

Thomas Holme Elementary School
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Philadelphia, PA 19114
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July 27, 2021

Dear Parents/Families of Thomas Holme:

I hope you have enjoyed your summer so far!

As we get closer to August 31st -- the first day of school -- I wanted to reach out to remind you of our schedule for the upcoming school year.

As I shared with you earlier this summer, the School District of Philadelphia and the staff here at Holme are committed to doing everything we can to recover and improve student outcomes after 18 months of remote and hybrid learning, and lots of uncertainty as our city and nation dealt with the pandemic. Part of the district's larger strategy for improving outcomes for all students, is implementing a standardized approach to daily start and end times.

Standardizing our bell times will help to reduce the amount of time students spend on buses, help ensure buses are on time more often, allow for consistent cleaning of high touch areas on buses between runs, and help the Office of Transportation Services overcome a significant reduction in staffing due to resignations and retirements over the last 18 months.

As a result, Thomas Holme has new start times and end times for 2021-2022 School Year. This year, school will begin at 9:00 am and end at 3:39 pm each day. We are sharing this reminder so that if you haven't already, you can start to make any needed family arrangements ahead of time to ensure your child can attend school on time every day in alignment with this new schedule.

Another adjustment we are making to the schedule this year is that for Kindergarten students, the first five days of school -- August 31, September 1, 2, 3 and 8 -- will be half days, with students receiving instruction in the morning only. This slower transition into full day learning will give our youngest learners the time they need to adjust to the normal routines of school. In addition our kindergarten teachers will be able to fully participate in professional development and help with family interviews during that first week. If you need additional child care support for those first five days, you are encouraged to reach out to your regular child care provider, visit Philadelphia's Early Learning Resource Center website at philadelphiaelrc18.org or call 1-888-461-KIDS (5437).

More information about our return to school in the fall, and opportunities for you to participate in school and District-level meetings and events, will be shared with you during the District's Back-to-School campaign leading up to August 31st -- the first day of school. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the School District of Philadelphia website on a regular basis for the most



up to date information on our return to full, in-person learning: www.philasd.org/ringthebell. I will continue to share school-level reminders with you as well.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer. I cannot wait to welcome your children back to school on August 31st!

Sincerely,
Crystle Roye-Gill, Ed.D