You are cordially invited:

CELEBRATING
ELLA FITZGERALD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Happy Birthday, Ella Fitzgerald:
Honoring Our Namesake
And Our School's 50th Anniversary

on

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025
9:00 – 9:45 A.M.
ELLA FITZGERALD MIDDLE SCHOOL

432 Industrial Park Drive • Newport News

The favor of a reply is requested to karen.brown@nn.k12.va.us by Tuesday, April 22.

CELEBRATING ELLA FITZGERALD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Happy Birthday, Ella Fitzgerald: Honoring Our Namesake And Our School's 50th Anniversary

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

GREETINGS
Kahlan Melrose, 8th grade, President, EFMS Student Council Association

WELCOME
Dr. Michele Mitchell, Superintendent, Newport News Public Schools

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Derek Perez-Rodriguez, 7th grade, EFMS Morning Announcer

"STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" ***by Francis Scott Key***
Echoes of Ella JAZZ Ensemble, directed by Eleanor Johnston, Band Director

HONOR THE PAST - EMBRACE THE FUTURE
Dr. Jaraun Ransome, Principal, Ella Fitzgerald Middle School

"HERO" ***by Mariah Carey and Walter Afanasieff***
Adina Harris, Ella Fitzgerald Chorus Teacher, 2023 - Present and Dozier Middle School Student, 2006 - 2009

TRIBUTE TO NAMESAKE, ELLA FITZGERALD
Isabella Norman, 6th grade, Student Ambassador

READING OF THE PROCLAMATION
Dr. Terri Best, Vice Chairman, Newport News School Board

"IT'S A LOVELY DAY TODAY" ***by Ella Fitzgerald and Irving Berlin***
Echoes of Ella JAZZ Ensemble

OPENING AND DEDICATION OF OUTDOOR SEATING AREA

Newport News Public Schools
Newport News, Virginia

Resolution of Recognition

acknowledging

50th Anniversary of

Ella Fitzgerald Middle School

Whereas, the Newport News School Board began planning for a new intermediate school in the early 1970s, and

Whereas, the Newport News School Board selected a location adjacent to Industrial Park Drive off of Warwick Boulevard and construction began, and

Whereas, the current Ella Fitzgerald Middle School opened its doors for students in September 1974 as an intermediate school and became a middle school in 1981; and

Whereas, students, staff, and members of the community agreed that Ella Fitzgerald, who was born in Newport News on April 25, 1917, is an admirable pioneer in the arts worthy of recognition for her contributions as one of the most influential jazz vocalists of the 20th century, and

Whereas, the Newport News School Board voted to rename the school originally called Dozier Intermediate School to Ella Fitzgerald Middle School in recognition of her musical achievements on May 18, 2021, and

Whereas, the dedicated faculty and staff of Ella Fitzgerald Middle School have educated thousands of students over the past 50 years building the foundation for life-long learning, and

Whereas, the faculty and staff of Ella Fitzgerald Middle School continue to provide a superior education for students in sixth through eighth grade, and

Whereas, on this, the school's 50th Anniversary Celebration, the students, faculty, staff, alumni, Newport News Public Schools, and indeed the entire city commemorates their proud past and bright future; and

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that Newport News Public Schools invites all city residents to celebrate this important milestone in the school's history.

Sealed by my hand on this twenty-fifth day of April, 2025.

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Michele D. Mitchell, Ed.D., Superintendent

ELLA FITZGERALD
JAZZ
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CELEBRATING
50 YEARS

I

ELLA FITZGERALD

MIDDLE SCHOOL