



Stephen Girard Elementary

1800 Snyder Avenue
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19145
(215) 400-8180

August 20, 2024

Dear Stephen Girard Families,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! I hope you are enjoying the final days of summer and are ready to start a new school year on August 26. I am thrilled to be entering into Stephen Girard as school principal and to be joined by our assistant principal, Ms. Tamika Washington and Climate Manager Mr. Jerome McCalla for another fantastic year.

Please take a few minutes to review the important information included in this letter before the start of the year. This letter includes important information, resources, and dates to help make sure your family is prepared for the new year.

Our main office is currently open and staffed by our secretary, Ms. Beverly Jones, from 9:00am - 3:00 pm. You may visit or call 215-400-8180 during that time for assistance with registration or other school related matters. Beginning Tuesday, August 20th, the entire Stephen Girard staff will return to the building to begin preparing for a successful new school year. We are even more excited about our new computer lab, painting improvements in the school yard, and a complete renovation of our playground.

This school year we're also happy to welcome new staff to our team. Please join me in welcoming the following staff members:

- Pamela Cahoon, Special Education Assistant
- Ms. Kaylee Pirrung, Secretary Trainee
- Officer Shawn Anderson, School Security Officer
- Ms. Helen Heng, Building Based Substitute

In preparation for the school year, I encourage you to review the School District of Philadelphia information and resources found in multiple languages at <https://www.philasd.org/ringthebell/>, including this new comprehensive [Back-to-School Guidebook](#).



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Make sure you also check out our school website, girard.philasd.org, for Girard specific information such as school supply lists, our electronic school calendar, our dress code, and how to connect to Class Dojo, our family messaging platform.

School starts everyday at 8:15 am and ends at 2:54 pm. Students are marked tardy beginning at 8:30 am. Remember that the school year starts before Labor Day this year. It is important to us to have all of our students in attendance our first week of school so that we can start off the school year strong. Strong school attendance is highly correlated with academic success, and we want all of our Girard students to achieve their goals and beyond.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our **Back-to-School Night on Wednesday September 11 from 4-6 PM**. This event is a great time to meet your child's teachers, connect with other families, and learn more about the new school year.

All of us at Stephen Girard Elementary look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, August 26 and working with our families and community partners throughout the year. As always, please feel free to reach out to our main office at 215-400-8180 with questions or concerns. Together, we can make this school year our best one yet!

Ms. Elizabeth Walls
Principal
eawalls@philasd.org