



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Hamilton Disston Elementary School
6801 Cottage Street
Philadelphia, PA 19135

Telephone: (215) 400-3350

Fax: (215) 400-3350

Dear Disston Families,

It is my sincere hope that everyone is having a safe and restful summer. As the district announced, the start of the school year for students is September 2, 2020. It was also decided that we will begin the year utilizing an all-virtual model for the first quarter which ends on November 17th.

With these changes comes many questions. We are currently working hard on solidifying our plans for the first quarter of school. We anticipate the majority of your questions will be answered once the policies and procedures centered on grading, student schedules, attendance and participation, and student support are finalized. As always, we will clarify any questions or concerns that extend beyond what is published.

We learned several lessons from last spring's virtual experience. Adjustments were made throughout the process based on student, parent and teacher feedback. During the upcoming few weeks our dedicated staff will receive additional professional development with a focus on pacing, lesson planning, virtual model delivery, assessments and maximizing virtual resources. Additionally, we will ensure that students receive daily, live virtual instruction for all their classes. It is our goal that our students' virtual learning will be engaging, rewarding, and an outstanding educational experience.

You will receive correspondence within the next week from the district regarding the opening of the school year. The communication will be clear, transparent and timely. This also includes information regarding students recovering items left in the building from last year and the distribution of consumable materials.

We cannot thank you enough for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time in not just our nation's, but also our world's history. We look forward to what we know will be a great school year.

Sincerely,

Kareem Thomas, Principal