

DUNELLEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great anticipation that I welcome all of you back for another year of exploration, discovery and instruction in the Dunellen School District! I hope that you enjoyed the extended summer vacation and found time to relax and re-charge while sharing good times with family and friends. I'm hopeful your children are ready and raring to go for a return to full-day, in-person instruction.

While they were out, the district underwent a major face-lift. At Dunellen High School there will be two new classrooms and a small group instruction room on the third floor and new bathrooms on the first and third floors as well as in the link areas between DHS and LMS on the first and second floors. There will be a new Techno Center on the second floor where the library used to be and a new Art Room on the first floor made up of what was formerly room 4 and the Choir Room. A new Choir Room will sit in the space that used to serve as a Faculty Room while the gym on the second floor will now be completely air-conditioned.

Those who attend Faber School will be doing so under a newly installed roof. Two new small group instruction classroom spaces have been opened up on the first floor and one on the second floor. In addition, new HVAC units have been installed in most of the classrooms. Rooftop HVAC units have been added to bring air conditioning to the second floor and a new boiler is in the process of being installed. Generators have also been installed at both Faber and at DHS/LMS.

We understand that whenever change is introduced there is an inevitable period of adjustment. When all of our work is completed, the \$23.8 million referendum passed by the citizens of Dunellen in 2019 will provide our students with "state-of-the art" facilities that will facilitate a true 21st century education. This year, our first day of school for students is Monday, September 20. **Students will follow a regular, full day schedule right from day one.** Full day times are as follows:

Dunellen High School: 7:40 a.m. – 2:36 p.m.

Lincoln Middle School: 7:50 a.m. – 2:49 p.m.

Faber Elementary School (Drop off – 8:05 a.m.) 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In addition to our busy construction schedule this summer, administration was also busy putting together our plan for the return to school. The plan, which is posted on the district website, complies with all mandates that have been handed down by Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health. Please read through the plan, particularly the health and hygiene section, to get an understanding of how we're dealing with COVID-19. There are new details regarding the quarantine process and how we're educating students who may be forced to quarantine.

On August 6, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order #251 requiring the wearing of masks by students, staff, and visitors in all school buildings in New Jersey. As a result, all students, staff and visitors will be required to wear masks whenever they're in our buildings (except when eating, of course). Students participating in physical education classes will also be able to do so without masks and masks do not have to be worn outside the buildings. The principals at each building will implement periodic mask breaks.

We are excited about the new staff members that were hired over the summer. As a group, they rank among the best to join the district during my time as the superintendent. I'm hopeful that you'll welcome them warmly and introduce them to the unique character, spirit, and tradition that is Dunellen. Remember, it is our duty to pass on the legacy of our district: "Preserve Tradition. Expand Horizons. Produce Excellence."

I hope you'll take the time to savor the final days of summer and come back energized to meet the challenge of a new year. I look forward to working with all of you to provide your children with a safe, high-quality educational experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene G. Mosley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "M".

Gene Mosley
Superintendent of Schools