



# Weekly Message

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*"One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child."* —Dr. Maria Montessori

## STERLING'S FOOD DRIVE INITIATIVE UPDATE



We completed our Distance Learning Food Drive Carpool and delivery this week, which included close to **1,000 lbs of donations**. The **Middle Schoolers**, under the leadership of Darlene Blake, have been collecting and weighing all your classroom contributions - and we so appreciate their hard work! **Thank you everyone for your generous support!**

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## 2021/22 SCHOOL YEAR UPDATE

Sterling has been notified by the Office of Charter Schools (OCS) that all charters will follow the law as it existed pre-COVID for calendar requirements. Therefore, we will follow our [calendar](#) accordingly. **There is also no current authorization in statute for charters to conduct remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year.** Of course, the General Assembly may enact a new law to apply to the 2021/22 school year that addresses whether remote learning can be offered. All charters can proceed at this time with setting up the school year according to requirements applied prior to COVID. This means we are not authorized to include remote instruction for the 2021/22 school year at this time. We are excited about Fall 2021 and are **actively planning now for a full return to on-campus learning complying with all health and safety guidelines and**

**will not be offering a Distance Learning track.** We will work with students who have a medical plan. Any questions related to medical accommodations can be directed to [Carrie Smith](#) or [Rownak Ifat](#).

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## PARENTS OF RISING FIRST GRADE STUDENTS

Please mark your calendar for an informative session about your child's **upcoming transition to the Lower Elementary level**, hosted by Liz Macaulay, Director of Lower and Upper Elementary, and Fay Masterson, Director of Children's House, on **Monday, April 26th @ 5:00pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84260362626?pwd=eXdhRUxDWjdlbHpNTmFhNXRkS1ZRQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 6036 2626

Passcode: 428978

Please note that this event is for **PARENTS ONLY**. The goal of this session is for you to gain a better understanding of how Lower Elementary differs from Children's House due to the changing needs of your child as they move from one developmental phase to the next. There will be school-specific information shared to help both you and your child prepare for this transition. We will also allow plenty of time for questions.

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## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The week of May 3rd-7th is National Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week! We are working with our PFA to plan some school-wide events for that week including:

- Tuesday (5/4) wear your teacher's favorite color to school, or in your remote lessons. Check out your teacher's favorite color [HERE](#).
  - Thursday (5/6) bring or send to your teacher(s) an original thank you. This can be in the form of a card, an art project, a musical piece, etc. and can be digital or physical. Show your teachers what you have learned from them this year and how much you appreciate them!
  - Friday (5/7) we will be hosting a catered lunch for our teachers and staff in appreciation for all their tireless and creative work this year!
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## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE COMING WEEK

- **STERLING'S FOOD DRIVE** - Monday, April 12th - Friday, April 30th
- **LOWER ELEMENTARY RISING UP NIGHT** - Monday, April 26th @ 5:00pm
- **TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK** - May 3rd - May 7th

See all upcoming event and meeting details on the [Event Calendar](#)

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## STERLING FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### Lauren Bateman - Lower Elementary Lead Teacher



*“Hello everyone, my name is Lauren Bateman and I am the lead teacher for the B2 Blended classroom. I joined the Sterling community in August, 2020. I was first introduced to the Montessori philosophy during my undergraduate work in experiential education at Appalachian State. After graduating, I spent a few years teaching environmental education in Easten NC and Maine. During that time I worked with many Montessori Schools, facilitating learning and exploration in the outdoors. I was blown away by the childrens' ability to connect so mindfully to the world around them. After moving back to NC in 2016, I knew I had to find my place within the Montessori classroom. I love the meaningful connections I am able to form with students and the perspectives and lens that they use to see the world. I enjoy inspiring curiosity, connection, and fostering a love for learning. There is nothing more powerful or important than guiding the future leaders of the world. When I am not in the classroom I spend most of my time outside - camping, sailing, and rock climbing.”*

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