



September 10, 2026

Dear Families:

Welcome back! I am so excited to begin the 2026–27 school year together.

The first day of school is one of my favorite times of the year; it brings so many possibilities and new beginnings. Whether your child is a kindergartner proudly carrying their oversized backpack into class for the first time, a middle school student trying out their new locker combination, or a high school senior taking their last first-day photos with friends, I hope your family feels that same sense of promise and possibility.

Over the years, I've experienced many first days as an educator and parent. In each of these roles, I've learned firsthand how much trust our families place in New York City Public Schools every day. We all share the same hopes for our children: that they will walk into school feeling welcomed, supported, and ready to learn. On my first “first day” as Chancellor, my commitment is to make that experience a reality for every child at every school.

Since taking on this role, I've had the privilege of listening to hundreds of students, families, educators, and community members across all five boroughs. My conversations with all of you have shaped my priorities for the year ahead: to create safe, academically rigorous, and truly integrated schools. In other words, we want to ensure that every student feels a sense of belonging and has the support they need to reach their fullest potential in a robust, culturally responsive learning environment.

As we begin the new school year, please know that we are here to answer questions and provide any support you may need. Your parent coordinator, principal, teachers, and school staff are here to help you every step of the way. Our schools welcome all students, and we want every family to know that they belong here.

I wish you and your family a wonderful year of learning and growth. I am eager to continue engaging with all of you, and I look forward to everything we'll accomplish together this school year.

In partnership,

Kamar H. Samuels  
Chancellor