Dear Bobcat Families,

We are so excited to officially welcome you to Frederick A. Douglass High School for the 2025–26 school year! Douglass has been one of New Orleans' top-performing high schools for the past five years. **This year, we have the highest percentage of students earning Mastery on the LEAP 2025 assessments of ALL open enrollment schools.**  More than 100 students have earned associate’s degrees through Bard, industry credentials in medical assisting, welding, and coding—all before graduating high school. Since 2014, Renaissance/Douglass has earned over **131 MILLION** dollars in scholarships including over 40 full ride offers this year including Case Western, Cornell and Duke.

Beyond academics, many students join us for our championship-winning athletic programs—including football, softball, baseball, volleyball, track, and basketball—or for our award-winning band and auxiliary teams (dance, majorettes, flag, cheer, and more). Whatever brings you to Douglass, we are here to support and celebrate you all the way to college acceptance and beyond.

**Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:**

* **New to Douglass Family Meeting**–Monday, August 4th at 5:00 PM
* **Senior Family Meeting**–Monday, August 4th at 6:00 PM
* **Back to School Night (All)** – Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00 PM

**Student Start Dates:**

* **Freshman Orientation Day:** Monday, August 4 | 8–1:30 PM (Freshmen only)
* **First Day for All Students:** Tuesday, August 5

Please ensure that students in all grade levels read Monday’s Not Coming by Tiffany August 5th.



As our seniors will tell you, the year goes by faster than you think. If you have any questions during the transition to Douglass, I’m here to help. You can reach me directly via text at 504.289.9684.

### **Updated Attendance Policy**

At Douglass, we believe daily attendance is the foundation of student success. Research shows that missing just two days per month—excused or unexcused—adds up to nearly 10% of the school year, and significantly impacts academic performance.

**Daily and Consistent Follow-Up:** Attendance is taken daily and all absences are documented. You will be contacted any time your child is absent. If your scholar’s absences exceed five days, expect a request for a mandatory meeting with school staff to discuss barriers and create a support plan to improve attendance.

**Chronic Absenteeism:** It’s important to note that chronic absenteeism includes all absences, whether excused or unexcused. We understand that rare events such as serious illness, family emergencies, or religious observances will arise. However, every absence results in missed instruction, and we track all missed days equally. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into account when planning next steps for repeated absences.

**Appointments and Vacation:** To protect instructional time, please schedule all vacations during school breaks and appointments outside school hours. If your child must attend a medical appointment during the day, we strongly encourage them to attend school before and/or after the appointment rather than missing the entire day.

**Transportation Challenges:** Each student should have a backup transportation plan to avoid missing school due to last-minute issues. Please notify the school immediately if your child’s primary mode of transportation is disrupted so we can support a solution.

**Attendance & Extracurriculars:** Students who are absent during the school day may not participate in after-school activities (including dances, games, performances, or other events) unless advance permission is granted by the school.

**Daily Schedule**: The school entry takes place at 7:25am and **1st period begins at 7:55am sharp.** Please ensure that students arrive on time.Students arriving after **8:15am must come into the school with a parent.** We do this to ensure that parents are aware of the impact of missing 1st period which has a detrimental impact on grades/course credits. **Please also note that we release at 2:52 pm daily.**

### **Student ID Picture Days**

Students will take ID photos before their first museum visits:

* **9th Grade** - Monday, August 4 and Tuesday August 5
* **10th Grade** – Wednesday, August 6
* **11th Grade** – Thursday, August 7
* **12th Grade** – Friday, August 8

**Dress Code Expectations:** The FDHS School dress code guidelines help promote a safe & effective learning environment. Attire that distracts from the educational goals of the school is not permitted. The following standards shall apply during the school day as well as all regular school activities, unless otherwise stated. Students not meeting dress code expectations may be provided with a change of clothing (i.e. school uniform, PE uniform, etc.) at their cost.

**Tops**

Standard—

* Douglass, college or positive cultural message t-shirt or polo.
* FDHS field trip shirt (included in supply budget)
* No torn/cut shirts or bare midriffs.

**Bottoms**

Standard—

* Khaki, blue, black or gray pants
* School plaid pants
* No excessively torn/cut pants
* No skirts - except plaid uniform skirts of appropriate length

**Headwear and Accessories**

* No hats, hoods, head or ear covers, head rags, or scarves aside from those worn for religious purposes
* Clothing, jewelry and personal items shall be free of writing or pictures that are crude, gang-related, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising/promotions or advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.

**Shoes**

* Closed toe shoes must always be worn; no inappropriate footwear or roller blades. **No crocs, sandals, slippers, or slides.**

**Cell Phone Policy:** The use of cell phones during the instructional day seriously impedes and distracts from the learning process. As a school, we believe that students should not be allowed to use cell phones during the instructional day due to the impact of these devices on learning. Additionally, the state governor has declared that cell phones are prohibited during instructional time and that **schools are not responsible for any lost or damaged student electronics collected on school campuses**. Cell phones are to be turned in **during entry. Collected cell phones are distributed in the 7th period.**  We will do our best to safeguard these items, however, we are ultimately not responsible for lost or damaged student electronics, **even if the loss or damage occurs while the device is in the school’s possession.** We encourage parents to ensure their child does not bring electronics to campus. Parents please call school leaders or teachers if you need to reach your student urgently. **Students who have cell phones in their possession beyond the cell phone collection point will have them confiscated and have an automatic detention. Parents must collect confiscated cell phones after their child’s detention is served.**

**School Supplies**: Please ensure that students have the supplies below by the second week of school.

1. Clear or mesh backpacks/bags only (Mandatory)
2. Planner (provided by the school)
3. 3 packs of 3x5 inch Index Cards
4. 5– One subject notebooks
5. 2 packs of blue or black pens
6. Water bottle
7. 2 packs of pencils
8. 1 pack of highlighters
9. 5– Three pronged folders (tracking and class organization)
10. 1 pack of post-it notes
11. Computer for home (Recommended)
12. Summer Reading Book (see below)
13. Grade Level Assigned Books
14. 2–Two inch, 3 ring binders
15. **Pencil Bag (Custom for Phone, Small Headphones, and Apple Watches)**

Please note that students will be able to purchase additional supplies from the front office throughout the school year.

So excited for this school year!

In partnership,
**Towana Pierre-Floyd***Principal, Frederick A. Douglass High School*📱 Text: 504.289.9684