

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Mason Pilot Elementary School

Carolyn Allston, Principal

August 23, 2021

RE: Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all students and families!

The beginning of a wonderful and fulfilling year of learning is upon us! My name is Carolyn Allston and I am extremely excited to enter into my second year as the Principal of the Mason Pilot Elementary School. During my first year as the Principal of the Mason, emphasis was placed on ensuring all students were provided with small group learning experiences whether remote or in-person to meet the diverse learning needs present as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We prioritized a well-rounded educational experience that nurtured the physical, mental and socio-emotional aspects of each child. As we embark on year two of my leadership here, it is an honor to build on the progress we have made in support of the diverse and inclusive community of educators, supporters and learners served at the Mason.

Our goal is to work with families and teachers to provide all students with learning experiences that will shift views of themselves, their abilities, and the world around them in order to unlock their full potential. The research is in agreement that effective family engagement plays a critical role in students' school success. Such engagement has been shown to develop out of mutual trust and respect between parents, teachers and other school staff. My vision is that we will work in collaboration to ensure all students have access to the quality learning experiences and individualized instruction they deserve, providing multiple opportunities for families to provide feedback and participate in events throughout the year.

This year, the Boston Public Schools district-wide focus states:

- **All educators will enact the five components of equitable literacy instruction so that all students, especially those who have been historically underserved, fully realize their brilliance and become a reader and creator of powerful texts.**

At the Mason, we will prioritize the District's focus, while continuing our work on the Mason school's instructional focus shared last year:

- **We will consistently provide students with learning activities that demand critical thinking and engage all students in meaningful evidence-based discussions and writing.**

To support these goals from home, we encourage you to push your child to explain their thinking or opinions about texts they read by following up with questions such as:

- What is the most interesting fact you learned today? Why?
- What are the most important facts you learned today about (math, science, ELA, etc.)? Why?
- How does what you read today connect to something you have learned in lessons?
- How do you know/can you explain? What evidence do you have of this?

- Why is this important? Tell me more. What is your evidence of this?

Please take some time to review the contents of this packet and be on the lookout for emails, ClassDOJO requests to join your child's classroom, robo-calls with information of upcoming events and additional information regarding the opening of school for the 2021 to 2022 school year.

Best Regards,

Carolyn Allston, Principal

Important Information for First Days of School

Samuel Mason Pilot Elementary School

We have two separate start dates for our students:

- The first day of school for grades 1 through 5 will begin on Thursday, September 9th.
- The first day of school for our K0, K1 and K2 students will begin on Monday, September 13th.

The first day of school is a full school day from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

The school buses will be traveling to all of the bus stops beginning the first day of school. Parents are required to wait with their Mason student at the bus stop until the school bus arrives for student safety.

If your child is entering K0, K1 or K2, please do not go to the bus stop until Monday, September 13th.

- **Uniforms:** All students will be provided with a free uniform top on the first day of school. Students are strongly encouraged to wear a uniform to school every day. Our uniform consists of a burgundy top and a khaki pants or skirt.
- **Our school hours are 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.** The school doors will open at 8:20 am for breakfast. This year, there is no remote option for learners, so all students enrolled at the Mason are expected to attend school in person each day. In preparation for a positive and productive school day and year, it is important that your child arrives at school on time. Last year we had many students whose academic growth and development was impacted by excessive absences, tardies and early pick-ups. Staff is not on duty to supervise students until 8:20 am each day. **Please note: parents/guardians are responsible for supervising their Mason students prior to 8:20 am for their safety.**

It is imperative that your child is present for the full duration of the school day, consistently. If you need support with ensuring this is possible, please let us know.

Student safety is crucial and it is important that we all follow procedures and protocols regarding our school structures and routines. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in helping to establish a safe and healthy routine for all of our students. **Due to COVID-19, parents will not be permitted inside of the school building without an appointment made in advance.**

We are committed to making the Mason School a safe, welcoming, nurturing, supportive and challenging educational experience for each child. A detailed Family Handbook explaining our classroom and school practices will be provided during (virtual) Open House, which will be on **Thursday, October 7th, 2021 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.**