

August 14, 2026

Dear Benjamin Franklin High School families:

It is almost time to start a new school year! My entire team and I are excited and ready to safely welcome all of our students back to school starting August 24th - *the first day of school*.

All summer, we have been preparing for an incredible new school year. We are adding both physical and academic processes and tools to continue to protect everyone's health and wellbeing in our school. Our teachers and school staff are attending special training sessions to continue to support our students' social, emotional and educational needs. Student schedules are being created. Our hard-working custodians have been cleaning and sanitizing our school. And, our cafeteria workers are preparing to serve your children a delicious and healthy breakfast and lunch each school day.

Our guiding theme this year is ELEVATE. Over the past few years, we have laid a strong foundation of support, dedication, and academic growth. Now, it is time to build higher. To **elevate** means to raise the standard. This year, we're delighted to welcome six teachers joining our staff: Mr. Blackshear, Ms. Douglas, Mr. Fischer, Ms. Gilhooley, Mr. Sutton, and Mr. Taveras.

I invite all of our families to attend our in-person **Back-to-School Open House on Thursday, September 10th from 5 -7 p.m.** This will be a great time to meet key staff members, learn more about the new school year and tour our school. In the meantime, I encourage you to take a few minutes to visit www.philasd.org/ringthebell for the latest back-to-school information in multiple languages.

All of us at Ben Franklin HS look forward to welcoming students back to school in person on August 24th! As always, please feel free to reach out to me at 215-400-7600 kcanada@philasd.org.

Dr. Khailiah C. Edwards