



## The Public Schools of Brookline

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**V. James Marini, Ph.D.**

Interim Superintendent

*The communication below provides important information from the Public Schools of Brookline. Translated versions are available at the following links:*

- [\*Arabic:\* الرجاء الضغط هنا للترجمة العربية](#).
- [\*Chinese:\* 点击这里查看中文翻译](#).
- [\*Haitian Creole:\* Klike la a pou tradiksyon kreyòl ayisyen an.](#)
- [\*Hebrew:\* אנא לחץ כאן לצפייה במסמך בעברית](#)
- [\*Japanese:\* ここをクリックして日本語の翻訳にアクセスしてください](#).
- [\*Korean:\* 한국어 번역을 보시려면 여기를 클릭하십시오.](#)
- [\*Portuguese:\* Clique aqui para a tradução em português.](#)
- [\*Russian:\* Нажмите здесь, чтобы получить доступ к русскому переводу.](#)
- [\*Spanish:\* Haga clic aquí para acceder a la traducción al español.](#)
- [\*Vietnamese:\* Nhấn vào đây để truy cập bản dịch tiếng Việt.](#)

June 18, 2021

Dear PSB families,

We were forced to suddenly change many of our educational practices and routines this past school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the changes implemented ultimately made our work more effective and efficient at schools, while others were necessary to maintain the safety of our students and staff. As we look forward to the 2021-2022 school year, school leaders will take the time to review these new practices with families and staff, and ultimately determine which of them should be continued in the future.

One routine from this year that our staff found successful is our morning arrival and afternoon dismissal procedures and routines. In the fall, K-8 students will continue to line up in their designated line spots each morning. In some cases, students will enter the building through a designated door attended by a school staff

member. Students will also be dismissed at their designated pick-up/dismissal areas in the afternoon. Parents and caregivers will remain outside during these transition times.

The outdoor arrival and dismissal routines have shown to be extremely beneficial for students. Because students are escorted as a cohort by their teacher directly to class, we have found that we are able to start instruction almost immediately each morning, gaining significant instructional time. Additionally, with the exception of our youngest learners, we've seen that students can successfully navigate their way to class. We are confident that with time, practice, and guidance from our staff, we can promote a sense of reliance and independence in our students through this everyday routine.

These procedures will also allow schools to ensure that their buildings are as safe as possible. Giving staff more control over who is in our school at all times will only shore up the safety measures we already have in place. In addition, this layer of security will also help protect those in our community who are not vaccinated and/or vulnerable as we continue to recover from this pandemic year.

School leaders are committed to continuing purposeful family engagement with our families. I believe that our outdoor arrival and dismissal routines do not erode the opportunities that families will have to engage with teachers, staff, and each other. There will be also ample events to meet, volunteer, and give back to your schools through Open Houses, PTO Coffees, Mystery Readers, and other occasions.

As we get closer to the start of the new school year, each school will message the details of their arrival and dismissal routines. Until then, I thank you for your support as we begin the work of planning for the year to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. James Marini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

V. James Marini

*Interim Superintendent of Schools*