

Franklin Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
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September 7, 2017

Dear Franklin Community,

Each school year is a fresh start and as always we are excited to begin this new year. However, the entire administrative team of the Franklin Public Schools would be remiss if we did not share how recent events have caused us to reflect on acts of intolerance across the nation and within our community. We watched in horror as the events of Charlottesville, Virginia unfolded. Despite our greatest efforts to be inclusive, we are not immune to incidents of hate and bias. As former Superintendent Sabolinski stated in her June letter to the community, there was graffiti depicting swastikas at the three school complexes over the course of last year. These painful incidents are an affront to our core values and have caused us to take pause and engage in discussion about the culture we want in our schools. Our overarching goal is to ensure that each child and family is welcomed and safe in our schools. To that end we will be taking actions throughout this school year to meet this goal.

The Franklin Public Schools has been resolute in its enduring commitment to inclusive schools. Our Core Values speak to respecting the Dignity and Diversity of all individuals and cultures. This belief serves as a pillar of strong school climates and the foundation upon which we build a comprehensive educational experience for each student. We will not tolerate, accept or condone acts or speech that are hateful, racist, anti-semitic, xenophobic, homophobic, or gender-biased. We are, as a community, simply better than that.

In the coming school year, our schools will be engaging students in learning experiences that reinforce and promote acceptance and respect. Inclusivity will be a focus of our school and district goals, as reflected in the school and district improvement plans. Our pre-school and the elementary schools will address these issues through age-appropriate discussions and learning experiences through *Responsive Classroom* practices. The middle schools will be implementing *A World of Difference* program which promotes respect, acceptance, and inclusivity. The high school and middle schools will engage students in advisory lessons (and through the curriculum, where appropriate) that focus on topics such as the impact of hate, intolerance, bigotry, anti-semitism, and racism.

We invite parents to join us in our effort to eradicate hate from our school community and encourage you to talk with your children about the contents of this letter. Some helpful resources are as follows:

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/tolerance.html>

<http://www.gse.upenn.edu/news/talking-children-after-racial-incidents>

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/war-and-terrorism/promoting-compassion-and-acceptance-in-crisis>

Franklin is a strong community. With your help, we can collectively nurture a learning environment where each child and family feels valued, safe, and respected.

Sincerely,



Sara E. Ahern, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Peter Light
Assistant Superintendent



Joyce Edwards, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for
Teaching & Learning



Miriam Goodman
School Business Administrator



Deborah Dixon
Director of Student Services



Lisa Trainor
Director of Human Resources



Christopher Nayler
Director of Lifelong Learning



Tim Rapoza
Director of Technology



Kelty Kelley, Principal
Early Childhood Development Center



Kathleen Gerber, Principal
Davis Thayer Elementary School



Stefani Wasik, Assistant Principal
Davis Thayer Elementary School



Sarah Klim, Principal
Jefferson Elementary School



Kim Booth, Assistant Principal
Jefferson Elementary School



Eric Stark, Principal
Keller Elementary School




Paula Marano
Assistant Director of Special Ed



Ellen White
Assistant Director of Special Ed


Amy Souls, Assistant Principal
Keller Elementary School


Sarravy Connolly, Assistant Principal
J.F. Kennedy Elementary School


Tanya Lamoureux, Assistant Principal
Oak Street Elementary School



Matthew Tirrell, Assistant Principal
Parmenter Elementary School

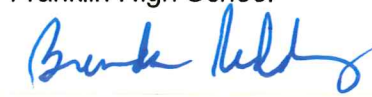

Mary Cotillo, Assistant Principal
Horace Mann Middle School


Danielle Champagne, Assistant Principal
Remington Middle School



Elizabeth Morrison, Assistant Principal
Annie Sullivan Middle School



William Klements, Deputy Principal
Franklin High School


Craig Williams, Assistant Principal
Franklin High School


Brenda Redding, Assistant Principal
Franklin High School



Tom Angelo
Athletic Director


Linda Ashley, Ed.D., Principal
J.F. Kennedy Elementary School


Kate Peretz, Principal
Oak Street Elementary School


Shannon Barca, Principal
Parmenter Elementary School


Rebecca Motte, Principal
Horace Mann Middle School


Brian Wildeman, Principal
Remington Middle School


Beth Wittcoff, Principal
Annie Sullivan Middle School


Paul Peri, Principal
Franklin High School


Pam Myette, Ed.D., AP for Special Education
Franklin High School


Maria Weber, Assistant Principal
Franklin High School


Colin Boisvert
Food Service Director