



Flourishing at Federal Street

Federal Street School

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



In this Back to School edition of Flourishing at Federal Street you will find information about:

- Dates to Remember
- Staff Spotlight-Office Personnel
- New Sign
- PTO Update
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"Connection is the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued." — Brené Brown

Important Dates

September 7, **Labor Day, No School**

September 24, **Open House 5-6**

Staff Spotlight

(photo from left to right)

FSS Principal, Kelly Halpin - I love this work because I get to build meaningful relationships with students, families, and teachers. I have the privilege of supporting students as they grow while creating a school community grounded in belonging.



School Adjustment Counselor, Lamar Batiste - I would say my greatest joy is seeing the growth in students over their time in school. Being able to be a part of that growth is extremely rewarding when working with students.

Administrative Assistant, Danielle Whiteman - I like to see all the smiling faces as they walk by the office door and get to know the students. I'm so glad to be here.

School Nurse, Rebecca Carlson - My favorite part of being the Federal Street School nurse is being able to take care of all of the students when they need me, whether it be for an injury, not feeling well or just needing a little TLC. It is also very rewarding to help students with complex medical conditions come to school and feel like they are just like any other student.



New Sign

A heartfelt thank you to Federal Street parent **Pat Glass**, who generously volunteered their time and talents to design and build a beautiful new sign for our front garden. The sign serves as a daily reminder to our entire school community of our mantra: **FSS — Friendly, Safe, and Successful**. We are so grateful to Pat for this thoughtful contribution and for helping bring our school values to life!

September PTO Update

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. We are looking forward to a fantastic year. The PTO is already planning a fun filled year.

We will be having our next meeting on **Tuesday, October 13 at 3:15**. All are welcome!



Annual Mums Fundraiser: Pick up for mums will be **September 16 from 3-6pm.**

If you'd like to join our email list or have any questions, please email **federalstreetpto@gmail.com**.

Thank you for being part of our school community. Together, we can make this a great year for everyone!

Follow Federal Street School PTO on **[Facebook](#)** and **[Instagram](#)**.

Safety and Security Updates

The well-being of our students and staff are at the heart of everything we do, including their security at school. Following our listening sessions with you in June, we have taken your perspectives to heart and have been working to thoughtfully enhance our safety protocols.

Working with the Western Massachusetts School Safety Task Force, we continue to align our approach with regional best practices for school safety and security. We have scheduled practice safety drills for the 2026-2027 school year to help everyone feel prepared and comfortable with the steps we will take together in an emergency.

We have made facility improvements this summer to ensure our buildings are secure. An important update is the new visitor management system in our main office that will help us maintain a safe environment for your children. In this new system, all visitors — including families arriving for late arrivals or early dismissals — will need to have a valid ID ready to present upon entry to our school.

Our maintenance team has also worked with specialists to improve the quality of our intercoms and ensure that our interior and exterior doors are in top shape.

In addition to physical facility upgrades, our staff has implemented a schedule of daily reviews of our school perimeters, including frequent building and door checks.

We also have a dedicated Building Safety Team that meets monthly. They will work to ensure all of our safety measures remain strong and effective, and they will also address important recommendations in safety protocols and security practices.

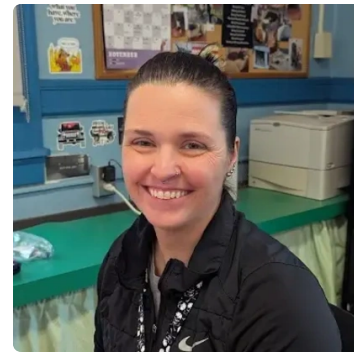
Communication is vital to our partnership with you, and we are currently developing a districtwide communication plan to keep everyone informed. We want all families to feel they are connected and well-informed, and this plan will clearly outline how and when you can expect to receive updates from us following any incident.

We remain deeply committed to providing a warm, safe, and secure space where every student and staff member can thrive. Thank you for your continued partnership and trust.

Notes from the Nurse

Hello Federal Street School Families!

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a healthy and restful summer break. I just have a few reminders as we begin the school year.



- If your student experiences any vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever over 100, they will need to remain home for 24 hours after symptoms are gone.
- If they have a fever, they must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of any fever reducing medicines.
- If your student has a food allergy, please inform me and be aware that we will require a doctor's note regarding the allergy for me to share with food services.
- If your student will require a prescription medication while at school, we will require a parental consent form as well as a doctor's order. I have these forms available to send home.
- For our younger students, it is very helpful for them to have a full change of clothes from home. Accidents happen, and it can often reduce anxiety for a student to be able to change into their own clothing.

I am available by phone during school hours and I will occasionally check my email after school so email is often the better route for non urgent matters. If I am unable to get to the phone, please leave me a message, and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I know we are going to have a great year! Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns!

Rebecca S. Carlson RN, BSN
Federal Street School Nurse

RebCar1@gpsk12.org

(413)772-1380 x 5210



School Council

The School Council is comprised of parents, staff and community members. School Council members are voted on each year by the group they represent. **Voting will take place at Open House on September 24.** If you would like to be a part of the FSS School Council please email Principal Halpin at **kelhal1@gpsk12.org**.

Follow us on Social Media!

FSS- Friendly, Safe and Successful

Principal Kelly Halpin

kelhal1@gpsk12.org
(413) 772-1380 ext 5101

125 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301