

# BACK 2 SCHOOL

## KENLY ELEMENTARY

Dear Kenly Families,

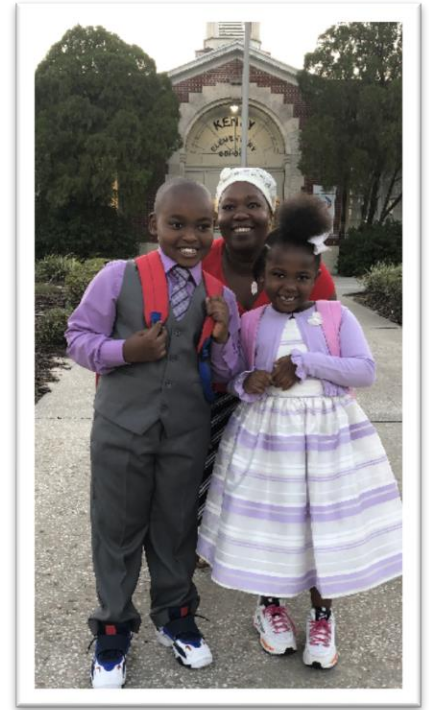
We have greatly missed seeing you and your children during the Covid-19 pandemic but we know that true excitement is in the air as we are filled with anticipation to begin a new year of learning together! Our theme this year is “I’m not here to be average, I’m here to be AWESOME” and it is through our passion for excellence – from our staff to our students and throughout East Tampa - that we will engage our students intellectually and inspire them to reach their full potential. During the 20-21 school year our goal will be to earn the first “A” rating in Kenly’s history! We know that our students are “A” students and this community deserves to have a school grade at Kenly that matches our hard-working staff and students!

Our school vision statement states that Kenly will ensure an equitable education that empowers students to be successful! We will do everything in our power to deliver equity to our diverse student population and become the community of scholars evolving into tomorrow’s leaders! This summer and since you were on campus last, we have been committed to hiring the best teachers and staff so that you can be proud each day that your child has a GREAT teacher! I am excited to share the names of our newest Kenly Cougars – Jillian Bilboa, kindergarten, Chelsea Nagel, behavior support, Danielle Flanders, math coach, Mia Small, math coach, Marisol Marquez-Wingard, ELL resource teacher, Gwen Morris, ESE specialist, Natalie Trail, third grade, Ashley Nicolas, fourth grade, Alexandra Maley, fourth grade, Leah Weekes, fourth grade, Sari Royer, ESE resource teacher, Mikeala Balzer, speech therapist, Lauren Sullivan, social worker, and Jennifer Edelblute-Caggia, teacher leader. These new staff members join our current superstar teachers and look forward to providing an amazing school year to you and your children!

As the proud principal of Kenly Elementary, I will continue to develop and build strong relationships with our students, families, and community. I encourage you to join our amazing PTA. Membership is \$6.00 and will be used to supplement student activities throughout the year. Our School Advisory Committee (SAC) meets monthly and focuses on school improvement initiatives. If you are interested on serving on the PTA Board or SAC Team please email me at [russell.wallace@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:russell.wallace@sdhc.k12.fl.us) on or before August 10th. This year I will keep

you informed of school news through my weekly Friday message phone call and our monthly newsletter that is found on our school website. I also ask that you follow our Kenly Twitter @KenlyCougars and my Twitter @KenlyPrincipal for timely updates and information.

Our Open House “Meet the Teacher” Event is scheduled for Thursday, August 6th. We will welcome families with last names beginning with A to L from 3:00 – 4:30 PM and families with last names beginning with M – Z from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. Please remember to wear a mask and we ask for only one parent or guardian to accompany each child to help limit the amount of people on campus. Opportunities to join PTA and SAC will also be made available during Open House. Our first day of school will be on Monday, August 10th. Students may enter the campus as early as 7:10 AM and instruction will begin promptly at 7:40 AM. Breakfast is served daily for all students from 7:10 – 7:35 AM. Apply online for school meal benefits at [www.sdhc.k12.fl.us](http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us) and search “Go SNS” on your computer, tablet, or phone. You can also call the Healthy Meals Express Application Center for assistance at (813) 840-7066 or the Meal status/Meal Prepay Hotline at 1-866-544-5575.



Bus routes and schedules will be released soon. All bus riders are to be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the printed arrival time. Your child’s safety is of the utmost concern to us, therefore, please be sure that your child is always well supervised while he or she is at the bus stop. All kindergarten students must have a parent or designated adult at the bus stop every afternoon. If a parent or designated adult is not at the bus stop, your child will be returned to school. You will then be contacted to pick your child up from school.

The last few months have been challenging for us all, but our staff is ready to welcome back our students to school. We are ready to provide support via the learning platform that is the best fit for your child. Planned activities may be subject to change in response to official health and safety directives from the CDC, State of Florida, and our School District. We will be modifying our procedures in response to current information and directives. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we work to be responsive to ever-changing situations. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (813) 744-8074 if you have questions or need additional information as we approach the beginning of the school year.

I’m not here to be average,  
I’m here to be AWESOME!

Russell Wallace, Principal  
Carmen Sheffield, AP  
Richard Munkwitz, AP

