



Franklin Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent
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August 22, 2023

Dear Franklin Families,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! I hope this letter finds you well and you have been enjoying your summer. As the Superintendent of Franklin Public Schools, I am proud to continue to lead a dedicated group of educators committed to a [shared vision](#) of guiding all students to reach their fullest potential. Our talented FPS staff has worked hard throughout the summer to collaborate and prepare for the upcoming school year. As we collectively fine-tune our preparation for the opening days, we eagerly anticipate students' return on the below dates.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8/28 Opening Day for FPS Staff Only	8/29 Staff PD Day No Students	8/30 1st Day of School for Students Grades 1-12	8/31 1st Day of Kindergarten	9/1 No School
9/4 No School - Labor Day	9/5 1st Day of School PreK	9/6 Full day for all	9/7 Full day for all	9/8 Full day for all

Getting Organized for the 2023 - 24 School Year

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST	
SCHOOL CALENDAR	<input type="checkbox"/> Have I printed and posted the school calendar for my household to reference?
STUDENT SCHEDULE	<input type="checkbox"/> 6th - 12th: Log into my child's Aspen account to review their schedule (login directions). <input type="checkbox"/> K-5 - Have I received a welcome letter from my child's teacher assignment letter?
TRANSPORTATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Have I submitted my payment to ensure my child has a seat & a bus pass? <i>In need further clarification? Visit the FPS Transportation page for more information.</i>
SCHOOL MEALS	<p>Due to state funding, School Meals (breakfast & lunch) are free for all students.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> If I would like my child to have the ability to purchase optional a la carte items, have I logged into LINQ Connect (formerly Titan) to review my child's account info & balance? <input type="checkbox"/> If I believe I qualify, have I completed the Meal Application for free and reduced lunch ? By applying for meal benefits, you may be eligible for additional benefits. <i>(e.g., reduced fees for busing, Chromebook insurance, etc.).</i>
SCHOOL-SPECIFIC	Visit the FPS Website <input type="checkbox"/> Click on the "Schools" tab at the top to locate your child's school <input type="checkbox"/> Review the school day start & end times , locate school supply lists, find the PCC info <input type="checkbox"/> Have I read the back-to-school newsletter for additional information? <i>Did not receive a newsletter? Contact your school principal.</i>

CHROMEBOOK

- Have I registered my 7-12th grader's [Chromebook](#)?
- Have I purchased or declined the optional insurance?

Supporting Your Child with the Back-to-School Transition

As a parent, I find structure - and some understanding - go a long way in supporting my own kids as they transition from summer to the start of a new school year. [Helping Kids Back Into the School Routine](#) from the Child Mind Institute is a helpful reminder for any caregiver navigating the school transition next week.

Respectful Communication

Although most of the parents in the Franklin community approach concerns about their child with the goal of partnering around solutions in a way that is respectful, I am resharing some of my thoughts from last year to remind us all of the continued importance of civil communication. I remain committed to upholding the expectation that our FPS educators and school leaders are treated in a professional manner. As parents or guardians, we understand school-related issues concerning our children can cause anxiety, worry, and frustration. However, when these issues escalate, our school staff, including administrators, teachers, counselors, and nurses, too often receive angry and aggressive communications from parents/guardians. These interactions typically do not resolve the underlying concerns and leave both parties feeling frustrated. If you have concerns this year, please start by reaching out to the person closest to the issue to resolve and communicate respectfully. For more information on communication, please refer to our [Communication Guidelines for FPS Families](#).

Parent Involvement

Last but not least, I encourage you to stay connected!

- Read all teacher communications, especially in the opening weeks of school.
- Stay current with each edition of your principal's newsletter.
- Join the Parent Communication Council (PCC) at your child's school. Keep an eye out for regular updates through newsletters or social media.
- Join the Special Education Parent Advisory Council: [Franklin SEPAC](#) website. Join their [Facebook page](#) to get the latest info about events and resources.
- Join a Boosters Organization.
- Attend [Franklin School Committee](#) meetings virtually, in-person, or by tuning into Franklin TV. The Franklin School Committee is the elected body that oversees the Franklin Public Schools and establishes goals, budget, and policies for the district, consistent with the requirements of the law and standards established by the Massachusetts Board of Education.
- Stay current with upcoming school events by bookmarking the [2023-24 FPS Calendar](#).

Enjoy your final full week of summer! We are ready to welcome our students back to school next week and look forward to a successful year of growth and achievement.

Respectfully,

Lucas Siguere

Superintendent