



**The New York City Department of Education**

*Mary Barton, Superintendent*

Community School District 27

82-01 Rockaway Blvd., Ozone Park, NY 11416

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September 2017

Dear District 27 Families:

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope that you had a great summer filled with fun with family and friends.

The beginning of the school year reminds us that we start every year fresh and with the hope that this school year will be the best year yet filled with learning and positive experiences for all of our students.

Our principals, assistant principals, teachers and staff have been working very hard in preparing for the new school year. Our schools are ready for your children to walk through the school and classrooms doors for a new year of learning.

Here are some ways that you can help your child to succeed:

- Please make sure that your child is in school every day (unless they are really ill). Children can only succeed if they are present daily. So much learning is missed when they are late or absent. We want each and every child to achieve their fullest potential. Think about this: if students miss 20 days per year from grade Pre-K through grade 8, they will have missed an entire year of school. Good habits around attendance and punctuality start during the first years your child attends school in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Regular attendance and punctuality is so critical to long term success.
- Encourage children to complete homework assignments each afternoon/evening. These include traditional paper and pencil/pen work as well as on-line programs. Many schools have CBO programs that enable students to complete homework or enable students to use on line programs. Public libraries are also great places to use computers.
- Encourage children to read at home. They can read about things that interest them and, in turn, can become excited about. Many of our schools have on line reading platforms that students can use at home that make reading exciting. Have conversations with your child about what they are reading.
- Be a partner with your child's teacher and school. Knowing that parents/ grandparents/ guardians have many commitments with work and family, I know it is hard to get to school often. You can be a partner in simply ensuring that students get to school daily and are prepared for learning. I encourage you to attend parent teacher conferences and student led conferences to learn about your child's progress. School events are great ways to see your child perform. Attend workshops, if you can, that will help you to support your child.
- Use your school's resources such as websites, on line grading programs, apps, text blasts and social media to keep informed about school events and information and to know what your child is learning in school. Utilize the DOE website, [schools.nyc.gov](http://schools.nyc.gov), to obtain information about the DOE and resources you can use.

- If you can, become involved in your school's PA/PTA and/or Title I PAC committees that help support the work of the school. Meetings offer families information around supporting children's learning and development as well as ways to help your child's school. If you can, attend District CEC meetings to become more aware of DOE and district initiatives.

If you encounter any concerns or need help, our schools have Parent Coordinators that you can contact to gain assistance.

Please know that, if you need to, you may contact dedicated individuals who work with parents at the District 27 Superintendent's Office for assistance:

Family Support Coordinator: Sonia Bonilla

She may be contacted at [sbonilla2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sbonilla2@schools.nyc.gov) or at 718-642-5795.

Family Leadership Coordinator: Martha Velez

She may be contacted at [mvelez13@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:mvelez13@schools.nyc.gov) or at 718-642-5817.

To learn more about District 27, our schools and DOE information, you may visit us on Twitter @District 27NYC. Visit often for updates and to see the good work and wonderful experiences that are taking place in our schools.

Here's to the best school year yet!!

Sincerely,

*Mary Barton*

Community Superintendent