



Daniel Hale Williams ~ Public School 307  
The Magnet School for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Studies  
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*"A community school committed to academic and personal excellence for all students"*

**Stephanie Carroll**  
Principal  
**Maria Guzman**  
Assistant Principal

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October 14, 2016

Dear P.S. 307 Families:

The first month and a half of school has been great and incredibly busy! It was wonderful to see so many of you come out for Coffee and Conversation in late September. I enjoy hearing directly from you on how your child is adjusting to school and the feedback is always super helpful.

We had our first Community Meeting last week with grades Pre-K to 2 and grades 3-5. We will be having these meetings monthly. It is a time when we get together to celebrate each other and our school community as a whole. Students and classes participate by putting on performances and sharing with their peers. Next month's community meeting will focus on the theme of Respect.

This year we are focusing heavily on pushing our students to take full ownership of their learning. What does this mean? It means that students are fully aware of what they need to know, understand, and be able to do in order to be academically and socially successful. As such, you will notice a couple of things.

- Teachers are being clear with students about what they will be learning by sharing and sometimes co-authoring daily learning targets with the students. The learning targets state what students will learn, how they will learn it, and how they will demonstrate that they have learned it. As I go into classrooms, I am looking for students to be able to articulate the task, how it relates to previous learning, what it is leading up to and whether or not they are doing a good job in getting there. It is important for us that students are thinking about their learning and actively engaged in self-assessment.
- Students are being asked to set academic and social learning goals and given opportunities to reflect on their progress towards meeting these goals.
- Teachers are emphasizing process and progress. Knowing how we get to our destination is just as important as getting there and progress should be monitored and celebrated. Students therefore will work on multiple drafts of writing, frequently engage in peer review of work and have ongoing conversations about where they are and next steps.
- Each grade team is now posting weekly notes to ensure that you are informed on what your child is learning in school. Please go to [ps307.com](http://ps307.com) and click on the Grade News link each week for updates.

**RESPECT**

**RESILIENCY**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**REASONING**





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- Students will share their learning with families at our November 3<sup>rd</sup> Student-led Conferences (otherwise known as Parent-Teacher Conferences.) Information regarding our fall Student-led Conferences will be sent home next week.

You can help us build a “growth mindset” culture by having conversations with your child about their goals, actions steps, and progress.

I am pleased to announce that we have welcomed a new Visual Arts teacher to the P.S. 307 community. Ms. Malene Austin will be replacing Ms. Triplett who had decided to move on to pursue other interests. While we wish Ms. Triplett all the best and we will miss her, we are confident that your child will have an equally rich art experience with Ms. Austin. Please read the attached introduction from Ms. Austin.

A lot is happening as we move into the second half of October. Please save the date for the following events and meetings:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • STEM Family Night                | Tuesday, October 18 <sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00 p.m.    |
| • Picture Day                      | Wednesday, October 19 <sup>th</sup> (Say Cheese ☺)  |
| • PTA Meeting                      | Thursday, October 20 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.        |
| • ELA/Math Test Parent Workshop    | Tuesday, October 25 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m.         |
| • Website Committee Meeting        | Tuesday, October 25 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. |
| • Sustainability Committee Meeting | Thursday, October 27 <sup>th</sup> 11:15-11:45 a.m. |
| • Harvest Day PreK and K           | Friday, October 28 <sup>th</sup>                    |
| • Character Day Grades 1-5         | Monday, October 31 <sup>st</sup>                    |

Enjoy the beginning of autumn and happy hot chocolate, colorful leaves, and apple pie ☺

Sincerely,

Stephanie Carroll  
 Principal

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