



Franklin Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent
355 East Central Street; Suite 3
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038
Phone: 508-553-4819*

August 19, 2019 (REVISED)

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, and Community Members,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying these final days of summer. The buzz and excitement of the beginning of the year is building. In recent weeks we have enjoyed many of our August rituals including hosting High School Experience at FHS, the return of our sports teams for early season practices, new students taking building tours, family gatherings over popsicles or at barbecues, and locker tryouts.

As always, our summers at FPS are busy ones. Over 130 educators developed curriculum to expand upon meaningful learning opportunities for FPS students in areas including wellness, mathematics, and social-emotional learning, among others. Our administrators completed a busy hiring season and we will welcome over 30 new faculty members at New Teacher Orientation this week. We continued a robust and rich summer program through Extended School Year, STAR enrichment programs, High School Experience, and Solutions. This summer has also been busy readying the schools for opening. We want to thank the faculty and staff, secretaries, custodians, Department of Public Works, Technology Department, and the Facilities Department who are instrumental in implementing summer programs and completing summer projects to get the 2019-2020 school year off to a great start.

Last year, we launched our new Strategy for District Improvement and we head into the second year of this strategy with a few focus areas. We will be sharing and seeking feedback on a draft of the FPS *Portrait of a Graduate* this fall, which has been a visioning process for PreK-12 teaching and learning here in Franklin. Through the financial support of our state legislators, the FPS Substance Abuse Taskforce will be able to implement additional educational opportunities for substance abuse prevention as well as vaping detection and prevention programs. Additionally, the district will be focusing heavily on expanding our communication channels and expanding outreach to families and our community.

We are excited to share that we are now on [Facebook](#) as “Franklin Public School District” @FranklinSchoolDistrict! If this is a platform that you use, please like our page and follow our feed so that you can have news and information pushed to you. We also maintain a social media presence on Twitter as “Franklin Public Schools, MA” @franklinpsnews. We will continue, of course, to use our Website as a primary hub of information and Regroup as an e-mail/text/cell communication vehicle for messages that we want to ensure reach every single family in our community.

Friendly Reminder: you may have seen a previous communication that our school day will end 5 minutes later than in previous years. By law, students are required to attend school for 180



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days, which must also include 900 hours of direct instruction (elementary) and 990 hours of direct instruction (secondary). We have been having difficulty meeting the 900/990 hour expectations of direct instruction while also meeting our contractual requirements. Adding 5 additional minutes provides for additional flexibility within our school days to meet multiple needs. For future reference, the school hours are posted on our website:

https://www.franklinps.net/sites/franklinmaps/files/uploads/school_hours_0.pdf

We look forward to welcoming students (grades 1-12) back to school on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 and Kindergarten students on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. Orientation for ECDC is August 28 with the first day of school on August 29, 2019. Please note that there will be no school for students on Friday, August 30, 2019 and Monday, September 2, 2019.

We can't wait to welcome our students back to school!

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