

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA  
HENRY C. LEA SCHOOL**

4700 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19139

Telephone (915) 400-7660

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August 9, 2021

Dear Lea families:

**Welcome to a New School Year!** My entire team and I are excited and getting ready to safely welcome all of our students for in-person learning, five days a week starting Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> - *the first day of school*.

We are already gearing up for an incredible new school year. Many layers of safety will be in place to protect everyone's health and wellbeing in our school, including: **mandatory mask wearing for all students and staff**, touchless hand sanitizer stations, air and surface purifiers, and COVID testing. Our teachers and school staff will be attending special training sessions to better support our students' social, emotional and educational needs as they transition back to a more structured school day. Student schedules are being finalized. Our hard-working custodians have been cleaning and sanitizing our school and our cafeteria workers are preparing to serve your children delicious, healthy and free breakfast and lunch each school day. We will also have an expanded playground and outdoor learning space as our old, temporary L-Wing has been demolished and grass is being planted where it once stood.

I invite all of our families to attend our in-person **Open House Barbecue at Lea on Friday the 27th of August, from 4 - 6 p.m.** This will be a great time to meet key staff members, meet and talk with other parents, learn more about the new school year and tour our school. For our incoming Kindergarten Students, we will also be holding a playdate at Lea on August 21st from 9 to 11 in the big school yard. In the meantime, I encourage you to take a few minutes to view these [What We're Doing to Protect Everyone's Health and Well Being While at School](#), [Why In-Person Learning Matters Now More Than Ever](#) and [Back-to-School Bus Tour](#) videos, and visit [www.philasd.org](http://www.philasd.org) for the latest back-to-school information in multiple languages.

We've also gotten some questions about uniforms and school supplies. We will be wearing Navy blue polo tops and Khaki bottoms again this year. Your child's teacher will be sending out a list of supplies during the week of the 23rd when our teachers return

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for professional development. Please reach out if you are having any difficulties getting either uniforms or supplies.

All of us at Lea look forward to welcoming students back to school in person on Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Together, if everyone does their part, we can make this a safe and successful school year for everyone! Please look for additional communication in the coming weeks. As always, please feel free to reach out to me at [agerwer@philasd.org](mailto:agerwer@philasd.org) with any questions.

*Principal Gerwer*  
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