

Monday, August 31, 2021
Dear Roger Clap Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are excited to begin an excellent year at the Roger Clap!

I am honored to have been selected as the Principal of the Roger Clap Elementary K-6 School and deeply appreciate the tireless effort of the families, staff and district leaders who served on the school's Principal Selection Committee last spring. Since joining the school community in February, I have collaborated with staff, families, students, and community partners to ensure that our students' learning experiences are grounded in high expectations, curriculum that affirms their identities, and with access to the range of enrichment opportunities afforded in this great city! We will continue this work into the new school year as well as deepen our identity as a full inclusion school ensuring that students with and without disabilities achieve to their fullest potential.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to connect with your child about the BPS Summer Reads book, please check [out our staff reading each grade-level's book here.](#)

This email is full of important information to ensure we have a strong start to the school year including:

- Back to School Expectations & Events
- Our Roger Clap Staff
- COVID Health & Safety Guidelines
- Transportation
- Final Reminders

Back to School Expectations & Events

- *Phone Calls & Communication:* Every family should receive communication welcoming their child to their new classroom by 9/9. This will be the first of many opportunities for families to share your hopes and dreams for your child this school year!
- *Back to School Ice Cream Social:* Wednesday, September 8th from 3:00pm - 4:30 at the Roger Clap Playground. Come get the SCOOP on our staff, students, and families! Get backpacks, books & supplies and open a library account with the Boston Public Library! Masks are encouraged.
- *First Day:* Thursday, September 9th for students in Grade 1-6.
- *Welcome Session:* Friday, September 10th for our K0/K1/K2 families and students from 10am-11am. This is an opportunity to welcome our youngest students to our Roger Clap community!
- *First Day:* Monday September 13th for students in K0/K1/K2.
- *Equity Roundtable & School Site Council:* Tuesday, September 21st for all families & staff 6-7pm on Zoom. Join the conversation about how to use the significant increase in additional funds for the school year. What would you like to see the Roger Clap community spend additional funds on? Grounded in the community-driven strategic plan,

BPS will invest these one-time federal relief funds to return well, recover strong and reimagine what's possible for our students. Spanish interpretation will be provided. [Zoom Link here](#)

- **Back to School Night: Thursday, September 30** from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers, share your hopes and dreams for your child(ren), and learn about the curriculum, expectations, and opportunities for the school year. Your presence really matters. Please mark your calendar and save the date. More details regarding in-person (outdoor) and virtual meetings will be shared soon.

Our Roger Clap Staff

I am thrilled to welcome back our returning staff and share updates about new additions to our school community!

Grade/Team	Staff
K0/K1	Toni Passano & Andria Headley
K2	Ulana Ainsworth & Fantasia Fernandes
Grade 1	Ashlee Raposa & Shelly Britto
Grade 2	Timothy Appel & Fleming Barrows-Akers
Grade 3	Dania Derivois & Azeema Shaikh
Grade 4	Bianca Passero & Sarah Ramirez
Grade 5	Sarah Noreiga & Jenna Silver
Grade 6	Katherine Hepburn & Octavia Marks
Specialists	Connie Cummings (Art), Dean Martin (Science), Irbensky Francois (PE)
Learning Specialists	Farah Wong, Kenneth Rosenthal, Lauren Kleutsch, Sarah Moore
Schoolwide Support	Carolina Castillo-Carbona (Special Education Coordinator), Stephanie Joseph (Social Worker), Elizabeth Barros Centeio (Nurse), Deidre DeGraffenreid (Family Liaison), Shauntell Dunbar (Instructional Coach), Evangelina Rustigian (Secretary), Nancy Callow (Lunch Monitor), Krystal Smith (Lunch Monitor), Aron Hall (Cafeteria Manager)

COVID Health & Safety Guidelines

For the most up to date information about BPS Policies regarding Covid [visit this site](#). An overview of COVID Safety Procedures can be found below. [The entire document is listed here](#).

- **Vaccines:** BPS staff will also adhere to the recently announced vaccine verification or regular testing policy for City of Boston employees

- **Masks:** Masks are required to be worn by all students and staff while in school and riding on BPS school buses. Masks will not be required during outdoor recess. The school will have masks available.
- **Routine COVID Pool Testing:** Free, voluntary, and confidential COVID-19 pool testing will be available in schools for students and school staff. We strongly encourage all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, to participate in the pool testing program. The more people who test regularly, the better data we have.
Parents/guardians/caregivers must complete a consent form for their students to be eligible for pool testing. Each family received a link to this form for each student.
- **Testing for students experiencing symptoms of COVID-19** - any student who complains of any of the symptoms of COVID-19 will have access to a rapid test. Decisions on next steps are based on the results of the test.
- **Test and Stay** - introduced by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Test and Stay allows individuals who are identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case to stay in school with daily testing for 5 days if they do not have any symptoms. BPS's testing clinical provider, CIC Health, will deploy a team who will manage the daily tests for those who qualify.
- **Health & Safety** - Routines for handwashing, sanitizing, and disinfecting will continue to be prioritized for staff and students. All spaces continue to have air purifiers and increased air flow.

Transportation

Students who are eligible for BPS Transportation should have already received information about your child's AM and PM bus. If you have any questions you must contact 617-635-9520. Unfortunately, the Roger Clap staff can't make any bus changes. All changes are completed through the central office. [For more information visit this site.](#)

Final Reminders

- **School Dress Code:** The Roger Clap is a mandatory uniform school. The Elementary Uniform consists of: Navy Blue Pants/Skirts and White or Navy Blue Shirt.
- **School Hours:** School opens at 9:20am. To be marked on time, students must be in the building by 9:30am. Dismissal procedures begin at 4:00pm.
- **Before/After School Program:** Winning Every Student runs our before and after-school program. This program will begin the first day of school for students who are pre-enrolled. Hours are: 7:30-9:20 (before school) and afterschool (4:10pm-6:00pm) Questions: Contact - Eric Shelton, winningeverystudent@gmail.com, 857-540-8977

The beginning of the year is always full of a range of emotions for kids and adults. We are here to support you and your family during this transition back to school to kick off the 2021-2022 School Year!

With gratitude and partnership,

Emma Fialka-Feldman, Principal
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