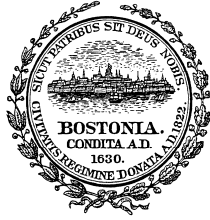


# BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 30, 2009

Dear Boston Public School Families,

We are so excited to have begun a new school year, providing opportunities in every classroom for your child to reach and exceed their greatest expectations. Administrators, teachers, and school staff view you as the most important partner in our work to prepare students for college and beyond. Here are some initiatives that will help to strengthen our partnership:

- **Exemplary student attendance** is critical to high academic achievement. We are asking for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter is in school on time every day, providing that he/she is not ill. Because school attendance is so critical to student success, we are asking parents to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours, or on days when school is not in session. We also ask that you limit requests for early dismissal only for emergencies or where there are no options available.
- **School Parent Council (SPC) and School Site Council (SSC)** elections will be held at every school between now and October 15<sup>th</sup>. At pilot schools, elections are held for parent representation on their **Governing Boards**. SCP and SSC are important ways that parents can get involved in supporting our school improvement. Please contact your child's school for the dates of these elections.
- **Parent University** is an exciting new initiative for BPS parents that provides them with the opportunity to gain a better understanding about what their children should be learning, how to advocate for their children, how to access resources and supports, and how to effectively participate in school governance. Additionally, Parent University will offer elective classes such as financial management, health and wellness, English as a Second Language (ESL), and computer literacy. Parent University launches on October 31<sup>st</sup> at UMass Boston. Registration information is available by calling (617) 635-1683 or by emailing [parentuniversity@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:parentuniversity@bostonpublicschools.org).

Our Family Engagement vision for the Boston Public Schools is that "every school would welcome every family and every student, actively engaging them as partners in student learning and school improvement." We recognize your role as the leaders in your child's education, and look forward to your taking on leadership roles in all of our schools.

Sincerely,

Carol R. Johnson  
Superintendent

Michele Brooks  
Assistant Superintendent  
Family and Student Engagement