

Esther Jackson Elementary School

Where Learning Leads the Way!
1400 Martin Road, Roswell, GA 30076
Ph: 470-254-5290 Fax: 470-254-3332
www.estherjackson.org @EJaguars



Nikol Boyd, Principal
Beth Poole, Assistant Principal

July 22, 2023

It's GROW Time!

The summer has flown by, and I have enjoyed planning for this upcoming 2022-2023 school year! This is such an exciting time for me as a principal because we get to start fresh with a clean slate and endless possibilities for our scholars. My team has been working diligently this summer to secure teachers for every class and to ensure that this school year is the absolute BEST one yet!

Please take time to review this communication carefully as it includes a lot of important information.

I would like to personally welcome our new parents and students to the EJ Jaguar Family. We understand that you have a choice and feel privileged that you have chosen our school and community. We are looking forward to creating lasting memories with you and your family.

For our returning families.... Welcome Back 😊. I hope all of you have taken time to enjoy the nice weather and quality family time. Like me, I am sure you are recharged and ready for a year of love, learning, and relationship building. At Esther Jackson, our core values will continue to be summarized with three words – *community, connection, and collaboration*. It is our goal to connect with our community and work collaboratively to ensure that every student grows at high levels and reaches his/her full potential.

Please take a moment to review our theme, collective commitments, vision statement, and new school pledge.

Theme

I like to begin each year with a theme which will help guide our work. Based on the direction we are headed, this year's theme will be, **"It's GROW Time!"** *G – Gifted, R – Resilient, O – Optimistic, W – Willing*

It's **G.R.O.W.** time!
Gifted. Resilient. Optimistic. Willing.

It is critical that we begin the year by instilling pride in our scholars. It is important that they not only believe in their own ability to GROW in all areas, but that they know WE believe in them.

Collective Commitments

- At EJ, Teachers are expected to maintain high expectations for student achievement, differentiate instruction, and accelerate students to their maximum potential in each content area. Every student WILL be engaged in relevant, high-quality instruction, in a safe and orderly environment, **one hundred percent** of the time.
- At EJ, we will NOT allow our jaguar scholars to be left behind academically, socially, or behaviorally. They are depending on us, and we will NOT let them down.

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Our Vision:

Esther Jackson will be a loving community where every child is valued and supported to grow as a caring individual and a successful scholar.

New Jaguar Pledge

Our school pledge will be recited daily by students and staff during morning announcements. We want our jaguars to LIVE this pledge.

I am a caring Jaguar Scholar. I am valued and I work hard. I grow every day. Today will be a great day because of ME!

New Staff

Visit our school twitter account (@EJJaguars), Facebook page, (www.ejefamily.com), or school website, (www.estherjackson.org) to learn more detailed information about the newest additions to Esther Jackson. I am excited to have such eager educators who are ready to serve our school community.

Code of Conduct and Fulton County Cell Phone Policy

It is my mission to ensure that our scholars are safe, happy, and ready to learn. The only way we can achieve this is to have your full support on how scholars behave when they are not with you. Through our Positive Behavior and Intervention Program (PBIS), we will have a system in place to reward scholars who are doing the right thing consistently. Our goal is to ensure students and staff have a safe environment conducive to learning and teaching. Please make sure you familiarize yourself with Fulton's Student Code of Conduct prior to the school year beginning.

The link below includes resources surrounding school discipline in English and Spanish. You will notice that Fulton County has adopted a new cell phone policy, which will be strictly enforced. Have you checked your student's cell phone and/or social media accounts lately? Please make this a consistent practice in your home.

<https://www.fultonschools.org/studentdiscipline>

[EJ Parent Handbook 22-23 Revised 7-15-22.docx](#) EJ Family Handbook

Campus Parent/Parent Portal

Parents will have access to the Parent Portal beginning Thursday, 8/4 at 4:00 p.m. Class placement will be available at that time. This is also where parents can view assignments/grades, progress reports, and report cards. If you have not created an account, please see Fulton County's website (www.fultonschools.org). We will also have information available on how to set up an account at Open House on Friday, 8/5.

Open House

I want to personally invite you to our **Open House on Friday, August 5th from 9:00 – 11:00 am**. To accommodate parking, we are asking that families attend at the following times:

- Last Names A-M – 9:00 – 10:00
- Last Names N-Z – 10:00 – 11:00

This is the time where you can meet teachers, **join our PTA**, verify transportation for your student(s), register for after school activities, purchase spirit wear, and much more.

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Teachers will send an email to parents on **Thursday, August 4th at 2:00** indicating that they will be your student's teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. *Please remember that due to enrollment numbers, class placement is always tentative until after the 10-day count.*

PTA

We are so fortunate to have a PTA dedicated to supporting our entire school community. Our current president for the 2022-2023 school year is Margaret Gunter (Margaret.g@gmail.com). If you would like information about how to get involved, please reach out to Margaret and review the PTA page on our school website. The PTA also has a Facebook page (<https://www.ejefamily.com/>) that is updated regularly with information.

Please consider becoming a member and contributing your time and/or talents to our wonderful school. There will be an opportunity for you to express your interest at our Open House. We need YOU!

Supply Lists

Supply lists can be found on our school website. www.estherjackson.org. These lists include items that students will need throughout the year.

Meals

Breakfast will be free for **every** Esther Jackson student this year. Students who arrive after 7:35 am will receive a breakfast bar that can be eaten in class.

Lunch prices:

- Elementary School Students – \$2.45
- Reduced Cost – \$0.40
- All Adults – \$4.00*
- Milk – \$0.75

*For the first two weeks of school, teachers will eat lunch with students to help get them acclimated to the expected routines and procedures. We will welcome parents to eat with students beginning the third week of school. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

Free & Reduced Meal Program Applications SY22-23

The Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Program is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes Free or Reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of persons living in the house. A **new** application must be completed every school year. If there is an interruption in benefits or the household does not reapply, the household is responsible for payment of meals until the Free and Reduced Application is approved. Visit www.fulton.schoolslunchapp.com to begin the online application process.

Communication

We are committed to providing all stakeholders with clear and transparent communication. Although we may occasionally fall short, every effort is made to ensure open communication between home and school. It is essential that parents and teachers are engaged in two-way communication on a consistent basis regarding updates, questions, and/or concerns that may arise during the school year. To stay connected, please read all correspondence that comes home with your child and/or is sent electronically.

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It is extremely important that your email is up to date in Infinite Campus. The majority of communication from the school will be sent using the email address we have on file. You can update this information by logging into your parent portal account.

- **Spots** is the school newsletter containing general school information, important dates, school activities and other related events. It is sent home via email weekly on Thursdays.
- **Website** – the school website is www.estherjackson.org. Please visit our site regularly for the most current information and resources.
- **Principal's Letter** is direct communication from the principal sent monthly via School Messenger. These updates will help you stay, “in the know” with what is happening at school.
- **PTA Information** on Esther Jackson website under PTA.
- **Student Agendas:** students in grades 1-5 receive an agenda. The agenda is used to record daily assignments, homework, and upcoming due dates. It is an expectation that parents and teachers use the agenda to communicate on a daily basis.
- **Grade Level Weekly Emails** are written by the classroom teachers and focus on upcoming dates and classroom curriculum and activities.
- **Infinite Campus/Parent Portal** is available for you to monitor your child's grades. We encourage you to utilize this system to stay current with your child's progress. Usernames and passwords are valid from year to year for continuously enrolled students. This information may be obtained from the school office at any time.
- **Written Notes:** Most communication can be handled through written notes. Please be sure to let your child know that he/she has a note for the teacher. **All notes regarding transportation home must be approved by the office.**
- **Email:** All teachers have county provided email addresses. Please note that teachers are not able to check email during instructional time. In most cases, you will receive a response within 24 hours. **Transportation changes may not be emailed due to a possible system shutdown or teacher absence.**
- **Phone Calls:** Teachers are unavailable to take phone calls during instructional time. Please be aware that it may be late in the afternoon before your message is picked up and your call returned. In most cases, you will receive a response within 24 hours.
- **Conferences:** We encourage regular communication to discuss your child's progress at school. Conferences may be initiated by the parent, teacher, or administrator and held in person, by phone, or virtually at a mutually agreeable time.
- **Parent Resource Center:** Our Parent Resource Center will be open beginning in September from 8:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Arrival

Students are expected to be seated and ready to learn at 7:40 a.m. Students are permitted to enter the school building at 7:10 a.m. after the school bell rings. If you are carpooling, students are expected to remain in cars with their parents until the bell rings at 7:10. Parents are not permitted to drop off their children unsupervised outside/inside the school any time before 7:10. These procedures are in place for the safety of all students.

New Carpool Procedure

Children are dropped off and picked up in front of the school at the carpool door. Cars should enter school property through the carpool gate only and form a single line in front of the school, where they stop for children to enter or exit the car. **For safety reasons, children are only permitted to exit passenger side car doors.** This year carpool will cutoff at the same time as breakfast, which is 7:35. Any student

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arriving between 7:35 – 7:40 can be dropped off at the front entrance. **Students arriving after the 7:40 bell are considered late and should be accompanied by a parent into the building. No exceptions.**

For safety reasons, we do not encourage parents to pull into the staff parking lot to drop off students. If you chose to do this, children must cross through the visitor parking lot with a parent and be escorted across the crosswalk. The pickup or dismissal area along the front curb must remain free of parked cars.

Upcoming Activities

We have many important and exciting events coming up this year. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to participate.

- **Open House:** Friday, August 5th
- **First Day of School:** Monday, August 8th
- **Student PBIS Kickoff:** Friday, August 12th
- **Curriculum Night and Title I Meeting:** September 1st
 - 5:00 P.M. (Title I Meeting)
 - 5:30 P.M. (Grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2)
 - 6:30 P.M. (Grades 3, 4, 5)
- **Labor Day: Monday, September 5th – NO SCHOOL**
- **Professional Development Day: Tuesday, September 6th – Remote Learning for Students**
- **Hispanic Heritage Month Begins:** – Thursday, September 15th
- **Progress Reports in Portal:** Friday, September 16th
- **Donuts with Grownups:** Friday, September 23rd
- **Fall Pictures:** Wednesday, September 28th

Professional Development Days

Our Superintendent, Dr. Looney, listened to stakeholder feedback surrounding late start days and made adjustments to hopefully better fit the needs of families. The dates below are full school days which will allow schools to collaborate in Professional Learning Communities and receive Professional Development to learn, grow, and improve our practices.

September 6, 2023 (Prof. Dev. Remote Day)
October 11, 2023 (Prof. Dev. Day)
October 12, 2023 (Teacher Workday)
January 17, 2024 (Prof. Dev. Remote Day)

February 21, 2023 (Prof. Dev. Day)
March 13, 2023 (Prof. Dev. Day)
March 14, 2023 (Teacher Workday)

Admin Team

At EJ, we believe in servant leadership. Our entire team is here to support you as we embark upon this journey to excellence.

I would like to share some important contact information with you. **Please remember that if you have questions regarding your student's progress, the teacher should be your first point of contact.**

Name	Position	Email Address
Nikol Boyd	Principal	boydn@fultonschools.org

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Beth Poole	Assistant Principal	poole@fultonschools.org
Lindsey Walker	Curriculum Support Teacher (CST)	Walkerl2@fultonschools.org
Sam Belfiglio	Instructional Support Teacher (IST-Sped)	belfiglior@fultonschools.org
Erin Shurbutt	Instructional Math Coach (PreK-5)	shurbutt@fultonschools.org
Jen Hedeem	Instructional Literacy Coach (PreK-2 nd)	Hedeemj1@fultonschools.org
Jessica Hodge	Instructional Literacy Coach (3 rd -5 th)	hodgej@fultonschools.org
Myriam Seoane	Counselor	seoanem@fultonschools.org
Kasey Vermilya	School Social Worker	TBD
Kyle McCarthy	School Psychologist	mccarthyk@fultonschools.org
Alexandra Pingarron	Principal's Secretary/Bookkeeper	pingarronc@fultonschools.org
Julie Paz	Data Clerk/Registrar	paz@fultonschools.org
Clio Ake	Front Desk Secretary (Bilingual)	akec@fultonschools.org
Vacant	Bilingual Community Liaison (BCL)	TBD
Frank Perez	Title I Bilingual Community Liaison	perezf@fultonschools.org
Kellie Lahey	Clinic Assistant	Laheyk1@fultonschools.org

I am ready to continue this amazing journey and cannot wait to see you and our jaguars soon! As I always say, ***It Takes a Village.***

Please remember that my door is always open and that I welcome your feedback.

It's GROW Time!

In Partnership,

Principal Boyd