



## **Franklin Public Schools**

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

---

### **Superintendent's Report to School Committee August 28, 2018 School Committee Meeting**

#### **Opening of School**

We have had a very smooth opening of school! Yesterday, we greeted teachers and staff at our back to school meeting. We hosted a guest speaker, Carrie Stack, of the Say Yes Institute, who motivated and inspired us and kicked off the year on a positive note. She gave us many small tips, tricks, and reminders about how to keep our spirits up so that we can bring our best selves to the important, rewarding, and distinguished, and at times challenging, work of educating children.

It was a pleasure to greet students this morning. While there are always a few hiccups and wrinkles to iron out, busses were by and large on time and teachers greeted their students as is customary at the beginning of the year. Assemblies and meetings with students will be held in these early weeks as reminders of school culture, values, and expectations.

We are keenly aware of the temperature challenges this week. We walked through school buildings this afternoon to check in with our faculty and staff and to see the students. Although warm, typical classroom activities were seen. All classrooms are equipped with industrial caliber fans (so that no one brings a substandard/unsafe one from home). Principals at the elementary schools, in particular, were making adjustments to keep students and staff comfortable. They created schedules so that students could rotate through air conditioned spaces. Recess moved indoors, to the coolest spots in the school. Extra water is on hand, although parents and guardians are asked to be sure to send their child to school with water in order to stay hydrated. Athletic events at the high school were cancelled or modified for safety purposes. Sadly, the playground at Jefferson - which has been completed as of the first day of school - sat untouched with recess moving indoors.

#### **Concession Stand**

I had an opportunity to walk through the new concession stand on Monday. The plumbing fixtures still had to be added, and I have noticed that they have been painting the exterior this

“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice”  
Equal Opportunity Employer

week. There is landscaping work still to be completed in the apron, which will become a lovely seating area with picnic tables for folks to enjoy their refreshments. Although there is still some work to be done, the project goal is for it to be open for the Panther Football home opener on Friday September 7. It is going to be a greatly enhanced space for our teams and fans!

### **National Banner School Recognition for Franklin High School**

We are so excited that Franklin High Schools will be one of 131 schools across the nation (10 in Massachusetts) to be recognized as a National Banner School by the Special Olympics Organization. This recognition will be happening via Facebook tomorrow at 3 PM. A Unified Champion School is one that has “an inclusive school climate and exudes a sense of collaboration, engagement, and respect for all members of the student body and staff”. To be recognized is to have met 10 national standards of excellence.

### **Professional Development Day -- August 31**

This is a reminder that there will be no school on Friday, August 31 as it is a professional development day for faculty. Highlights of the PD include:

- Big Day for PreK implementation of new preschool curriculum
- Literacy and Science focus for elementary educators
- Deepening work among teams of educators to work with students with challenging behaviors, in collaboration with consultant, Jessica Minahan
- Content based professional development at middle and high school. Highlights include PD on Illustrative Mathematics, which has a more conceptual and problem solving orientation to teaching mathematics. Additionally, I want to point out the work our social studies teachers are beginning to do to understand the new MA curriculum frameworks in social studies, which includes a new civics component for 8th grade
- ESPs will be working with consultant Kevin Russo on managing student behaviors