



D. Newlin Fell Elementary School

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Omahr Ashe

Principal

August 9, 2021

Dear D. Newlin Fell Elementary staff:

I hope you have enjoyed your summer so far!

As we get closer to August 31st -- the first day of school -- I wanted to reach out to remind you of our schedule for the upcoming school year.

As I shared with you earlier this summer, the District is implementing a standardized approach to daily start and end times. Standardizing our bell times will help to reduce the amount of time students spend on buses, help ensure buses are on time more often, allow for consistent cleaning of high touch areas on buses between runs, and help the Office of Transportation Services overcome a significant reduction in staffing due to resignations and retirements over the last 18 months.

As a result, D. Newlin Fell Elementary has new start times and end times for 2021-2022 School Year. This year, school will begin at 9:00 am and end at 3:39 pm each day. We will be sharing multiple reminders with families to give them time to make family and childcare arrangements and make sure their children can attend school on time every day in alignment with this new schedule.

Another adjustment we are making to the schedule this year is that for Kindergarten students, the first five days of school -- August 31, September 1, 2, 3 and 8 -- will be half days, with students receiving instruction in the morning only. This slower transition into full day learning will give our youngest learners the time they need to adjust to the normal routines of school. In addition our kindergarten teachers will be able to fully participate in professional learning and help with family interviews during that first week. The Office of Early Childhood has communicated with childcare providers so that they can support families in the event that the half day schedule presents a childcare challenge.

More information about the District-level Back-to-School campaign leading up to August 31st -- the first day of school can be found at www.philasd.org/ringthebell. I encourage everyone to visit that website regularly for the most up to date information on our return to full, in-person learning. I will, of course, communicate with you often about school-level news.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer. I cannot wait to have everyone back on August 23rd!



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Sincerely,
Mr. Omahr Ashe, Principal