broadcast also. Families will be able to view the virtual ceremonies from the safety of their homes. Visit sccpss.com to view each ceremony.

We appreciate your commitment to teaching and learning during this unprecedented time. We hope to get back to our normal way of operation just as soon as conditions allow, but for now, we wish you a safe and enjoyable summer. Make sure to stay connected with us during the summer by checking Facebook and Twitter and online at sccpss.com for regular updates.

Bobcat Blast for the week of May 11-15, 2020

Good evening, Ellis families!

Our school-wide grace and courtesy focus this week is ACCEPTANCE. Ready or not, we must now accept that this is the last week of school even if it isn't ending how any of us wanted.

Thank you to Coach Lesley for coordinating and to everyone who participated in the Ellis virtual field day event last Friday. We hope you enjoyed some fun in the sun!

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.

The deadline to order a yearbook online is Friday, May 15th. After that date, Strawbridge will turn off access to pay with a credit card using their secure website. There are only 30 yearbooks left and there is no plan to order more at this time, so if you would like a copy, please order now at the link in your email and use the code provided (<https://www.strawbridge.net/> Use code: YB108996).

Teachers have been working on lists of online resources that your child may use throughout the summer if you are interested. Be on the lookout for those lists to be added to the Ellis website under the "Grade Levels" tab by the end of the week.

That is all for now, Bobcats! Have a great last week of school and a safe, happy summer!

Bobcat Blast for Friday, May 9, 2020

Dear Ellis family,

Continuing the theme of exploration and looking for connections to celebrate Mothers' Day, I was reminded of my previous letters over these past few weeks. Motherhood is as awesome as rocketing to the moon and as intimate as planting seeds in the dark soil of the unknown. There is no road map, yet we feel the pull to take bearings that will orient our teaching and parenting from one peak of a child's development to the next. I do not celebrate this particular day in the singular, it is truly Mothers' Day, a day when we can acknowledge the blessings of the collective force of mothering our children from infancy and through adulthood. Each child's birthing is a promise to our humanity and a challenge to rally a village in raising up a peaceful world. We are all given this opportunity on a daily basis by teaching our children that hope and love will overcome. As Gilda Radner once said,

“Motherhood is the biggest gamble in the world. It is the glorious life force. It’s huge and scary—it’s an act of infinite optimism.”

Bobcat Blast for the week of May 4-8, 2020

Good evening, Ellis families!

This week, we continue our school-wide grace and courtesy focus on ACCEPTANCE. We must soon accept that the last day of school is quickly approaching.

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. Erdkinder students will continue to work through their learning cycle as assigned by their teacher in Google Classroom.

New Explorations choice boards and a new social-emotional choice board for all grade levels from our school counselors are also available this week. Those can be accessed both on digital learning platforms and on the Ellis website.

The district has compiled answers to frequently asked questions about the end of the school year for students and families. That document can be found on the Ellis website under the "Announcements" section of the homepage.

Friday, May 8th, is virtual field day! Coach Lesley has compiled a list of activities that your student can do at home to get active and have fun. This slideshow can be found on the Explorations choice boards sent to your student or on the Ellis website. We want to encourage you to take a photo or video of your student participating and to post it to the Ellis Media Center Facebook Page to share the fun with our school community.

That is all for now, Bobcats! Stay safe and connected with us throughout the week.

SCCPSS Notification for Sunday, May 3, 2020

To our staff and school families:

SCCPSS values your opinion and we want your feedback on the current “Work from Home” environment into which we have been thrust. On Monday, May 4, we will send a survey to the email address we have on file for you. The survey will come from “SCCPSS Surveys.” This survey will take just a few minutes of your time and the information you share will be anonymous.

Parents, your child will receive a similar invitation from his teacher. We value our students' opinions, too!

If you do not receive an email from us, please check your spam or junk folders. It's possible that we do not have a current email for you. If you wish to update your contact information in our system, please click

https://savannahchatham.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zqvSgfgIIQFDU1

We sincerely appreciate your participation as this will help us improve our service delivery in the future.

Bobcat Blast for Friday, May 1, 2020

Dear Ellis Family,

This is your principal Ms. Tanya. Today is our district-wide DAY OF GRATITUDE.

At Charles Ellis Montessori Academy, our core values continue to shine through the clouds of the unknown. Wonderment and the Joy of Childhood is a core value that has charted our journey thus far.

Molly Fumia writes in the book *A Grateful Heart*: "To be joyful in the universe is a brave and reckless act. The courage for joy springs not from certainty of human experience, but the surprise. Our astonishment at being loved, our bold willingness to love in return –these wonders promise the possibilities of joyfulness, no matter how often and how harshly love seems to be lost. Therefore, despite the world's sorrows, we give thanks for our loves, for our joys and for the continued courage to be happily surprised."

I would like to take this day to express how thankful I am to have the opportunity to serve you, the Charles Ellis Montessori Academy community. Being a participant in the collective life of this community has brought me such joy. You continue to challenge me to a greater understanding of our humanity and to be brave as together we explore pathways that will lead to a peaceful world. As an immigrant, I often find myself fretting to be with family, especially during these strange times. When considering this feeling, I remind and comfort myself by knowing that I am a part of our larger Ellis family. So I say THANK YOU for all that you continue to do to bless my journey.