Dear Geniuses and Family:

I wanted to take this time to introduce myself to you as well as introduce you all to my support teacher, Mrs. Curtis-Howard. My name is Ms. Carter and we are so excited to be your teachers! We’re looking forward to a fun and productive year together. We do many great activities, read a ton of fantastic books and have loads of fun! We cannot wait to get to know you and your family!

In our classroom, we believe it is important for you to feel safe and respected. We consider our classroom to be a village full of Geniuses. We will work all year long to establish a village filled with friendships, pride, trust and high self-esteem. We want our Geniuses to feel that you are in a place where you can comfortably be yourself all while learning and growing to be the best you can be. I also believe that the students, parents, and teacher must work as a team to achieve the goals in front of us. We are so happy to be a part of that team with you!

As for me, I have been in education one way or another for almost 8 years. I graduated from Savannah State University in 2018 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice. I have been a paraprofessional for several years here at Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy before I decided to finish school and take the GACE to become a certified teacher. I have three children-one in college, one just recently passed away and the other is working in the mental health field: Nakalah is 23, Tariq would have been 22, and Lauryn is 20. I have three granddaughters between the ages of 3 and 3 months and I have one on the way in December. I have been a part of the Chatham community since 2012. For seven years, I worked at Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy as a paraprofessional. Through my experience as a paraprofessional I realized how much more I had to offer my students and I was lucky enough to find a position with the best of the best! I taught 4th and 5th grade last year and this year I am excited about teaching 5th and 6th grade virtually until it is safe to return back to our school.

Mrs. Curtis-Howard has an educational background in early childhood. She has been a paraprofessional here at Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy for over 7 years. She has a plethora of experience that our geniuses will definitely benefit from. Mrs. Curtis-Howard and her husband have three children - one that is starting kindergarten, one in elementary and the other is in middle school: Taela is 14, Melody is 10 and Edan is 5. Mrs. Curtis-Howard has been a part of the Chatham community since 2012. Mrs. Curtis-Howard’s experiences have made her a great asset to myself as well as our village.

We have a new district wide platform that we will be using this year in addition to platforms students and parents are already familiar with (G-Suites, Zearn, IReady). This is still being developed as teachers are still completing training but once it is up and running we will reach out to all of you individually to help you get set up and comfortable.

Here are some things to expect during remote learning:

- Daily contact from Mrs. Curtis-Howard or myself

- Daily instruction through video conference or pre-recorded videos

- Daily assignments

- Weekly assessments

- Specific home learning schedule

- Meaningful, consistent, and engaging instruction and tasks

Here are some things to expect this year when we return to in-person learning:

-Each day except Friday, I will send home a conference sheet that summarizes the points your child earned for positive behavior and opportunities he/she encountered to learn more appropriate behaviors. This paper is a good way to maintain communication between the classroom and home -- we are all working together for your child to have a successful year. This sheet should be signed and returned every day. Homework assignments will vary and be described on the point sheet and newsletter each day.

-A newsletter will be attached to your child’s point sheet every Monday that includes announcements, objectives, spelling and vocabulary words, and weekly homework assignments

-Student Binders will come home every Thursday. The folders should be cleaned out Thursday evenings at home. The papers/notes actually in the binder, but not in the folder, should stay in place.

School starts on Wednesday, August 19, and I will be coming to you virtually from Room 13. Our OpenHouse will be held online and you will have an opportunity to meet us through Zoom on August 13th.

We look forward to meeting with you and getting our year off to a great start!

If you ever need to contact me, for whatever reason, please do not hesitate. During school hours I can be reached at 395-5440 or darcy.carter@sccpss.com. My cell phone number is 470-201-5191.

We know this is going to be a great year and I am so excited about working with your student.

Thanks,

Darcy Carter

Elementary Teacher

Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy

Ms. Carter and Mrs. Curtis-Howard

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