



UNIVERSAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Universal Alcorn • Universal Audenried
Universal Creighton • Universal Institute • Universal Vare

August 15, 2022

Dear Universal Families, Teachers, and Staff:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year with the Universal Family of Schools! I hope that you had an opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy the summer break. We are looking forward to the first day of school **on Monday, August 29, 2022.**

This is a great time to be a part of the Universal Family of Schools. If you are new, welcome to the best charter network in the city of Philadelphia, where every scholar and staff member can find the resources, support, and love they need. If you are returning, welcome back!

As Superintendent/CEO, there is no better feeling than starting a new school year. Regardless of your role or title, we are all part of the Universal Family and will work collaboratively to ensure scholar success.

Our top priority, along with the Board of Directors, is to ensure the safety of our scholars, teachers, and staff. Masks will be required for all scholars, staff, and visitors inside our schools regardless of an individual's vaccination status **until September 9, 2022.** We are taking this extra precaution for everyone's health and safety since increased end-of-summer social gatherings may heighten the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Masking will be optional but recommended for scholars and staff beginning **September 10, 2022.** Please note that our mitigation strategies could change as we continue to work closely with our public health experts to make informed decisions.

We are excited to provide all scholars with a rigorous and equitable educational experience. We know that learning recovery will be a priority as we continue to navigate through the pandemic. It is our goal to strengthen scholar support, including mental health support. A scholar-centered and innovative focus will guide our academic programming.

We look forward to the excitement of the new school year, and I thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Universal Family of Schools, our community, and the scholars and families we serve.

Sincerely,

Penny Nixon, Ed. D.
Superintendent/CEO