



August 31st, 2021

Dear Trotter Families,

I hope that your summer has been full of adventure, relaxation and laughter with family and friends. I am thrilled that our new families have chosen the William Monroe Trotter K-8 to educate your children, and I am ecstatic for our returning families to continue on our journey together as educators of your children. As articulated in our vision statement, **“At the Trotter we believe that learning is a lifelong process and that all children must be provided with a high level of instruction, a culture of achievement and opportunities to challenge the status quo”**. In simple terms, we are committed to being a school where ALL students are welcomed, supported and challenged to reach their genius. We also recognize that We MUST fully and explicitly commit ourselves to being an **antiracist, multicultural institution**; one that both disrupts inequities AND intentionally affirms the strength, brilliance and resilience of those who have been most impacted by systemic and institutional racism. We strongly believe that our commitment to antiracism and equity, in both words and actions, benefits ALL because it empowers students to advocate for a more just, equitable and humane society. We strive to push ourselves beyond rhetoric or slogans to instructional action and community building all year long and we are counting on you, Trotter families, to partner with us and hold us accountable as we continue on this journey, together.

I also want to acknowledge that we are all navigating the very real challenges of uncertainty and ambiguity amidst a global pandemic. Both as a parent and school leader, I empathize with the difficulty of the past year plus. I also recognize that not all families are experiencing this pandemic in the same ways and therefore, want and need very different things to feel safe, welcomed and included in our community. To that end, I am committed to maintaining clear, consistent and accessible lines of communication with Trotter families both to share information and better understand your needs, as we prepare to transition back to in school learning. To be clear, there is **no remote learning** and all students are expected to return to school full time for the SY21-22.

First and foremost, I want to clarify the priorities that will guide our decision making as we approach the school year. They are:

- **We are committed to being an antiracist, equity driven school.** We will use a *lens of equity* to guide and inform our decision-making throughout the entire school year.
- **The physical and emotional health and wellness of our students, families and staff remains a top priority.**
- We are focused on providing a **high quality, rigorous, engaging and culturally relevant education** for our students. As educators of the 21st century we realize that our practices and paradigm MUST and WILL shift. We are committed to fostering and empowering critical thinkers, problem solvers, innovators and positive change agents, equipped with the knowledge and skills to be “social justice advocates” in our community, city and nation. This year, we will begin a three year journey around “equitable literacy.” We will provide more in depth information at our first Parent Council meeting.

School Uniforms: There is an expectation for all students to wear a school uniform for the SY 21-22. Students are asked to wear khaki or navy blue pants, a light blue or white shirt. Please contact Ms. Henderson at 617-635-8225 or khenderson@bostonpublicschools.org if you are unable to purchase uniforms and need assistance. Please visit our partner, Metro Uniform Schools, located at 795 Dudley Street Roxbury, MA or their website <https://metroschooluniforms.com>. We will also be working with College Hype for uniforms. Please also visit your local Walmart, Target, Old Navy and Amazon to make school uniform shopping easier.

School Start and End Times: The School year begins on September 9th for all students in grades 1-8. All Kindergarten students begin September 13th. All students are required to arrive at 7:30AM. At this time we do not have before school or after school care, and we ask that no student is dropped off or left unattended before 7:30AM. All students will meet in the back of the school, line up with their homeroom teachers and file into the building at 7:30AM after the school chant. Staff will be outside and ready to receive students each morning. Students are marked tardy as of 7:45AM. School ends at 2:10PM each day and parents are asked to arrive no later than 2:10 each day to pick up their child. If you need early dismissal you must call the main office at 617-635-8225 so that we can ensure students are accounted for and we can verify who is picking up your child. We appreciate you informing your child’s homeroom teacher but you **MUST** inform the main office as the priority.

Covid Safety: We will continue with Covid pool testing this school year. We are asking all families for permission to participate in weekly Covid testing. Our school nurse will work with local CIC health officials to manage pool testing as well as testing for any students who present symptoms. **All students and staff MUST wear masks every day except when eating.** There will be mask

breaks made available for students and opportunities to wash hands throughout the day. Please use this link to sign your child up for Covid testing doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/student-consent-form/. If you have any medically related questions regarding your child including physicals, Covid safety and/or testing, etc. please email Nurse Grant at tgrant@bostonpublicschools.org

Communication: The Trotter uses various forms of communication for families throughout the school year. We use School Messenger, which is provided by the district. Please make sure we have your correct email address in order to receive school wide emails and district wide emails. We also use Class Dojo, Talking Points, See Saw, as well as general email and phone calls. If you are not receiving school emails please contact the main office immediately and we will update this information for you.

As a school community we are proud to serve under the name William Monroe Trotter. His exposure to the importance of an education and equal rights as a young student led him to become the valedictorian of Hyde Park High School and Harvard University's first Black Phi Beta Kappa member, where he earned both his bachelors and Master's degree. We want to continue celebrating excellence and work to bring forth the genius in EVERY CHILD. We welcome you and we look forward to an amazing return to school.

Sincerely,

Sarita Thomas
Principal