

Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent

Sulisnet Jimenez, Principal Lauerin H. Gareis, Vice Principal Dr. Michelle A. Panichi, Vice Principal Wilnes Jilus, Vice Principal Annex

August 2021

Welcome Back to All Parents/Guardians and Students!

On behalf of the John E. Dwyer Technology Academy staff, it is with great anticipation and an overwhelming sense of excitement that we welcome all our families back to <u>in-person instruction for the 2021</u> – 2022 school year beginning on Thursday, September 9th, 2021! We are eagerly awaiting to resume our productive partnership with you to ensure that our children reach their highest academic potential within a safe and vigorous classroom environment. We share the responsibility for our children's success, and we want you to know that we will work diligently to reclaim excellence on our path forward.

We would, first, like to reiterate a shared message that the Elizabeth Public Schools will maintain its pledge, guided by the principles of exceeding CDC expectations, to open schools for in-person instruction responsibly, place the health and the safety first for both our students and team members, provide high-quality instruction to all students, and deliver accurate and timely communication to families and team members. Please visit our Back-to-School link on our district website for additional information on returning to school located at <u>https://www.epsnj.org/backtoschool</u>.

Health and Safety Protocols	 Providing 24/7 protection against Covid-19 and the Delta Variant for students, teachers, and in the classroom is a top priority. Masks will be required for all students and staff members. We have provided every classroom with air purifiers that have a HEPA filter. We have ensured adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, face coverings, and hand sanitizers (with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol) for students and staff members who can safely use hand sanitizers. We have provided electrostatic sprayers in every school. The sprayers will enable custodial staff to more efficiently disinfect our schools. Detailed attention will be given to high-touch areas such as door handles, desktops, sink handles, handrails and restrooms throughout the day. We have posted signage in high visibility areas to remind students and staff members of proper techniques for handwashing, the covering of coughs and sneezes, and other prevention measures.
EPS School Calendar	To review the EPS School Calendar for the 2021 – 2022 school year, please visit the following link: <u>https://links.epsnj.org/calendar</u>



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The 2021 – 2022 school year will begin on Thursday, September 9th, 2021. In-person **First Day of School/Arrival** instruction will be conducted during the hours of 7:45 a.m. to 2:29 p.m. and Dismissal **Procedures** In order to help facilitate both a smooth and orderly mode of transition during the times of arrival and dismissal, please adhere to the following safety procedures: Classes for our students on the High School level will be in session from 7:45 a.m. to **2:29 p.m**. Once students arrive to school, they will not be permitted to leave the premises. Classroom instruction will begin promptly at 7:45 a.m. Please plan to dropoff your child by 7:15 a.m. to allow adequate time for the student to go to his/her locker and report to class in a timely fashion. It is extremely important that all students arrive to school before the beginning of 1st Period to maximize their optimal learning experience. Students who arrive to school late invariably disrupt the educational process. Please refer to the student handbook regarding all tardy and attendance rules and procedures. We would like to remind everyone that the driving speed limit, within the designated parameters of our school, should not exceed 25 mph. Traffic tends to back-up; so please plan to drop-off your child accordingly and drive safely. On Thursday, September 9th, 2021, students will be allowed to enter the building at 7:15 a.m. if they wish to eat breakfast. Students will report directly to the school cafeteria. Upon arrival, students will enter through the metal detector. We are asking for all students to cooperate with our security staff. Open drinks and hot beverages are not permitted in the building. Headphones and electronic devices are not to be visible. Upon entering the building these items are to be put away. All students will follow the Homeroom Schedule on September 9th & 10th 2021. Please note, on the front of the envelope received, there is a label with the student's Homeroom information on it. The student must *bring* the *envelope* on the first day of school and report directly to his/her homeroom; there he/she will receive a copy of the PowerSchool schedule. Please know safety is of the upmost importance to us. Upon entering the building, all visitors must report to the security desk, sign in, show proper photo identification, receive a visitor's pass (if permitted, visitors must wear a mask), and then report to the main office where a secretary will assist them. Only individuals listed in PowerSchool will be allowed to pick-up the child. No parents/guardians or unapproved guests are allowed inside of the classrooms.



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PowerSchool Parent Portal	NEW AND RETURNING PARENTS TO EPS
Instructions	To obtain instructions on how to navigate the PowerSchool Parent Portal please visit the EPS Website at <u>https://www.epsnj.org/PowerSchoolInstructions</u> .
	Please make sure that you can access your child's PowerSchool account; this will help to monitor his/her academic progress on a regular basis. If you do not have a parent PowerSchool password from our office, we would be more than happy to provide you with one upon your request.
	If you experience technical difficulties with accessing your child's PowerSchool information, please contact your child's school or visit the EPS website at <u>Student Services / New Student</u> <u>Registration (PreK-12) (epsnj.org)</u> . From there, please click on the " <i>PowerSchool Parent Portal Help</i> " tab. Please scroll down and click on the school that your child currently attends. You will then be directed to complete an online contact form. After clicking the <i>Save</i> and <i>Done</i> buttons at the bottom, your request will be submitted and someone from the school will be in contact with you as soon as possible.
PowerSchool Student Portal Instructions	To obtain instructions on how to navigate the PowerSchool Student Portal, please visit the EPS website at <u>https://www.epsnj.org/PowerSchoolInstructions</u>
	All students will follow the homeroom schedule that is indicated in PowerSchool.
Uniform Policy	Dress Code Guidelines are established to promote a standard of appearance that enhances the learning environment as well as allows for the reasonable comfort of all students. Uniforms are expected to be worn daily.
	The uniform and dress code requirements for your child's school are provided on the EPS website at <u>https://www.epsnj.org/backtoschool</u> . Please refer to the " <i>Uniform Policy</i> " tile and follow the instructions provided.
	Parents, we are asking for both your cooperation as well as your support in regard to your child's adherence to the uniform policy. Students who do not adhere to the school uniform policy will not be permitted to enter the building on <i>Thursday, September 9th</i> or any school day thereafter. Please do not hesitate to contact the main office if you should have any questions
	with respect to the uniform policy.



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The school uniform must include the following:

- John E. Dwyer Green Polo or Green John E. Dwyer Oxford shirt
- Black Pants, skirt, skorts only (**no** denim, ripped pants, cargoes, spandex, or Adidas pants)
- <u>All black</u> shoes (no flip flops, slides, or open toed shoes)
- All Black Sweater or Black Dwyer Logo sweater

The Physical Education uniform must include the following:

- John E. Dwyer T-shirt or John E. Dwyer sweatshirt
- John E. Dwyer shorts or John E. Dwyer sweatpants
- Note: Grades 9-12 must bring their physical education uniform to change for their physical education classes

The following items are not allowed to be worn during the school day:

- Hoodies
- Jackets
- Hair accessories such as bandanas, headbands, and scarfs. <u>Religious headgear is</u> <u>permitted.</u>

All students are expected to be in <u>full uniform</u> on the first day of school on *Thursday, September 9th*, 2021.

Electronic Devices and Personal Property For the past few years, our school has operated as a 1:1 technology school; and as a result, all students will continue to utilize a *laptop computer* for their daily classroom instruction. Students should make every effort to take excellent care of their *laptops* throughout the school year, as this is a very special privilege. Our 1:1 technology implementation will continue to ensure that our students attain the competitive standards that are needed to foster both college and career readiness. *All students are required to bring their charged laptops and power cords to school daily*.

- Within the envelope you received, you will find the laptop forms that must be filled out by students and parents prior to any student receiving a laptop.
- On the first day of school, please ensure that the paperwork is returned by the student to his/her homeroom teacher.

123 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 ● Phone: 908-436-6565 ● Fax: 908-436-6566 Email: Jimenesu@epsnj.org ● Gareisla@epsnj.org ● Panichmi@epsnj.org Annex: 501 Union Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208 ● Phone: 908-436-5900 ● Fax: 908-436-5886 Email : Jiluswi@epsnj.org



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NEW ENTRANTS

All new students to the district will receive their laptop during the first week of school.

9TH GRADE STUDENTS

Freshmen will receive their laptops at the 9th Grade Orientation which is scheduled to take place in the Dwyer Annex at 501 Union Avenue on August 24th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Cell phones:

Please note that cell phones and/or other electronic devices are prohibited from being used within the school. The school will not be held responsible if a cell phone and/or electronic device is damaged or lost. If a student decides to bring his/her cell phone to school, it must be **turned off** and kept inside of the locker from 7:45 a.m. until the student is dismissed from school.

The main office is always available to allow for outgoing calls in the event of an **emergency**. Parental support in this endeavor is greatly requested.

Please refer to the student handbook regarding procedures that follow if your child is in violation of this policy.

NEW AND EXISTING PARENT INSTRUCTIONS Stay Connected It is extremely important that we have the most updated home address and/or phone numbers so that we may contact you in the event of an emergency or to discuss your child's progress. Please be sure to update your contact information by logging into your PowerSchool Parent Portal and filling out the Emergency Information form found under the Forms link throughout the course of the school year should there be a change in either your home address and/or phone number. Open communication between the home and the school is expected and is one of the more pertinent keys to academic success in school. Our Notification system enables staff members to contact parents through email, text, and through verbal messages recorded on the phone. Through this system, parents are immediately alerted of urgent information, major events, and/or upcoming dates. To ensure that this system will continue to operate in its highly effective manner, it is very important that we have the most current and accurate information on file for each and every student. To obtain information on how to keep your contact information up-to-date, please visit the EPS website at https://www.epsnj.org/backtoschool. Please refer to the "Stay Connected" tile and follow the instructions provided on how to update your information on PowerSchool.



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• At JEDTA, we believe that the open communication between the school and the home plays a vital part in fostering successful students. If you should ever wish to speak to a teacher and/or schedule a parent-teacher conference, please feel free to contact the Guidance Department at 908-436-6554.

District/School
InformationPlease ensure that all of the required documents listed below are reviewed and completed by the
first day of school and that all personal information is updated regularly. All of the required
forms must be updated on PowerSchool in the "Forms" section. To obtain access to the
required documents that are indicated above, please visit the EPS website at
https://www.epsnj.org/backtoschool. Please refer to the "Forms and Applications" tile and
follow the instructions provided.

- Emergency Information Form
- Notice Regarding Physicals
- Media Release Form
- Student Internet & Network Permission Form with Elizabeth Internet Use Policy
- Acceptable Use for Technology Electronic Mobile Device Form
- Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)
- JEDTA Locker Contract
- JEDTA Discipline Policy

Program

Transportation	Transportation will be available for the following students:
	• Elementary students who live more than 2.0 miles from their school
	• High school students who live more than 2.5 miles from their school
	• Students whose IEP include transportation services
	All students will be socially distanced while being transported to and from school.

Breakfast School breakfast is served daily. It is imperative that parents/guardians complete a

breakfast/lunch application so that a student's payment status can be determined. Applications and nutrition information can be found by visiting our district website at <u>www.epsnj.org</u>.

• Our doors open every day at 7:15 a.m. for students who arrive early and wish to eat breakfast at our school.

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AttendanceNew Jersey statutes require every parent/guardian or other persons having custody and control
of a child between the ages of 6 and 16 years of age, cause such child to attend the public
schools of his/her district.• A student must be in attendance for at least 171 of the 180-day academic school year

- (95%).
 To successfully complete the instructional program requirements for the grade/course
- To successfully complete the instructional program requirements for the grade/course to which the student is assigned, they must not exceed nine (9) unexcused absences.

District Code of Conduct The Elizabeth Board of Education believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program, is in part, reflected in the behavior of pupils. The Elizabeth Board of Education expects pupils to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other pupils, for school personnel, for the educational purpose of underlying all school activities, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

• For the EPS Student Code of Conduct Policies, please visit <u>https://www.epsnj.org</u>

Graduation
RequirementsThe Elizabeth Board of Education shall award a state endorsed diploma to acknowledge the
successful completion of the requirements for high school graduation. The Elizabeth Board of
Education diploma will represent a high standard of curriculum content, instruction, and
student learning and thereby ensuring post-secondary readiness for all graduates in the 21st
century.

Academic Requirements:

- Twenty (20) credits in English Language Arts
- Twenty (15) credits in Mathematics
- Fifteen (15) credits in Social Studies
- Two and a half (2.5) in Financial Literacy
- Twenty (15) credits in science, including at least five (5) credits in laboratory biology/life science and an additional five (5) credits in laboratory/inquiry-based science
- Sixteen (16) credits in Physical Education
- Five (5) credits in visual and performing arts

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- Five (5) credits in 21st century life and careers or career-technical education
- Ten (10) credits in World Languages
- Students must take the SAT, or ACT, or equivalent college entrance exam
- Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses (AP) are required to take the designated AP examination administered by the College Board. If the student doesn't take the AP exam, the students AP course designation must be changed from Advanced Placement to Honors and the modification must be recorded in the students records and transcripts.
- Students must complete 60 hours of community service
- All courses shall be taught at the college preparatory, honors, or Advanced Placement (AP) levels.
- Technology literacy, consistent with New Jersey Student Learning Standards will be integrated throughout the curriculum.

Orientation Dates	August 24 th , 2021 at 4:00 p.m John E. Dwyer Technology Academy (Annex) - 501 Union Ave.
	August 25th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m John E. Dwyer Technology Academy (Main) - 123 Pearl Street

Back-to-School
NightSeptember 22nd, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. - John E. Dwyer Technology Academy (Annex) - 501 Union
Ave.

September 23rd, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. - John E. Dwyer Technology Academy (Main) 123 Pearl Street

During this time, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to speak with teachers, visit classrooms, and sign up for the PTO. Please consider signing up, your support is always appreciated.

We encourage everyone to join the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Important information from the PTO will be sent home with your child throughout the course of the upcoming school year.

We hope that you will all continue to enjoy the remainder of the summer. We look forward to resuming in-person instruction on *Thursday, September 9th*. Please remember to arrive on time, dress appropriately for teaching and learning, report directly to the homeroom listed on your PowerSchool schedule (see the label on



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the front of the envelope) and be ready to learn! Let's mark this time to begin our work together to reaffirm equity, reestablish expectations, and reclaim excellence! Together we will have another great school year!

Sincerely,

Dwyer Administration

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