

# Franklin Towne Charter High School

## **Location & Safety:**

[Franklin Towne Charter High School](#) is located in the Bridesburg-Tacony section of Northeast Philadelphia. Unlike most Philadelphia schools that are located within a neighborhood, Franklin Towne Charter H.S. is uniquely cut off from potential hazards of neighborhood violence due to Interstate 95 to the west and the Delaware River to the east. In addition, Franklin Towne is safely located within a gated community known as the Arsenal Business Center. Like the decommissioned Philadelphia Navy Yard in South Philly that has undergone a substantial rejuvenation, the [Arsenal Business Center](#) is following suit with its own [revival](#). One of the most recent additions is the [Guard House](#) which is the unofficial café of Franklin Towne and the greater Arsenal campus.



## **Getting to Franklin Towne by Car:**

- From Center City: Franklin Towne is conveniently located off Interstate 95 and is easily accessible via I-95 Aramingo Ave. (exit 26)
- From Northeast Philadelphia/Bucks County: Franklin Towne is conveniently located off Interstate 95 and is easily accessible via I-95 Bridge St. (Exit 27).
- From New Jersey: Franklin Towne is conveniently located between the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to the North and the Betsy Ross Bridge to the South.
- From the West: Franklin Towne is easily accessible via Cottman Avenue (Route 73) or the Roosevelt Boulevard. via Harbison Avenue

## **Getting to Franklin Towne by Train:**

- SEPTA's Regional Rail [Trenton Line](#) at Bridesburg Station is just a short [6-minute walk](#) to the Bridge Street entrance to the Arsenal complex.

## **Getting to Franklin Towne by Bus:**

- From the South & West [Bus Route 73](#) via Bridge Street entrance to the Arsenal complex
- From the North [Bust Route 84](#) via Tacony Street entrance to the Arsenal complex

## **Amenities, benefits, and perks**

### **Campus Amenities:**

- Two gated security checkpoints to Arsenal complex.
- Ample parking for staff adjacent to the school and monitored by Arsenal security personnel.
- Guardhouse Café located within the Arsenal Complex

### **Building Amenities:**

- All school buildings equipped with modern heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.
- Convenient staff-only bathrooms located on each floor.
- All school buildings and bathrooms are fully cleaned on a daily basis.
- Teacher lounges located on all floors are equipped with a full refrigerator and freezer, sink, microwave ovens, toaster ovens, coffee machines, as well as vending machines.
- All teacher lounges are also equipped with copy machines that are universally connected to your computer.
- School has gone through extensive auditing of outside security firm to vet our school safety infrastructure.
- Friendly security guards on all floors that monitor hallways and bathrooms and available to teachers.

### **Classroom Amenities:**

- 95% of teachers will have their own classroom and do not share classrooms.
- All classrooms have access to windows, natural light, and individual thermostats.
- All classrooms equipped with the latest [ViewSonic](#) smartboard technology as well as dry erase whiteboards.
- All classrooms equipped with recently upgraded desktop computers and an Apple iPad.
- All rooms have been equipped with safety features to strengthen the integrity of classroom doors.

### **Student Technology:**

- All students have their own personal Chromebook that is required for them to bring to every classroom whether teacher is planning on using them or not.
- Teachers have access to *GoGuardian* software that allows teachers to limit off-task online activity.
- All students wear a school I.D. that is compatible with each classroom's attendance technology software.

### **Staff Perks:**

- Business casual staff dress code
- Frequent dress down days throughout the school year
- Many staff-only social events after school hours.
- One back-to-school-night in the fall (no parent-teacher conferences)
- Fair allotment of paid sick and personal days.
- Access to a full state of the art gym and indoor track.
- Discounted staff lunches provided by [The Nutrition Group](#).
- All teachers are given 1,800 copies per month to use as they see fit.
- Pay schedule: 26 bi-weekly paychecks over 52 weeks.

**Professional Development:**

- New teachers will have 1-2 days of professional development the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>
- New teachers to FTCHS will have access to a hands-on program throughout the school year to acclimate you to the climate and culture of Franklin Towne specifically through mentoring and coaching.
- All teachers will have a staff orientation week beginning Monday, August 28 prior to the start of the school year which will include a varied approach to professional development.
- Full P.D. days are dedicated throughout the school year as well as Friday afternoons.

**School Calendar and Contractual Hours:**

- The school-year instruction begins on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> (Teachers are off Labor Day and the Tuesday after).
- The school year will end on Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Days off are aligned with federal holidays and include both winter and spring breaks that are at least a full week off – teachers are not expected to grade work over extended breaks.
- Contractual hours: 7:30am – 3:30pm

**Prep-Time & Lesson Planning:**

- Teachers teach three blocks and have one full block off that is designated as their prep.
- Teachers also have a designated lunch period off and may leave campus to access a local fast food eatery or take advantage of the neighborhood supermarket quick service meals.
- There are no daily duty periods in which teachers are expected to monitor lunches or arrival/dismissal.
- Teachers have access to instructional aides for additional support.
- Submission of detailed lesson plans are not required since Franklin Towne H.S. has adopted the UBD framework to most curriculum and use an assessment calendar. \*New teachers to FTCHS typically submit a brief skeleton of their weekly plans.
- Teachers will also have time dedicated after the instructional day ends to meet with students that are issued appointments for tutoring, retesting, catching up students that have missed school.

**Code of Conduct Highlights:**

- Students are not allowed to bring their cell phones into their classrooms – zero tolerance.
- Detentions are served on the day they are issued including detentions for failure to submit homework.
- Interactions with parents or parents questioning discipline outcomes in the classroom is traditionally handled by the Dean of Students – not individual teachers.