



Division of School Leadership and Improvement

December 19, 2025

Dear Benjamin Banneker Middle School Staff and Community,

I am writing to share an important update regarding the leadership at Benjamin Banneker Middle School. After a period of extended leave, Mrs. DeyJah Chappell, will not be returning to Benjamin Banneker Middle School. We are thankful for her time of service and wish her well in her future endeavors.

We recognize that there have been several leadership transitions at Banneker recently. We are committed to ensuring leadership continuity as we move forward.

I am taking this opportunity to thank Ms. Penny Tsonis, who has provided outstanding leadership as acting principal. I am pleased to announce that she has agreed to continue in this capacity for the remainder of the school year.

To further support the school as we begin the new year in January, the school has been assigned a temporary, part-time third assistant principal.

A comprehensive search for a new, permanent principal will start in a few months. We will keep the community informed as that process begins.

While transitions are challenging, we are leaning into the strong systems already in place to ensure the remainder of the year goes as smoothly as possible. Banneker is anchored by a dedicated instructional leadership team, an engaged community, and a staff deeply focused on strong relationships with students and instructional excellence.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Jewel Sanders
Director
Division of School Leadership and Improvement