



THE DISSTON DRAGON REPORT

Welcome

The 2020-2021 school year is here!!! And with this new school year, we bring you The Dragon Report, a weekly newsletter for Disston families! In this newsletter, you will find updates from the school, district and the Office of Children and Families. You will learn about different resources and partners that serve Tacony residents. You will read highlights and shoutouts from our Disston community. A new newsletter will be published every Wednesday on Class Dojo. If you would like to receive it in your inbox, [please fill out this form to submit your email](#).

A Message from Principal Thomas

Dear Disston Families, Welcome Back!

As we begin a school year like no other we have seen in the past; our focus will still be to ensure that:

every scholar, every day is finding a way to feel **connected**,
every scholar, every day is **challenged** by new learning and experiences,
every day, every scholar knows they have an adult at Disston Elementary who **cares** for them a great deal.

The spring of 2020 challenged all of us to find and embrace a new normal for learning, connected us in new ways, and required us to stay united from afar. Through this process, I have been reminded of how much I appreciate the dedication of our teachers, scholars, and our dedicated families. Normal is such a simple word, and it is our goal at Disston to find our new normal and use this time as a learning experience that will forever impact our school's learning environment.

As we officially kick off the 2020-2021 academic year, we are happy to announce that our theme is "The Year of Good Trouble." We encourage you, our partners in education, to get into some "Good Trouble." This year, we challenge you to make a difference, speak truth to power, never give up, treat everyone equally, and get involved. Let's have a great year.

Peace!
Principal Thomas



New This Week

From the School

The September Calendar is here! [Click here to take a look](#). Important dates to remember:

- There is NO SCHOOL on September 7th (Labor Day) and September 28th (Yom Kippur)
- Student material distribution will take place on September 14th (K-4) & September 15th (5-8)
- Back to School Night will take place virtually on September 29th



We are launching Office Hours to help answer your questions and help you navigate the new Virtual Learning. Our Community School Coordinator, Ms. Roche will be on Google Meets 3 times a week to listen to your questions and concerns. On Thursday, Office hour will be conducted in Spanish. There will also be members of our Leadership Team popping in on Monday mornings to help provide more in-depth information on various topics.

- Mondays (starting 9/14) from 9am-10am. [Click here to join Google Meet](#)
- Tuesdays (starting 9/8) from 4pm-5pm. [Click here to join Google Meet](#)
- Thursdays (en español; starting 9/10) from 9am-10am. [Click here to join Google Meet](#)

From the District

PHLconnectED is working to ensure all School District of Philadelphia families have access to reliable internet at home. If you need help getting internet, call 211 option 1. This program will get families most at need connected to internet for free through either at home connection or a hotspot.

From the Office of Children and Families

If you work outside of your home and can't afford or access childcare for your child (grades K-6), you may be eligible to register with an **Access Center**. The City and community partners are opening dozens of Access Centers to provide **supervised, connected spaces** where children entering K-6th grade can participate in digital learning provided by their school.

Access centers are *not drop-in centers*. Families must begin registration by filling out the [registration interest form](#) or calling the registration line (215-709-5366), and must receive confirmation of their eligibility and registration in order to bring their child to an Access Center.

Access Centers will begin serving students on Tuesday, September 8. For more information, including a map of sites, visit phila.gov/AccessCenters.

School Success Tip

Participate in the Family Academy

The Family and Community Engagement Office (FACE) of the School District of Philadelphia has a Family Academy (FACT) that offers virtual workshops on a variety of topics to empower caregivers with the tools and knowledge to navigate school and support their scholars. These courses are currently offered virtually. More information and the calendar can be accessed on the [FACT website](#). Here are the upcoming courses:

Instructional Design: Understanding the School District of Philadelphia's Design for Digital Instruction

Tuesday,
September 8, 2020
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

This session provides an overview of the School District of Philadelphia's design for digital instruction and learning. Participants will learn how the learning day may be structured and the expectations for staff and students.

[JOIN SESSION](#)

Hosted by the Office of Academic Supports

Supporting English Learners During Remote Learning

Wednesday,
September 9, 2020
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

This session provides an overview of the supports that the staff in the Office of Multilingual Curriculum and Programs will be providing to schools and families during digital learning.

[JOIN SESSION](#)

Hosted by the Office of Multilingual Curriculum and Programs

Supporting Students Who Have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) During Digital Learning

Wednesday,
September 9, 2020
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

This session provides an overview of the supports that the staff in the Office of Specialized Services will be providing to schools and families during digital learning.

[JOIN SESSION](#)

Hosted by the Office of Specialized Services

Community Supports

In this section, we will highlight a Community Support available

[Northeast Family Service Center](#)

7340 Jackson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19136
215-624-5920

The Northeast Family Service Center began servicing the Northeast Philadelphia community in 1986. The center strives to empower a diverse population facing economic, social and emotional challenges. Service Programs available include: Pregnancy & Parenting Workshops, "Clothing Cuties" initiative to assist families with children's clothing, Diaper Pantry (call for appointment), Food Cupboard (Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 9:00am to 12:00pm; No Appointment Necessary), Rental, Mortgage, & Utility Assistance (upon funding availability), before and after school program for children and a summer camp. Financial management assistance through Clarifi, Inc. and assistance to apply for government benefits through Benephilly Services. Counseling services is offered through Catholic Clinical Consultants.

Northeast Family Service Center
is open and ready to help you & your family!

Hours: Monday—Friday, 9 am—4 pm

Location: 7340 Jackson Street, Phila, PA 19136



- **FREE** diapers, formula, wipes, baby clothes & books
- **FREE** Emergency food
- **Pregnancy and Parenting Zoom Workshops**
- Referrals for **FREE** crib and car seat
- Support, education and resources for new parents and families
- Incentives of free diapers, raffles, and other items.



Please give us a call at [215-624-5920](tel:215-624-5920) for more information or to schedule an appointment with a social worker 😊

School Shoutouts

[Welcome New Staff to Disston](#)

This weeks SHOUTOUT goes to all the new members of Disston staff! Please send a digital hello through Class Dojo to this group that is getting to know a new school community in the time of Virtual Learning. We wish them the very best and look forward to all the knowledge and energy they are bringing to Disston.

- Karla Ramirez Main Office Secretary
- Barbara Zisk Learning Support
- Kristine Elkins Learning Support
- Melvin Morris School Counselor (K-4)

- Kadedra Haynes School Counselor (5-8)
- Leah Ellis Emotional Support Teacher
- Aaron Swan Technology
- James Hegarty Art
- Derek Robinson Physical Education/Health
- Tamara Ross Physical Education/Health
- Emily Burkhart Music

Hamilton Disston School

6801 Cottage Street
Philadelphia, PA 19135

<https://disston.philasd.org/>



Contact Us:

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Follow us @disstondragons

