



August 8, 2016

Dear DCPS Families,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! For those of you who are joining us for the first time, and those of you who are returning to DCPS, we are honored that you have chosen a DCPS school for your child.

This year 11 DCPS schools, including yours, opened early as extended-year campuses. We listened to what our families said they wanted from schools and worked with our educators to create this opportunity for students.

More learning time will result in great things for your child. By the end of the year, your student will receive an extra month for things like world languages, art and music, reading and math instruction, science labs, and physical activity. A student who attends an extended-year school from kindergarten through 8th grade will gain a total of 18 months of additional instruction – that’s almost two full years of growth!

In addition to our extended-year programs, here are just a few things you can look forward to in DCPS this year:

- **New Schools:** This is our 5th straight year of enrollment growth and we’re opening new schools to meet the demand. Ron Brown College Prep High School is the first all-male public school in Washington DC, and will educate our district’s young men with a focus on leadership. MacFarland Middle School will reopen this fall as a dual-language school with coursework in both English and Spanish.
- **New Cornerstones:** Over the summer, DCPS teachers worked to update and expand Cornerstones, which are exciting lessons and projects experienced by every student, from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. From learning how to ride a bike and build a battery, to cross-pollinating plants and composing music, your children will be able to apply their knowledge in exciting, real-world contexts.
- **New Curriculum:** This fall, DCPS will launch the Eureka math curriculum for students in kindergarten to Algebra II. Eureka is a Common Core-aligned set of resources that will help your child develop problem-solving skills and mathematical fluency.

Like you, I am a proud DCPS parent—one who is convinced in our children’s capacity for greatness. Our goal is to engage with you this year to help your child to achieve his or her dreams. I encourage you to get involved at your school, follow us on social media (@dcpublicschools on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), and let us know how we are doing.

I wish you and your family a wonderful start to the new school year. We are DCPS and we can do this!

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaya Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor, DC Public Schools