



August 22, 2024

Saludos familias.

It has been just over a month since I joined you as superintendent, and it has been a joy to watch summer school in action and our staff at work getting ready for the new school year. I want to share some reminders and updates as we approach the first day of school.

As you know, school begins for grades K-12 this Monday, August 26. Students then have a short break, with no school on Friday, August 30; Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day) and Tuesday, Sept. 3 (primary elections). School resumes on Wednesday, Sept. 4, which is also the first day for pre-k.

We are very proud of the facilities work conducted around the district in just a couple of short months this summer. As students return, some will be running on new playgrounds, others stepping onto freshly paved walkways, and most – we're working hard to get to 100 percent – will be learning in air conditioned buildings. Most importantly, the safety of students and staff has continued to be our top priority, with projects that included new fire alarms, more cameras, and making the Lawrence High School campus and its entryway the most secure it has ever been.

I also want to thank everyone for being mindful of schedules and expectations for both arrival and dismissal at your child's school. Navigating dropoff and pickup can be challenging as everyone returns to the school day routine, but being respectful of procedures – and each other – will make coming back to school easier and safer for all of you, our schools, and their neighbors.

Finally, as I shared in my introductory letter last month, hearing from students and families will be essential to my work throughout the year. In addition to forming student advisory committees for both middle and high school grades, I will be working closely with our family engagement team to regularly communicate with parents and caregivers, including ample time built in for listening. We look forward to sharing those opportunities with you soon and on an ongoing basis in 2024-25.

Thank you all, and we can't wait to see everyone on Monday!

Respectfully,

Ralph Carrero  
Superintendent  
Lawrence Public Schools