



# PAUL L. DUNBAR ELEMENTARY



445 Union Avenue • Bridgeport, Connecticut 06607  
Telephone (203) 275-3631 • Fax (203) 337-0112

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**Joseph A. Raiola, Ph.D.,** *Principal*  
**Ca'Tisha Howard,** *Assistant Principal*

**Dementred Young, Ed.D.,** *Assistant Principal*

Dear Parents and Guardians of our Dunbar Scholars,

I am Dr. Raiola, the new Principal of our school. Let me begin by telling you I am so excited and consider myself lucky to guide the Dunbar community in educational excellence. A little bit about me; I have over twenty years of experience in education. Most of that time has been in school administration right here in Bridgeport Public Schools. I have worked as an Assistant Principal at Warren Harding High School for five year and most recently as Principal of Bassick High School for the past six years. Prior to my arrival in Bridgeport, I was a high school teacher. I have also served as an adjunct instructor during my career. On a personal note, my wife and I have two children; Joey is almost 4-years old and Gabriela is 7-months-old. It makes my work here even more meaningful because of them.

I consider myself fortunate to have a great administrative team. Dr. Dementred Young is a Bridgeport raised veteran educator with over 22 years of experience. He began his career as a social worker right here at Dunbar and has worked in all levels within the district. The second assistant principal is Ms. Ca'Tisha Howard, she is also a Bridgeport native and worked in BPS her entire career as a school counselor, she is excited to start her second year here at Dunbar bringing over 20 years of experience to our school. In partnership with our parents and guardians I am confident we can support our scholars in high academic achievement.

**Some Back to school information is below for your review:**

**Uniforms** – We are using a full scholar uniform this year, this includes a **maroon color polo style top, khaki / tan, blue or black pants** and **closed toe shoes**. Please make sure you child comes to school in uniform daily.

**Attendance** – This is a top item for parents to help with. **Please ensure that your child is in school every day, on time at 8:50**

**Parental communication** – We will utilize parent square, PowerSchool, email and phone as our primary forms of communication for the year. **Please ensure you email and phone number are up to date** with our main office. If you have any changes just call and let us know (203)275.3631. In addition, the district and school website is a filled with great information regarding school happenings.

**Kindergarten orientation** – We will have an orientation for our incoming kindergarten students and parents / guardians on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Please come out and meet your teachers. Enter via main entrance at 9:00 AM.



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**First day of school** – School will begin for all students on August 29<sup>th</sup>, **students should arrive for doors opening at 8:50 AM.** Upon entry students will line up in the gym and teachers will escort our scholars to class.

**Student entry** – This year we will use two entrances; all students walking / getting dropped off to school will use the main entrance on Union Ave. Only Bus students should use the rear entrance on Central Ave. Hopefully this will reduce congestion on Union Ave.

**Cell phones** – In accordance with guidance from the Governor, we are prioritizing cell phone structures in school. After the school day begins, cell phones are to be **turned off and put away**. Students can still have phones but the phone cannot be used during instructional time. Parents, if you have an emergency, please call the school as cell phones are not permitted. Our policy and procedure for this will evolve as the year continues and I thank you for your support and cooperation with this change.

**End of school day / Dismissal** – school **dismissal begins at 3:15**, students will be ready for pick up by 3:25. Bus transportation will exit via Central Ave. All others can meet children on Union Ave. Please be sure you communicate how your child will be transported home. We will send home some forms the first day of school

**PTSO and SGC** – My hope is to engage with the larger community through our Parent Teacher Student Organization and School Governance Council, these organizations can provide us with ideas to support the full student. Please consider getting involved in these organizations, this partnership makes all the difference in our scholars' education. We are looking for officers and parent leaders, please email me if you want to help in this important role.

Once again, I look forward to our partnership with the community. If I can be of any service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Joseph A. Raiola, Ph.D.  
Principal