

Edith L. Frierson Elementary

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Karolyn Belcher
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Principal

Dear Frierson Families,

We realize that there have been many challenges that our families have faced over the past few months. I want you to know that we have worked hard to create a safe and engaging learning environment that will allow our children to grow. Teachers and our entire staff have been working diligently since March learning new strategies and skills to make this experience a meaningful one for all of our learners.

I hope that you are looking forward to the 2020-2021 school year. Even with the extenuating circumstances due to Covid-19, last year was an amazing year! On behalf of the faculty and staff of Edith L. Frierson, I extend a warm welcome to you as we begin this school year.

This year's theme is "Young Minds Bloom Here". We definitely spent the summer "blooming" with construction but are proud of the additions to our building. This work has made District 9's first Montessori School a more beautiful and comfortable living space for our students to learn and achieve great things. This year, we will have 3 Primary classes of three, four and five year olds and two

Lower Elementary classes of 6 and 7 year olds in addition to our 3rd -5th General Education classes. Once again we are full and have a waiting list!

Charleston County school district leaders and staff have done some phenomenal work to make this year possible. We ask that you be very patient with us as this school year will feel much different from any school year we've ever experienced. As the District makes changes, we will keep you up-to-date by informing you of any new information as soon as we get it. Feel free to contact me, Principal Dr. Deborah Cummings, by email at deborah_cummings@charleston.k12.sc.us for any questions or concerns.

Please join me in welcoming new staff members:

Brittany Fortuna, Primary Montessori Teacher Assistant

Faythe Prince, Lower El Teacher

Nadezhda Ivanova, 4th Grade Teacher

Taylor Bensinger, Art & PE Instructor

Rachel Wetz, Music Instructor

A very special "Welcome Back" to all of our returning staff members and one who will take on a new position. Ms. Katherine Simmons will take on the position of Teacher Assistant in our new Lower El classroom, and we know that she will be a wonderful asset to Mrs. Prince.

Please take note of the important dates and times listed:

- In-Person and Remote Learning **classes begin on Tuesday, September 8th**
- **Our Montessori Remote 3 and 4 year old students will be contacted by Mrs. Heather Grant regarding their daily schedules**
- Tuesday & Wednesday, September 8th & 9th are Early Release Days, **school dismisses two hours early at 1:30 PM**
- Students riding in cars should arrive between 8:00am and 8:30am. The late bell is 8:35, students are late as of 8:35AM. Staff will be located in the car rider line to escort your child safely into the building until 8:35. **After 8:35 please bring your child into the front office** and you will need to sign them in for the day.

- Parents of Primary students ages 3, 4 and 5 are asked to walk these young students to the door so that staff can escort them to their classrooms
- Policy ADD requires all staff and students to wear masks in CCSD buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic until further notice. **All** students will wear face coverings while on district property, on district transportation, or attending a school related activity (e.g. athletic events, field trips, etc.). Certain classes or activities may be granted a limited exception to this requirement at the discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee.
 - **Students riding our buses must wear a mask on the bus the entire ride to and from school.**
 - The district will provide masks to students and expects that reusable masks will be washed regularly to ensure maximum protection. Exceptions for wearing a face covering (both faculty and students) may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:
 - ● mealtimes
 - ● outdoor recess where students can maintain a physical distance of at least six (6) feet
 - ● administration of medication
 - ● planned and socially distanced mask breaks

As a result, students must get out of all vehicles with their masks on in order to enter the campus.

- Visitors:
 - Non-essential visitors to district buildings will be limited in accordance with administrative rule KI-R, Visitors include, but are not limited to, parents/legal guardians, contract service providers, and delivery persons. Visitors will wear a face covering while on district property. Visitors will be denied entry or asked to leave district property if they refuse to wear a face covering.

Bell Schedule and Attendance:

Please be reminded that students cannot be dropped off at school before 8:00am; there is no supervision before this time. Classes begin at 8:30am. The tardy bell

rings at 8:35am. It is important that students arrive on time and attend regularly. Dismissal is at 3:30pm.

Lunch and breakfast will be served on the first day. Breakfast begins at 8:00am.

Uniforms

Our families have consistently voted to allow our students to wear uniforms. I agree that it makes life easier for planning and preparing for school on a daily basis. We will have designated dress-down days for our students as a function of our school's fund-raising for student needs.

However, we ask that you please adhere to the following guidelines;

Boys: Navy blue, baby blue, yellow & white shirts with collar (**polo type**)

Navy blue & khaki pants (**shorts, fingertip length**)

Tennis shoes or soft sole shoes (**no flip flops or open toe shoes**)

Sweaters/Sweatshirts – Navy blue, baby blue, yellow or white

Girls: Navy blue, baby blue, yellow & white blouses with collar (**polo type**)

Navy blue & khaki pants, jumpers, dress or skirts (**shorts fingertip length**)

Tennis shoes or soft sole shoes (**no flip flops or open toe shoes**)

Sweaters/Sweatshirts – Navy blue, baby blue, yellow or white.

Please let us know if you are experiencing difficulty providing your child with a uniform.

Virtual Tours

Due to the fact that visitors are not allowed on any of our Campuses, I will be sharing virtual tours of our building at a designated time in the future.

Please go to the District's web page for current information.

We look forward to working with you to support your children as they grow and develop this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, and please stay in touch with your child's instructor.

Be well, we shall see you on September 8th!

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Davis-Cummings, Principal