



Back to School Information August 6, 2021

Good afternoon Abby Kelley families and students:

I hope this email finds you well and I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy these few months of summer. We have been extremely busy preparing for the upcoming school year. Our IT department has been working to update student Chromebooks, the Facilities Department has been focused on refreshing our buildings and attending to some much needed improvements; and we have launched a new [District Website](#), which displays some of the much needed information students, staff and families require.

Similar to last year, patience, flexibility, kindness, and perseverance are fundamentally important to our success AGAIN this year. As of today, there are *very few* clear guidelines that have been issued--something we expect to change in the next few weeks as more information is gathered by health experts.

While we were hoping for a more normal return to school on August 25, there are some decisions, however, we will need to carry forward due to CoVID-19 and the variants associated with the virus.

Abby Kelley will continue to prioritize the safety and health of our entire community. Therefore, [here is what we do know so far](#).

- **Abby Kelley will have a mandatory mask policy for ALL staff, students, visitors, and volunteers.**

Similar to last year, masks should be a solid color with no graphics, letters, or patterns. Masks will be available for those who forget them.

- **There is NO remote option for learning this year.**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has said we can not provide remote instruction this year. That means all students will need to be in person daily or it is considered an absence.

- **School will be 5 days per week (Monday-Friday).**

- The school day hours are specific to each building and can be found [here](#).

- **Students will need to wear masks on buses to and from school.**

- All students who need transportation this year are able to ride the buses to and from school; Bus Schedules will be available no later than August 20, 2021.
- **Abby Kelley will continue with cleaning and sanitizing protocols daily.**

There are still so many aspects of this year that remain unknown such as quarantining restrictions, close contacts, and if CoVID testing will be available in school. We continue to meet and wait for additional direction from our local Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to finalize future guidelines.

I know how disappointing it is that the start of the 21-22 school year will still require extra health and safety precautions. However, I wanted to share what I did know so far as you begin to prepare for the start of school.

Please join me at an online meeting on Tuesday, August 17 at 6:00 p.m. where we will share more information, guidelines, and answers to specific questions you might have. In the meantime, please feel free to email me at hpaluk@akfcs.org.

We know that a partnership between home and school is important for our student's success. I am thankful for the continued hard work of the teachers and staff, the perseverance of the students, and the support of the families, which will be crucial again this year.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Best

Heidi

Heidi Paluk
Interim Executive Director
Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School
hpaluk@akfcs.org or 508-854-8400 ext 3635

Important Dates

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Back to School with CoVID District Webinar
Location: Online Information Session / 6:00 p.m.

Please join Ms. Paluk, Interim Executive Director, and members of the Administration for an online Information Session regarding the reopening of school for the 2021-2022 school year, with a focus on COVID guidelines for students and staff.

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Abby's Attic Sale
Location: Activity Center / 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The Elementary and Middle School PTOs will have gently used uniform pieces for sale for \$1 per piece. Follow the Elementary or Middle School PTO on

Facebook for more details.

Monday, August 23, 2021

Elementary School Supply Drop Off & Popsicles on the Playground

Location: Elementary School / 4:00-6:00 p.m

Students in grades 1-3 and their families are invited to join Mrs. Gould, Elementary School Principal and other Abby Kelley students, families and staff for some playground fun and a popsicle, compliments of the Elementary School PTO. Bring your supplies from your school supply list and PTO volunteers will deliver them to your student's classroom

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

First Day of School for students in grades 1-12

Please visit the [Abby Kelley Website](#) for additional information as the start of school approaches and watch for more emails from principals and Interim Executive Director.

Friday, August 27, 2021

Kindergarten Students Meet Your Teacher & Supply Drop-off

Location: Elementary School / 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Kindergarten students and their families are invited to come in-person to meet their Kindergarten teachers and bring school and classroom supplies. Additional information will be sent to these families from the Elementary School.

Friday, September 3, 2021

NO School--Labor Day Weekend

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

First Day of School for Kindergarten Students

Look for more information in your email or at the meet your teacher session on August 27 at 9:30 a.m.

End of the Year Survey Closes August 9

As we prepare to return to school, I ask you to give us your feedback through the survey links below, regarding your experiences in the last school year.

We are keeping the survey open until Monday, August 9 if you have not had a chance to send in your responses. Thank you!

Survey Links:

English- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S3S58RF>

Spanish- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T7MJP6J>

Portuguese- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TJBShGM>

Vietnamese- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TW6YFB7>

Arabic- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFD68FK>

Polish- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TG99F2M>

Follow Abby Kelley on Social Media

For news and updates across the District, follow Abby Kelley on Social Media.

These links (below) bring you to the District's official pages



There are social media pages specific to the Elementary School PTO, Middle School PTO, High School Booster Club, and various student organizations as well. Be sure to follow them all to stay connected and informed.