



Franklin Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent
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August 14, 2026

Dear FPS Community,

Welcome to the 2026–27 school year! I hope your summer has offered rest, time outdoors, and moments with the people who matter most to you. Whether your child is returning to a familiar classroom or starting at a new school, we are looking forward to welcoming every student back for a year of learning and growth.

Last year, we asked a great deal of this community. We opened new grade-level complexes, formed new teams, and learned new routines together. Those structures have held. Our staffing has remained remarkably stable, our relationships have deepened, and we begin this year on a foundation we built together.

KEY BACK-TO-SCHOOL DATES · [FPS Calendar](#)

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| • First Day for Students, Grades 1–12 and Age 22 Programs | Wednesday, September 2 |
| • First Day for Kindergarten | Thursday, September 3 |
| • No School, Labor Day | Monday, September 7 |
| • First Day for PreK, ECDC Oak Street | Tuesday, September 8 |
| • First Day for PreK, ECDC Pond Street | Wednesday, September 9 |

Please note that **Friday, September 4, and Monday, September 7 (Labor Day)** are no-school days.

OUR PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES

Our theme this year is **Anchored in Purpose, Shared Vision, Stronger Schools**. Last year we built. This year, we plan to strengthen what we built. We stay anchored in purpose because our structures exist to serve students, and every goal we set traces back to a student outcome. We hold a shared vision because our schools are stronger when our work is connected rather than siloed. And we build stronger schools by holding high expectations for ourselves while giving one another the support to meet them.

Our work is guided by the Franklin Public Schools District Improvement Plan, anchored in four strategic objectives:

1. **Strengthen School Community and Team Collaboration** — Create environments where everyone feels they belong, trust is built, and people work together toward shared goals.
2. **Build Coherent Systems and Structures** — Establish predictable, transparent, streamlined systems that promote efficiency, accountability, and continuous improvement.
3. **Align Instructional Practices** — Ensure high-quality, inclusive, universally designed instruction, using data to inform teaching and calibrate expectations.
4. **Enhance Communication** — Share clear, timely, transparent communication district-wide to foster trust and support decision-making at every level.

Our administrative team spent three days together in early August turning these objectives into school improvement goals with real action steps, owners, and measures. Your child's principal will share those goals with you this fall. These are not words on paper. They are the everyday commitments that shape how we connect, teach, and learn.

SUPPORTING A SMOOTH START

Families can help students begin the year with confidence by:

1. Re-establishing bedtime, morning, and homework routines before the first day.
2. Reviewing bus stops, pickup times, and expectations for safety and respect on all routes. Routes will be published the week of August 17.
3. Discussing school expectations, found in each school handbook.
4. Staying informed through your school's newsletters, teacher updates, and the FPS and FHS Panther mobile apps.

CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL DEVICE EXPECTATIONS

At the state level, the Massachusetts Legislature has advanced legislation that would require every public school district to adopt a bell-to-bell policy restricting personal electronic devices during the school day. The bill is still in negotiation, and no change is required of us yet. We are following it closely.

We currently have a handbook policy in place that meets this expectation for PreK-8. Current expectations for each grade level are in your school handbook. At FHS, we plan to build upon last year's expectations so our 9-12 students are well prepared when the law takes effect. Any changes will be communicated directly from your school, and our handbooks will be updated.

RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION

We are fortunate in Franklin that the great majority of families approach concerns respectfully and with a genuine interest in solving them. That matters, and we do not take it for granted.

It is equally important that our educators and school leaders are treated professionally. When issues escalate, staff sometimes receive aggressive communications that do not resolve the concern and leave everyone frustrated. If you have a concern, please start with the adult closest to it. That is almost always the fastest path to understanding and resolution. For more information, please review our [Communication Guidelines for FPS Families](#).

STAYING CONNECTED AND INVOLVED

- Read teacher communications and school newsletters regularly.
- Download our mobile apps below to view school information, calendars, schedules, and purchase tickets for FHS athletic and performing arts events.
- Support organizations such as the Parent Communication Council (PCC), Booster Organizations, and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC).
- Attend Franklin School Committee meetings in person, virtually, or on Franklin TV.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Before September arrives, I want to say plainly what I know to be true: the difference in a child's school year is made by the adults who show up for them. That includes every teacher, paraprofessional, nurse, counselor, before- and after-school educator, custodian, food service worker, bus driver, van driver, monitor, secretary, Central Office staff member, and administrator in this district. Our structures matter, but people are what make a school.

On behalf of our entire Franklin Public Schools team, thank you for the trust you place in us each year. I look forward to working together to make this a year where every student feels a sense of belonging, receives high-quality instruction, and has the opportunity to thrive.

Enjoy the rest of your August. We will be ready to welcome students back and look forward to a successful year.



Respectfully,

Lucas Giguere



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MR. G'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

As a fellow FPS parent (one of mine recently graduated), I know the back-to-school hustle that takes over every August. Here is the checklist I use to set our family up for success.

1. **[SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)** - Print, post, and bookmark the FPS school calendar for home reference.
2. **[STUDENT SCHEDULE](#)**
 - Grades 6–12: Log into your [Aspen](#) account to review schedules when posted.
 - Review the welcome letter from your school with teacher assignments.
Need Aspen login directions or forgot your password? Contact your school directly.
3. **[TRANSPORTATION](#)**
 - If you have not registered for the bus and need transportation, please complete the [waitlist form](#). If a payment is required, you will be notified and it must be made in order to complete your registration.
 - If you need to set up a payment plan, contact schoolbus@franklinps.net.
 - Check the 2026–27 FPS bus routes for stop locations and pickup times (available during the week of August 17).
 - Review the [Bus Expectations Document](#) with your child.
Questions? Visit the [FPS Transportation](#) page or email schoolbus@franklinps.net
4. **[SCHOOL MEALS](#)** - ***Breakfast and lunch are free for all students again this year.***
 - Log into [Linq Connect](#) to review menus, account and balance information, and add funds to purchase optional à la carte items. **Please note that only the first breakfast and first lunch are free. Additional portions, à la carte items, or additional food items are not free and must be paid for separately.**
 - Families who may qualify for Free or Reduced Meals should still apply online through [Linq Connect](#) or by using [this form](#). Eligibility also provides assistance for busing, Chromebooks, athletic fees, and PreK tuition.
5. **[SCHOOL-SPECIFIC INFORMATION](#)**
 - Visit the [FPS website](#) and select your child's school for start and end times, school supply lists, and back-to-school newsletters. If you did not receive a newsletter, contact your school.
 - Visit the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and download the [Franklin Public Schools mobile app](#) to receive news, feeds, and notifications, and the [FHS PANTHER mobile app](#) to receive schedules and ticket purchasing for FHS athletic and performing arts events throughout the year.
6. **[CHROMEBOOK](#)**
 - Register Grades 6–12 student Chromebooks - Required to operate
 - Purchase or decline the optional insurance.
7. **[FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE](#)**
 - Financial assistance is available for eligible families. Families who may qualify for Free or Reduced Meals should also [apply online](#) or by using [this form](#) for additional fees such as transportation, athletics, clubs and activities, and Chromebook insurance, etc.