



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

LAURA H. CARNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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August 23, 2021

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for a new school year. I value your unwavering positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children. This past year and a half has been one for the history books, but we are ready to kick-off a great school year!

Last year was filled with synchronous, asynchronous, and hybrid/in-person learning experiences. This school year we have filled some new initiatives to make your children's learning journey a successful one:

- New school start/end times: 8:45am – 3:24pm
- Professional learning focusing on quality reading instruction
- Capital projects, including classroom modernization in every K-3 classroom
- Improved ventilation and air conditioning in educational spaces
- Increased technology focus, including 1:1 student Chromebooks and a school technology coordinator

With school now up and running, we are ready and excited to welcome the return of our students and achieve new academic heights. Our reading goal is of utmost importance to us. We are aiming that by June 2022, **65% or more** of our students will achieve at/above target on the STAR Reading assessment.

Investing in our students' reading proficiency by improving their teachers' reading knowledge and professional practice and by creating a more modernized learning environment for students and staff has been a top priority this summer. We believe that leading professional learning will successfully address reading challenges and exceed expectations. I am confident that we can raise the bar successfully by sharpening our reading practices and instructional frameworks.

Health and safety are also our priorities. This school year, we require the following:

- **Masking** - Everyone must wear a mask or other approved facial covering while indoors, whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated.
- **COVID-19 Testing for Staff** - We will continue our mandatory weekly testing for all employees and may adapt during the year.
- **COVID-19 Testing for Students** - We will make onsite testing available for students who have COVID-like symptoms during the day. We will also follow a Test to Stay model. Positive cases must isolate for at least 10 days.
- **Continuity of Learning** - Students who are quarantining or isolating will receive instructional support while at home.

- **Physical Distancing** - While 3 feet distancing is recommended and will be encouraged whenever possible, the priority from both the CDC and PDPH is the full return of students to school with multiple layers of safety in place.

Even in the midst of challenges in the past year, you are committed to helping your students achieve their learning goals and remaining as staunch partners of parents for their children's education. Thank you to all who have helped prepare for the new school year. Our school is alive with energy, enthusiasm, and a high expectation of excellence! We appreciate your commitment to ensuring that Laura H. Carnell School remains successful, and I eagerly look forward to greeting parents and families again. I am inviting you all to attend our **Back to School Night** on September 14th. This event is for parents and families to learn more about our school, meet and greet teachers, and engage with community partners.

It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. Please stop by and say hello. Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

Sincerely,
Hilderbrand Pelzer III