



D. Newlin Fell Elementary School

900 W. Oregon Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19148 ♦

School: 215-400-8260 ♦ Fax: 215-400-8261 ♦ Cell: 215-852-1616 ♦

oashe@philasd.org

Omahr Ashe

Principal

August 15, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of Fell Elementary School, I want to welcome you back to another year of teaching and learning. My name is **Mr. Omahr Ashe**, and I am the proud principal of Fell Elementary. With the new school year approaching, I can assure you that the high quality, standards-driven instructional opportunities and moral development your child will receive at our school is unparalleled throughout the School District of Philadelphia. Our students are leaders for the district and excellence remains our standard.

We know that strong partnerships with parents are fundamental to the educational success of our students. I am looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our students can continue to achieve their highest potential. As partners, we share the responsibility for the success of our students, and we ask that you support your child's learning by ensuring that:

- Your child attends school daily and arrives on time.
- Your child is in our school uniform everyday.
- Your child comes to school prepared, and ready for the day's learning.
- Your child completes all homework assignments given by teachers.
- Your child follows all of our school rules and expectations.

With that said, the purpose of this letter is to familiarize you with our school staff, policies and procedures so that you can work towards our common goal - *your child's academic growth and achievement*. Also, additional information regarding our school's policies and procedures can be found in our Parent/Student School Handbook (www.philasd.org/schools/dnfell) and/or in the SDP School Code of Student Conduct (www.philasd.org).

First, school begins every morning promptly at **8:30 AM**. 8th grade students will report directly to their classrooms beginning at 8:20. We expect leadership from our 8th grade students with respect to decision making. Students in grades three and four meet in the large cafeteria, which is also known as the PTA room. All other students go to the auditorium. Pupils who arrive after 8:30 AM are considered late and are marked late on the roll sheet. Repeated lateness is considered a school disruption and may negatively affect your child's academic success. Please help your child be successful by making sure he/she is on time for school everyday.

Next, the school day ends at 3:09 PM for all students. All parents should arrive no later than 3:09 to ensure a safe and orderly dismissal. Late pickups are not accepted, and will not be tolerated.

“Excellence Is The Standard”

If you your child needs an early dismissal, for the safety of all children, all parents/guardians must report to the main office when entering the school. We do not permit parents to pick children up from the classroom nor do we grant early dismissals after 2:45 PM. You must wait for your child in the yard at the end of the day. Students in the following rooms will be dismissed on the **9th Street** side of the building into the yard: 100, 103, 104, 105, 201, 202, 203, 204, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304 and 310. Students in rooms 106, 107, 108, 207, 208, 209, 305, 307, 308 and 309 are dismissed on the **Hutchinson** Street side of the building into the yard. Children who have not been picked up on time are instructed must report to the main office to wait for their parent/guardian to arrive. Please pick up your child on time everyday.

The Fell School uniform consists of a navy blue top and tan bottom. Gym uniforms are mandatory (gym uniforms can be purchased in the main office). Navy sweats are permitted on gym days. Children who are not in school uniform cannot remain in the classroom. They are sent to the main office in order to wait for you to bring the uniform.

Breakfast is available in the school cafeteria at 8:00 AM – 8:25 AM. It is free for all students. All children also receive a free lunch at Fell. We have a full service lunch program. Students in grades kindergarten, first and second eat lunch at 11:15 AM. Students in grades third, fourth and fifth eat lunch at 12:00 PM. Students in grades sixth, seventh and eighth eat lunch at 12:45 PM. A fifteen-minute student recess is added to the lunch period.

There are a number of important dates throughout the school year, which will be announced in the monthly school calendar. Each month the school calendar will be distributed to your child. It will provide additional information about parent workshops, meetings, class trips and other school events. Additionally, the Parent/Student School Handbook and School Year at a Glance also contain a list of important dates, information on school closures and report card conferences. Please keep yourself informed about these important dates and school events.

Should you have questions regarding your child's academic performance, behavior and overall success at school, the principal as well as the persons listed below can help you. Please remember that your child's classroom teacher should be your first contact to discuss any questions/concerns that you may have about your child.

- Mrs. Ward, the School Nurse, should be consulted about medications and related health issues.
- Mr. Matthews, Dean of Students, can address problems involving peer social relationships, bullying and student self esteem issues.
- Mrs. Bruno, Counselor, can address absences, truancy, psycho-emotional concerns and the high school admissions process.
- Mrs. Maiorano, Special Education Teacher/SEL, Mrs. Passerello, Learning Support Teacher, Mrs. Darden, Learning Support Teacher, Mrs. Bonanno, Emotional Support Teacher, and Mr. Borda, Autistic Support Teacher, can address questions regarding special education policies and procedures.
- Mrs. Sosangelis, Lead Teacher, ESOL Teacher Grades K-2, Mrs., Busch, ESOL Teacher Grades 3 -5 and Mr. Perkins, ESOL Teacher Grades 6-8, can address support services for English language learners.

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Next, please review the current roster of teachers for the 2017-2018 school year:

- **Kindergarten:** Mrs. Wilson (100) and Mrs. Vendetti (107)
- **Grade 1:** Mrs. Abernethy (103), and Mrs. Murzyn (104)
- **Grade 2:** Mrs. Raddi (106) and Ms. Basso (108)
- **Grade 3:** Mrs. Denardo (105), and Mrs. Lazor (203)
- **Grade 4:** Mrs. Matteo (204) and Mrs. Magee (209)
- **Grade 5:** Mrs. Markowicz (208) Mrs. Sivertsen (201) and Mrs. Corcoran (207)
- **Grade 6:** Mrs. Lark (304), Mrs. Cirillo (305), and Mrs. Pietrazsko (310)
- **Grade 7:** Mr. Palmerio (307), Ms. Cureton (308) and Mr. Swantek (309)
- **Grade 8:** Mr. Wagenborg (301), Mrs. Giedemann (300) and Mr. Ricci (302)
- **Specialists:** Mrs. Crowe (Physical Education/Health), Mr. Gorman (Music), Mr. Geraci (Computer Technology), and Mrs. Yoskowitz (Art)
- **Special Education:** Mrs. Maiorano (LS), Mrs. Passerello (LS), Mrs. Bonanno (ES), Mr. Borda (AS) and Mrs. Darden (LS & Regular Ed.)
- **ESOL:** Mrs. Sosangelis (K-2), Mrs. Busch (3-5) and Mr. Perkins (6-8)
- **Dean of Students:** Mr. Matthews (310A)
- **Secretary:** Mrs. Dawn DePrince (Main Office)

I encourage you to become involved in our Home and School Association. We need your ongoing support. More information will be sent home in September regarding membership opportunities parent workshops and monthly meetings.

Once again, I welcome you back to an engaging and enriching school year at Fell. I look forward to seeing you at **Back to School Night on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 6:00 PM.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Omahr Ashe, Principal

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