



## D. Newlin Fell Elementary School

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Omahr Ashe

*Principal*

August 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to welcome you back to another year of teaching and learning at D. Newlin Fell Elementary School, home of the Fell Falcons! My name is Mr. Omahr Ashe, and I am the proud principal. As I enter my 17<sup>th</sup> year as Principal in the Philadelphia School District, and 12<sup>th</sup> as Principal of D. Newlin Fell Elementary School, we are eager to get started with teaching and learning. The first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year is **Monday, August 26, 2024**.

All stakeholders of our school community will continue to focus on the core values of our mission and vision statement, with **our primary goal of providing your child with an equitable learning environment in a safe and supportive classroom**. We are charged with the responsibility to be unwavering in our commitment to academic excellence and providing high-quality instruction in all content-areas. Further, the instructional opportunities, social emotional learning and the moral development that your child will receive at our school is unparalleled throughout the School District of Philadelphia.

We also realize that meaningful partnerships with parents/guardians are fundamental to the educational success of our students. 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 does not use a cell phone and/or earbuds during school hours.**
- **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, schedules, dress code, cell phone policy and other school-wide procedures so that you can work towards our common goal - your child's academic growth and achievement. Also, additional information regarding our school and 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](http://www.philasd.org)).

First, school begins every morning promptly at 9:00 AM. Students in Kindergarten through 2 grade will meet in the large cafeteria, which is also known as the PTA room. At 8:50, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may go directly to their homerooms via the schoolyard. All other students should go directly to the

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Auditorium, which can be accessed on the 9<sup>th</sup> Street side schoolyard. Students who arrive after 9:00 AM are considered late. 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 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, 304 and 310 will be dismissed on the **9<sup>th</sup> Street side** of the building into the school yard. Students in Rooms 105, 106, 207, 208, 209, 305, 306, 308 and 309 are dismissed on the **Hutchinson Street side** of the building into the school yard. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes, rooms 300, 301, 302, and 307 will be dismissed via the Main Entrance. Children who have not been picked up on time are brought to the Main Office to wait for their parents/guardians 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 visitors (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. This school year we will have four lunch periods to better serve our students. Please review and become familiar with the schedule below:

### **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	
<b>First Lunch</b>	11:00 AM – 11:45 AM	<b><i>Grades K-2</i></b>
<b>Second Lunch</b>	11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	<b><i>Grades 3-4</i></b>
<b>Third Lunch</b>	12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	<b><i>Grades 5-6</i></b>
<b>Fourth Lunch</b>	1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	<b><i>Grades 7-8</i></b>

There are a number of important dates throughout the school year. Each month the school calendar will be distributed to your child and posted on our school's website. It will provide information about family workshops, family meetings, class trips and other school events.

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Additionally, the Fell School Year at a 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. Sickel, School Nurse**, should be consulted about medications and health related issues.
- **Mrs. Fischer, School Climate Manager**, can address safety, attendance and behavioral concerns arising in our school community.
- **Mrs. Bruno, School Counselor**, can address social emotional challenges 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.
- **Mr. Wagenborg, SBTL**, can address academic concerns and serves as the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Point Person for Academics.

**Next, please review the current roster of teachers for the 2023 – 2024 school year:**

- **Kindergarten:** Mrs. Wilson (100) and Mrs. Westberry (107)
- **Grade 1:** Mrs. Abernethy (103) and Mrs. Benaissa (104)
- **Grade 2:** Mrs. Busch (105) and Mrs. Raddi (106)
- **Grade 3:** Mrs. Basso (201) and Mrs. Denardo (203)
- **Grade 4:** Mrs. Barbi (207) and Mrs. Campbell (209)
- **Grade 5:** Mrs. Matteo (204) and Mrs. Markowicz (208)
- **Grade 6:** Mrs. Lark (304), Mrs. Cirillo (305) and Mrs. Pietrazsko (310)
- **Grade 7:** Mrs. Lee (306), Mrs. Grafa (308) and Mr. Swantek (309)
- **Grade 8:** Mrs. Giedemann (300), Mrs. Magee (301), Mr. Ricci (302), and Mr. Palmerio (307)
- **Specialists:** Mr. Washington (Physical Education/Health), Mrs. Garrick (Dance/Performing Arts), Mrs. Hoxie (Computer Technology), and Mrs. Labrosciano (Art)
- **Special Education:** Mrs. Maiorano (LS), Mrs. Bonanno (LS), Mrs. Martin (AS), Mrs. Passerello (AS) and Mr. Coleman (ES)
- **ESOL:** Mrs. Sosangelis (K-1), Mrs. Fellag (2-3), Mrs. Rohland (4-5), Mr. Becton (6-7) 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. "Teamwork makes the Dream work," is the foundation that our successes have been built upon. With your help, I

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am certain that we will continue to exceed all school goals, performance metrics and district expectations. Our Fell students are leaders for the district and **“Excellence Is The Standard!!”**

Lastly, **I invite all of our families to attend our “Back to School Night” held on Thursday, September 12th at 5:00 PM.** This will be a great time to meet staff members and other families of Fell school, learn more about the new core ELA & Math instructional resources, tour our school, and purchase gym uniforms. By everyone working together as a Fell Family, we can make this the best year yet!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Omahr Ashe, Principal

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