

July Updates 7.15.21

Dear FMA,

I hope you are enjoying your summer! I'm writing with a few important updates.

Important Dates

9/2 - Save the Date: Back-to School Bash 2-4 p.m.

9/7 - Back-to School Bash Rain Date (2-4 p.m.)

9/9 - First day of school grades 1-5

9/13 - First day of school PK/JK/K

Staffing Updates

Congratulations to the following FMA staff who are changing roles:

- Ms. Catherine VanHall - ASD Teacher (3-5)
- Ms. Brittany Williams - Special Educator (grades 4/5)
- Ms. Marilyn Walsh - Special Educator (grades 2/3)
- Ms. Katie Miller - ESL Teacher
- Ms. Jackie Solomon - 1st Grade Instructional Aide
- Ms. Eva Kahng - 4th Grade Instructional Aide / Science Enrichment Teacher

FMA also welcomes Mr. Alex Zhitnik who will be taking over for Kerrilee Niles Maneri as a teacher in the ASD program. Alex holds a B.S. in Elementary Education, History, and Literature from Lesley University, and his Masters degree is in Moderate Disabilities from UMass Boston. He taught special education in Grade 5 at Madeleine English School in Everett. More recently, Mr. Zhitnik was an Autism Program Special Educator at CRLS. Alex's journey in education began at FMA as a 1st grade student teacher and he also served 4 years as a K-5 paraprofessional at FMA. We are thrilled that Alex has returned home to his Fletcher Maynard family. Welcome back!

Interviews will be held for the open 1st grade teaching position next week. We want to make sure parent/caregiver voices are represented on the committee. If you are available and interested in serving the mornings of 7/21-7/23, please email mrounds@cpsd.us by noon **tomorrow Friday, July 16.**

ILT Updates

The ILT will meet Aug. 26th from 9-12 and Aug. 27th from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to review data, discuss instructional priorities, and work on the School Improvement Plan for SY21-22.

Rounds Out 7/23-8/20

I hope you have been taking some much-needed and well-deserved time for yourselves this summer! I believe in practicing what I preach, and to that end, I will be signing off to take a summer break with my family from July 23rd to August 20th. I will have very limited access to email, but will try to check periodically once a week. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response.

Message from our new Interim Superintendent, Dr. Victoria Greer

My name is Dr. Victoria Greer, and I am the newly appointed [Interim Superintendent for Cambridge Public Schools](#). I am thrilled to be rejoining the Cambridge community at such a critical time, when we need to work together to help our students recover from the impact of the pandemic and take the next steps to achieve academic excellence and have a joyful school experience.

As a parent, I know you are eager to know what to expect for your child in the upcoming school year.

As an educator, I know that you are ready to return to a sense of normalcy and engage your students in meaningful and purposeful learning experiences. As a leader, I know this will take deep reflection, purposeful and thoughtful collaboration, and a willingness on all of our parts to listen, learn and act.

In order to ensure that I reconnect and relearn the district, I am engaging in a thoughtful and comprehensive entry process. This process will allow me to understand our current conditions and work collaboratively with all stakeholders to chart our path forward together. I look forward to working with each of you.

In the next couple of weeks, you can expect to receive a copy of my entry plan with an update on the progress that I have made to date. In early August, you can expect an update from the CPS team with important information for next school year. In the meantime, have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer.

Make It Great,

Dr. Victoria Greer

Interim Superintendent

Cambridge Public Schools

¡Gusto en saludarles!

Soy la Dra. Victoria Greer, recientemente designada [Superintendente interina de las Escuelas Públicas de Cambridge](#). Estoy encantada de reincorporarme a la comunidad de Cambridge en estos momentos tan críticos, cuando necesitamos trabajar juntos para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a recuperarse del impacto de la pandemia y dar los próximos pasos para lograr la excelencia académica y vivir una experiencia escolar feliz.

Como madre, sé que están ansiosos por saber qué esperar para su hijo/a en el próximo año escolar. Como educadora, sé que están listos para regresar a un cierto sentido de normalidad e involucrar a sus estudiantes en experiencias de aprendizaje significativas y con un propósito. Como líder, sé que para esto se necesitará una profunda reflexión, la colaboración intencionada y considerada y una predisposición de todos nosotros para escuchar, aprender y actuar.

A fin de asegurarme de que vuelvo a conectar con el distrito y vuelvo a conocerlo, emprendo un proceso inicial considerado e integral. Este proceso me permitirá comprender nuestras condiciones actuales y trabajar de manera colaborativa con todas las partes interesadas para trazar juntos el camino que tenemos por adelante. Espero trabajar con cada uno de ustedes.

En las próximas semanas, recibirán una copia de mi plan inicial con una actualización sobre el progreso que haya hecho hasta la fecha. A principios de agosto, recibirán una actualización del equipo de las CPS con información importante para el próximo año escolar. Mientras tanto, les deseo un verano seguro, tranquilo y placentero.

¡Pásenlo estupendo!

Dra. Victoria Greer

Superintendente interina

Escuelas Públicas de Cambridge

ጤና ይስጥልኝ!

ስሜ ዶክተር ቪክቶሪያ ግሪር እባላለሁ፤ እኔ ለካምብሪጅ የህዝብ ትምህርት ቤቶች አዲስ ጊዜያዊ የበላይ ተቆጣጣሪ የተሾምኩ ነኝ። ተማሪዎቻችን የተከሰተው ወረርሽኝ ካስከተለባቸው ጉዳት ተመልሰው እንዲወጡ እና የእካዳሚክ ብቃትን ለማሳካት ቀጣዮቹን እርምጃዎች እንዲወስዱ፣ እንዲሁም አስደሳች የሆነ የትምህርት ቤት ተሞክሮ እንዲኖራቸው ለመርዳት በእንድነት መሥራት ሲያስፈልገን በእንደዚህ ዓይነት ወሳኝ ጊዜ ውስጥ ከካምብሪጅ ማህበረሰብ ጋር በመገናኘቴ በጣም ተደስቻለሁ።

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ታላቅ ደስታ ያድርጉት!

Dr. Victoria Greer (ዶክተር ቪክቶሪያ ግሪር)

የትምህርት ቤቶች የበላይ ተቆጣጣሪ

ካምብሪጅ የህዝብ ትምህርት ቤቶች



Sincerely,



Maisha Rounds, Ed.D

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FMA Family August Updates - 8.15.21

Happy August, FMA families!

I hope you are enjoying your summer break. Please see below for important updates...

- 8/25 - Back-to-School Supply Give-Away sponsored by the Margaret Fuller House & Kingdom Empowerment Center
- 9/2 - Back-to School Bash 2-4 p.m. (rain date 9/7 @ 2-4 p.m.)
- 9/9 - First day of school grades 1-5 (7:45 a.m.)
- 9/13 - First day of school PK/JK/K (7:45 a.m.)

Staffing Updates

FMA welcomes Yazmine Navarro to the team as a 1st grade teacher! She holds a Bachelors degree from Wheelock College and a Masters from Boston College. Ms. Navarro is dually licensed in Elementary 1-6 and Special Education K-8. Yazmine previously worked as an inclusion teacher in Boston Public Schools and more recently served as the Grade 2 Extended Term Substitute at FMA last year. She will be working with the 1st grade team alongside Jackie Solomon, who is changing roles to serve as a general education paraprofessional. We are thrilled to welcome Yazmine to the FMA family!

Back-To-School Updates

Teachers will be reaching out to introduce themselves to families the week of Sept. 1-3. You will also have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher in person during our Back-to-School Bash on Sept. 2nd (details below). We hope you can make it!

Commitment to Excellence

Our focus during SY21-22 will be on strengthening Tier 1 instruction.

Every grade has 30-min. WIN ("What I Need") blocks which can (and should) be used for math workshop, additional tier II opportunities for word study, writing conferences, & small group reading support **in addition** to pull-out/push in special education services and tier III interventions such as Reading Recovery, LLI, and intense math interventions. WIN should take place at least 3 times per week. Social Studies & Science will take place at least twice a week. Your scholar's teacher may carve out additional SS, Science, & WIN blocks as your schedules allow. Please be sure to communicate this with your team, related service providers, and any support staff you work with.

Covid Safety Updates

We will resume operations as usual while maintaining Covid safety precautions. FMA's infection control will continue working together to support a safe and healthy learning environment. Covid testing will also continue to be available to CPS students and staff. Our school will keep its Get Well Room to support students and staff who may show symptoms during the school day.

We will continue staggered arrivals/dismissals and mask guidelines. Regardless of vaccination status, all students and staff are expected to be fully masked unless eating. While we continue monitoring public health conditions, we will remain mindful that our scholars are not yet vaccinated. So, FMA will continue taking safety precautions during lunch time. As a result, students will continue eating lunch in classrooms or outdoors next year. Below you can find the latest CPS guidance for cafeteria use:

"The default for meals will remain **outdoors as long as weather permits**. Students should eat 3 feet apart outside as well. For lunch in the classroom, we must meet 4 air exchanges per hour, either directly from the HVAC system or achieved with the help of open windows or HEPA filters."

Playworks will also continue supporting recess during SY21-22. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at mrrounds@cpsd.us.

Back-to-School Bash 9/2 (2-4 p.m.)

Are you ready to kick off the year in style? FMA's PTO will host a Back-to-School Bash on **Thursday, Sept. 2nd from 2-4 p.m.** in person on the school's playground and Izzy's Park (rain date 9/7 @ 2-4 p.m.). To maintain social distancing, the event will be organized by grade level as follows:

- 2:00 - 2:30 - PK/JK
- 2:30 - 3:00 - Grades K/1
- 3:00 - 3:30 - Grades 2/3
- 3:30 - 4:00 - Grades 4/5

Families with children in multiple grades may come during any window of time that best suits the family's schedule. Families will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher in person, get gently used school uniforms, and connect with other families.

Please enjoy these remaining few weeks of summer. Rest, revive, and get ready for a fan-tabulous year of learning!

Sincerely,



Maisha Rounds, Ed.D

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