

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

August, 2021

Dear Benjamin Franklin Elementary families:

Welcome to a New School Year! My entire team and I are excited and ready to safely welcome all of our students for in-person learning, five days a week starting Tuesday, August 31st - *the first day of school*.

We are already gearing up for an incredible new school year. Many layers of safety will be in place to protect everyone's health and wellbeing in our school, including: mandatory mask wearing for students and staff, touchless hand sanitizer stations, air and surface purifiers, and COVID testing. Our teachers and school staff are attending special training sessions to better support our students' social, emotional and educational needs as they transition back to a more structured school day. Student schedules are being created. Our hard-working custodians have been cleaning and sanitizing our school. And, our cafeteria workers are preparing to serve your children delicious, healthy and free breakfast and lunch each school day. To support a safer, healthier and more inviting school environment for students and staff, the custodial staff has worked very hard over the summer months to ensure the building is clean upon our return to school.

This year, we're delighted to welcome a few new additions to our staff. We have two new counselors. Our counselors are Ms. McKenna, who will work with grades K to 4 and Ms. Koresko, who will work with grades 5 to 8.

I invite all of our families to attend our in-person **Back-to-School Open House on Friday, August 27th from 1 - 2 p.m.** This will be a great time to meet key staff members, learn more about the new school year and tour our school. In the meantime, I encourage you to take a few minutes to view these [What We're Doing to Protect Everyone's Health and Well Being While at School](#), [Why In-Person Learning Matters Now More Than Ever](#) and [Back-to-School Bus Tour](#) videos, and visit www.philasd.org for the latest back-to-school information in multiple languages.

All of us at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School look forward to welcoming students back to school in person on Tuesday, August 31st. School starts at 7:30am and ends at 2:09pm. Together, if everyone does their part, we can make this a safe and successful school year for everyone!

R. Greene, Principal