



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

James Dobson Elementary School

4667 Umbria Street

Philadelphia, PA 19127

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Khloé C. Williams-Lawani, Ed.D., Principal



August 13, 2024

Dear Dobson Families:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year! My entire team and I are excited and ready to welcome all of our students on Monday, August 26, 2024 - *the first day of school*. We are already gearing up for an incredible new school year.

Our teachers and school staff will be attending special training sessions to better support our students' academic, social and emotional needs, because, at Dobson, we believe in supporting the whole child. Our hard-working custodial team has been cleaning and sanitizing our school. Our cafeteria workers are preparing to serve your children delicious, healthy and free breakfast and lunch each school day.

Below is a summary of important information to know for the upcoming school year.

Academic Updates

- Our teachers are committed to providing high-quality student-centered instruction that is standards-aligned, data-driven and engaging.
- This year, we look forward to implementing a new ELA program called, Imagine Learning EL Education. Our students made gains in PSSA ELA from pre-pandemic levels: 55.3% (18-19) and our students maintained 59% over the last three years. We look forward to new resources and tools in ELA to support reaching breakthrough proficiency levels.
- Last year, our District implemented a new mathematics program called Illustrative Mathematics. Illustrative Mathematics and instructional best practices will continue to be implemented in each and every classroom. Over the last three years, our students made gains in PSSA Mathematics from 34.2% (21-22) to 42.9% (23-24).
- Based on academic gains in mathematics, Dobson will continue to offer Algebra I in the 24-25 school year using a virtual model. Students were selected by a school/district team and selection is based on specific data metrics in mathematics.
- At Dobson, the instruction of our great teachers and an investment in new science materials (FOSS Science kits) supported improving inquiry-based learning, and students' joy in science. Subsequently, PSSA scores increased as well as report grades! Over the last three years, our students made gains in science from 51.0% (21-22) to 77.8% (23-24).
- In order for every child to reach their full potential in academic gains, attendance is key. Students attending 90% or more of the time increased from 71% in year 21-22 to 76% in year 22-23. In our most recent school year 23-24, there was a decrease (73.4%). We will continue to support each and every student with attending school 90% of the time or more (no more than 8 absences in a school year) so that attendance does not serve as a barrier to learning or progress. Research shows that daily school attendance is critical for every student's academic success and social-emotional well-being. [Please click here for more information.](#)

Staff Updates

The following is a list of our new staff members:

Ms. Ilana Volain - Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Cheryl Bennett - School Climate Staff

**Please visit our website to see our full staff list. [Located here!](#)*

Save the Dates

Kindergarten Early Dismissal at 12:30 PM: Monday, August 26 through Friday, August 30, 2024.

Dobson Back to School Night: Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 5:30 PM (more information to follow)

School Supply Lists

School Supply Lists are available on our website and can be found by clicking [here](#). All students will take Chromebooks to and from school daily.

First Day of School Logistics

During the first day of school, you will notice teachers holding signs in our school yard to make it convenient for children to locate their teacher. Many of our awesome staff will be in the yard to assist. During admission time, teachers will need to focus on supervising and welcoming our students. If you need to meet with a teacher, please email or send a message to teachers on Class Dojo and they will get back to you as soon as possible. We will have designated staff members in our school yard to help answer your general school questions. Please click [here](#) for our school website or visit <https://dobson.philasd.org/> for more important back to school information. During the first week of school, please look out for important back to school forms for completion and Class Dojo sign-up information to receive school updates and to communicate with school staff.

IMPORTANT:



Please remember uniforms are required and cell phone use is not permitted at any time during the school day. Cell phones must be off.

Parents should call the main office when they need to reach their child.

Pets are not permitted on school property. Please ensure pets are not on the school side of the street during admission and dismissal. Use the **Wright Street entrance for walkers and car drop-offs.** Please do not leave

your car, unless you park in a legal parking spot. Parking on the school's side is not permitted at any time. Hermitage Street is for school buses only.



Thank you for your cooperation to help keep our students safe. I look forward to seeing you soon, creating more great memories, and celebrating more successes this upcoming school year and beyond!

Sincerely,



Khloé C. Williams-Lawani, Ed.D

Dobson School Day Information & Logistics

Important Safety Reminders

- All visitors are required to enter the building on Umbria Street and be screened. Please do not enter the building without being screened. Please do not hold the door open for another visitor to enter our building without being screened. Collectively, we must be consistent with these procedures to ensure safety for our children and staff.
- All parents are asked to wait outside of the gate to ensure safety. During admission, dismissal and school hours, the school yard is space for safe play by students under the supervision of designated staff. If you have a concern, please reach out to a staff member. Do not address other students.
- Please be reminded that for the safety of students and staff, **pets are not permitted on school property.** Please ensure pets are not on the school side of the street during admission and dismissal.
- Use Wright Street entrance for walkers and car drop-offs. Once your child enters the school yard, parents are expected to immediately move along to support traffic flow so all parents can drop off safely. **Parking on the school's side is not permitted at any time.** Please do not leave your car, **unless you park in a legal parking spot.** Hermitage Street is for buses only.
- Students who arrive after 9:00 am are considered late and must use the front entrance (Umbria Street).

School Start Time

9:00 AM (Please do not drop off students prior to 8:45 am when yard supervision begins). Breakfast will be available in the cafeteria at 8:45 am. Students must be in line at 9:00 AM for admission. If you arrive after 9:00 AM, please escort your child to enter through Umbria street.

Inclement Weather Admission

K-2 (Wright Street Side Door) - Lunchroom/Grades 3-8 and all bus riders (Auditorium Door) - Auditorium

Lunchtime Overview

Grades K - 2 - 11:45 AM - 12:30 PM

Grades 3 - 5 - 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Grades 6 - 8 - 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

School End Time: 3:39 PM* To support safety, staggered dismissal is as follows:

Kindergarten - 3:30 PM

Grades 1 - 2 - 3:33 PM

Grades 3 - 5 - 3:35 PM

Grades 6 - 8 - 3:39 PM

Half-Day Dismissal Time: 12:39*

*Exactly 3 hours prior to the staggered dismissal schedule to support safety and minimize congestion.

Early Dismissals:

No early dismissals after 3:15 PM. Adults must be listed as an emergency contact and ID is required.



Please remember: uniforms are required and cell phone use is Not permitted at any time during the school day.



Uniform Policy

The School District of Philadelphia requires all students to wear uniforms to school. Students are expected to follow their school's dress code so that their appearance does not cause a disturbance, distract or interfere with the instructional program, or constitute a health or safety hazard. A student's clothing should fit appropriately and meet the guidelines indicated below.

Grades K-5:

Tops: Solid color Navy or White polo shirts (with collar – no logos other than Dobson Logo). No tee-shirts, unless it is a Dobson School Shirt.

Bottoms: Solid color Khaki or Navy (No jeans or leggings. Jogging/sweatpants only on physical education days)

Jumpers and skirts are also acceptable in the required color combination.

Shorts or skirts (mid-thigh length or longer) of the appropriate color are also acceptable during warm weather.

Students must wear **closed-toe and closed-heel** shoes/sneakers at all times.

When weather indicates a need for particularly warm clothing, sweaters and/or sweatshirts must be solid navy.



Grades 6-8:

Tops: Solid Color Maroon/Burgundy or Navy polo shirts (with collar – no logos other than Dobson Logo). No tee-shirts, unless it is a Dobson School Shirt.

Bottoms: Solid Color Khaki or Navy or Black (No jeans or leggings)

Jumpers and skirts are also acceptable in the required color combination.

Shorts or Skirts (mid-thigh length or longer) of the appropriate color are also acceptable during warm weather.

Students must wear **closed-toe and closed-heel** shoes/sneakers at all times.

When weather indicates a need for particularly warm clothing, sweaters and/or sweatshirts must be solid navy or Maroon/Burgundy.



Physical Education (P.E.) Uniform: For P.E. Days Only

Tops: Students may wear plain white or any navy Dobson t-shirts. Any Dobson Athletic t-shirt is acceptable on physical education days.

Bottoms: Navy Sweatpants/jogging pants or Navy shorts

Sneakers: Sneakers must be worn for physical education.

Uniform Reminders & Notes:

No jeans, leggings or hats.

Jogging pants are only allowed on designated physical education days.

Undershirts are not to be worn alone.

Uniform clothing items with our signature Dobson Logo will be available for optional purchase! Information will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

