

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year!

We're excited about the start of another school year and the first day of school for students on Thursday, September 5th. One week to go!

We have a number of initiatives underway but there are two in particular that I want to discuss with you.

First, as part of our Pennsville 2.0 initiative, we are very excited to provide 1-1 access to computers for students in grades two through 12. Students are going to be exposed to a technology-centric classroom experience, when appropriate, and will have a wonderful resource that expands the school day and the school year for additional learning. We have been working towards this milestone for a number of years and I'm pleased to see it happening! I've looked at dozens upon dozens of schools with similar initiatives and we've got something special happening!

Next, let's talk about security and safety.

The administrative staff reviews security protocols every summer. This summer was no different in terms of process but the outcomes will be a bit more noticeable this year.

- Part of keeping our students, staff and other visitors safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times. All visitors will be politely asked to identify themselves and the purpose of their visit before they enter any building. They will also be asked if they have ID. Visitors without ID will not be admitted.
- After entering, the school building, the visitor's Government-issued ID will be scanned by our Raptor Technologies Visitor Management System. (Click [here](#) for a demo.) The Raptor system makes a record of the visit, does a check for any issues the school needs to be aware of and prints a visitor badge if your destination is anywhere but the main office.
- There are a number of other initiatives that would upgrade security throughout the district. Those that I can share with you include a substantial upgrade to our phone system that will dramatically improve our capabilities to respond to emergency situations. The BOE and our administrators are also considering potential infrastructure changes to buildings and staffing.
- I wish that we weren't at a point where these kinds of precautions are necessary and I truly do understand that these changes may cause some slight inconveniences. However, our priority has to be on the safety of our schools above all other issues. We can all agree that the safety of our children and staff is paramount. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience. As with anything new, we expect there will be some minor glitches, but in a short amount of time, the process will run smoothly and with minimal effort. If you have any questions, please contact your school office and someone there will assist you.

We're looking forward to a positive and productive school year! We have new schedules at the middle school and high school. We're expanding our state-funded preK program from four to 11 classes. Back-to-school nights happen at the elementary schools next week. We can't wait to get started!

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or if there is anything that we can do to help your child be more successful.

Thank you