



D. Newlin Fell Elementary School

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Omahr Ashe
Principal

August 3, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of Fell Elementary School, I would like to welcome you back! My name is **Mr. Omahr Ashe**, and I am the proud principal of Fell Elementary. We are already gearing up for an incredible new school year of teaching and learning. My entire team and I are excited and ready to return to school starting Monday, August 29th – *the first day of school*.

With the new school year quickly approaching, we will continue to focus on the core values of our mission and vision statement, with our primary goals of providing you with a safe, supportive and successful learning environment. It is our responsibility to you and your child to be unwavering in our commitment to their academic excellence and providing high-quality instruction. Further, the standards-driven instructional opportunities and the moral development that your child will receive at our school is unparalleled throughout the School District of Philadelphia.

We also 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 guarantee that our students can continue to achieve at 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 dressed in our school uniform every day.
- 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-wide rules and expectations.

Please familiarize yourself with the names/roles of our school staff members, bell schedules, dress code/cell phone policies and other school-wide procedures so that you can work towards our common goal - your child's academic growth and achievement. Please remember, cell phones are not permitted during the school day. Also, additional, up to date information regarding our school and/or district can be found in our Fell Student Family Handbook and/or by navigating to our school's website (<https://fell.philasd.org>) or the School District of Philadelphia's website (www.philasd.org).

First, school begins every morning promptly at 9:00 AM. Students in 3rd and 4th grade meet in the large cafeteria, which is also known as the PTA room. All other students go directly to the Auditorium, which can be accessed on the 9th Street side schoolyard. Students who arrive after 9:00 AM are considered late. Repeated lateness is considered a school disruption and may negatively affect

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your child’s academic success. Please help your child be successful by making sure he/she is on time for school every day.

Next, the school day ends at 3:39 PM for all students. Students in Rooms 100, 107, 103 and 104 will be dismissed from the **Auditorium**. Students in Rooms 201, 203, 204, 300, 301, 302, 304 and 310 will be dismissed on the **9th Street side** of the building into the school yard. Students in Rooms 106, 108, 207, 208, 209, 305, 306, 307, 308 and 309 are dismissed on the **Hutchinson Street side** of the building into the school yard. Children who have not been picked up on time are brought to the Main Office to wait for their parent/guardian to arrive. Please pick up your child on time every day.

We do not permit parents/guardians to pick up his/her child from the classroom nor do we grant early dismissals after 3:15 PM. You must wait for your child in the schoolyard at the end of the day. For the safety of all of our children and staff members, any visitor’s (including parents/guardians) must have a photo identification when entering the school building and he/she must report directly to the Main Office, this is district policy.

The Fell School uniform consists of a **navy blue top and tan bottom**. Gym uniforms are mandatory and they can be purchased in the Main Office after 9:30 AM each day. Navy sweats are permitted on gym days. Children who are not in the school uniform cannot remain in the classroom. They are sent to the Main Office in order to wait for you to bring the uniform. Repeated dress code violations may result in additional consequences.

Breakfast is available in the school cafeteria at 8:30 AM – 8:55 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 kindergarten, first and second grade eat lunch at 11:45 AM. Students in third, fourth and fifth grade eat lunch at 12:30 PM. Students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade eat lunch at 1:15 PM. A fifteen-minute student recess is included during the lunch period.

Instructional Schedule

Homeroom/Morning Meeting	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	
First Period	9:30 AM – 10:15 AM	
Second Period	10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	
Third Period	11:00 AM – 11:45 AM	
Fourth Period	11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	
Fifth Period	12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	
Sixth Period	1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	
Seventh Period	2:00 PM – 2:45 PM	
Eighth Period	2:45 PM – 3:39 PM	
First Lunch	11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Grades K-2
Second Lunch	12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	Grades 3-5
Third Lunch	1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	Grades 6-8

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 and posted on our school’s website. It will provide information about parent workshops, meetings, class trips and other school events. Additionally, the Student Family Handbook and Fell School Year at a

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Glance will also contain a list of important dates, including 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, myself, as well as the support staff 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. Lassiter, School Secretary**, can provide support with student registration, enrollment and other student demographic information.
- **Mrs. Dobias, School Nurse**, should be consulted about medications and related health issues.
- **Mrs. Spratley, School Climate Manager**, can address safety, attendance and behavioral issues arising in our school community.
- **Mrs. Bruno, School Counselor**, can address social-emotional concerns and the overall well-being of our students.
- **Mrs. Maiorano, SPECM**, can address questions regarding special education policies and procedures.
- **Mrs. Sosangelis, ESOL/Lead Teacher**, can address support services for English learners. In the absence of the Principal, Mrs. Sosangelis serves as the Teacher-In-Charge.
- **Mrs. Murzyn, Literacy Coach/Mr. Matthews, Math Coach**, can address academic concerns and serve as the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Point Person for Academics.

Next, please review the current roster of teachers for the 2022 – 2023 school year:

- **Kindergarten:** Mrs. Wilson (100) and Mrs. Kahalehoe (107)
- **Grade 1:** Mrs. Abernethy (103) and Mrs. Mauro (104)
- **Grade 2:** Mrs. Raddi (106) and Ms. Barbi (108)
- **Grade 3:** Mrs. Basso (201) and Mrs. Denardo (203)
- **Grade 4:** Mrs. Matteo (204) and Mrs. Magee (209)
- **Grade 5:** Mrs. Seed (207) and Mrs. Markowicz (208)
- **Grade 6:** Mrs. Lark (304), Mrs. Cirillo (305), Mrs. Lee (306), and Mrs. Pietrazsko (310)
- **Grade 7:** Mr. Palmerio (307), Mrs. Grafa (308) and Mr. Swantek (309)
- **Grade 8:** Mrs. Giedemann (300), Mr. Wagenborg (301) and Mr. Ricci (302)
- **Specialists:** Mr. Washington (Physical Education/Health), Mrs. Garrick (Dance/Performing Arts), Mr. Geraci (Computer Technology), and Mrs. Labrosciano (Art)
- **Special Education:** Mrs. Maiorano (LS), Mrs. Passerello (LS), Mrs. Connolly (LS), Mrs. Romansky (AS) and Mrs. Bonanno (ES)
- **ESOL:** Mrs. Sosangelis (K-2), Mrs. Busch (3-4), Mrs. Rohland (5-6) and Mrs. Vendetti (7-8)

Additionally, I encourage you to become involved in our Home and School Association. We need your ongoing support. Family engagement is instrumental to our student's success at Fell Elementary School. More information will be sent home in September regarding membership opportunities, parent/guardian workshops and monthly meetings.

Once again, I welcome you back to an engaging and enriching school year at Fell. Over the past decade, "Teamwork makes the dream work," is the foundation that our successes have been built upon and with your help, I am certain that every student that attends our school will continue to make

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significant growth and we will continue to exceed all school goals, metrics and district expectations. Our Fell students are leaders for the district and **excellence is our one and only standard.**

I invite all of our families to attend our Back to School Night on Thursday, September 8th at 5:00 PM. This will be a great time to meet key staff members, learn more about the new school year, tour our school, and purchase gym uniforms. Together, if everyone does their part, we can make this another safe and successful school year for everyone! As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Omahr Ashe, Principal

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