



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

April 30, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you are doing well and adjusting to the unique times we are all experiencing. We want to thank you for your patience and perseverance as we work to ensure students remain engaged in learning while finding balance for families during these difficult times. We recognize the challenges that come with such a disruption to normal family routines. Please know that as a school district, we are still working hard to ensure students and team members are supported.

NEW INFORMATION

Gifted and Talented Applications

The Gifted & Talented school application window has been extended to May 15 for all interested parents of students currently in grades 1-7. This will be your final opportunity to join our state and national award-winning gifted and talented program for the 2020-2021 school year. The application must be completed through our Parent Information System PowerSchool. If you do not have a parent PowerSchool account, please contact your child's current school for information. Directions for submission of the Gifted and Talented application can be found at the following link on our website: <https://www.epsnj.org/GiftedandTalented>

As a result, here is the revised timeline:

- May 15 - Applications due
- June 15 - Acceptance letters emailed to parents

Please note that students in grades two and three will not be required to take the entrance examination this year. Consequently, data that will be used to select and appropriately place students in the G & T program will include parent and teacher recommendations, state and local assessments, cumulative grade point average, and performance in component and academic benchmarks.

Preparing students for the 2020 AP Exams

The transition to remote learning has presented unique issues and has demanded a lot of flexibility on the part of our AP students and families citywide. As you may know by now, there have been recent changes to the AP exam schedule and process for Spring 2020. The College Board has shifted all paper-based AP exams to online testing which students may complete at home. Traditional face-to-face exam administrations will not take place this year.

AP Exam Demo will be available on Monday, May 4. AP students should use the clickable exam demo to practice the different ways to submit their exam responses. The demo will help students confirm that their testing device will be able to access and run the online exam. If they can't access the demo, the final slide of the Testing Guide can help them troubleshoot. The sample content in the demo will be the same for all users and isn't a practice exam. The College Board will send students an email to remind them when the demo is available. Please encourage your child to take this important preparation step.

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Grab and Go Program

Our Grab and Go Breakfast and lunch distribution to families will continue on Monday and Wednesday of each week from 9:30a.m. to 11:30a.m. In an effort to make the grab and go lunch program even more convenient, please be advised that we have added a new pick up site at School No. 25 that will service School Nos. 3, 15, and 25. The site at School No. 25 will provide access that is closer to home for families of School Nos. 3, 15, and 25 now serviced at this new location.

Laptop Repair Service

We are working to address any questions or concerns that you may have regarding your child's laptop. Please contact us at 908-436-5051 or you can email helpdesk@epsnj.org if you or someone you know needs this support.

We are setting up laptop repairs by our district Hardware department **by appointment only** on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 8:30am-3pm beginning Monday, May 4. The Hardware department will be set up at the Dwyer-Halsey complex (123 Pearl Street) in the parking lot between Trinitas Regional Medical Center and the high school complex, next to a loading dock with a large "HARDWARE DEPARTMENT" banner. The laptop repairs will be a drive-by service so that you do not have to leave your car. Please call 908-436-5051 to make an appointment if your child is experiencing any problems.

Parent E-Remote Learning Survey

The EPS E-Remote Learning Survey is being conducted to collect information to understand what is working well and to help improve the EPS E-Remote Learning experience. The survey will be sent electronically tomorrow, May 1 and will only take 10 minutes to complete. Information collected from the survey will be shared with all principals. They will share key information with team members to help inform and improve E-Remote Learning over the final few weeks of the 2019-20 school year.

Reminders

High School Selection Process

All current eighth grade students will make their high school selection beginning on May 1 through May 15. Our Guidance Counselors have contacted eighth grade students with the suggested time that they should log onto PowerSchool TEAMS to receive important information regarding the high school selection process.

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Having access to receive school level notifications can help you stay connected with your child's school during this time. Below are instructions on how parents can sign up to receive school announcements in the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

1. Click Email Notifications
2. Make Sure School Announcements box is checked.
3. Select How Often you would like to receive the emails.
4. Check the box to Apply Settings to All Your Students
5. Click Submit

The screenshot displays the 'Email Notifications: Bunny, Bugs' page in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. On the left, a navigation menu lists various options, with 'Email Notification' highlighted in a red box. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Contact Information' with an 'Account Email' field; 'What Information Would You Like to Receive?' where 'Summary of Current Grades and Attendance', 'Detail Report Showing Assignment Scores for Each Class', 'Detail Report of Attendance', 'School Announcements' (highlighted in a red box), and 'Balance Alert' are all checked; 'Additional Notification Emails' with an 'Email Address(es)' field; and 'Frequency' where 'How Often?' is set to 'Daily' (highlighted in a red box). At the bottom, the 'Apply These Settings to All Your Students' checkbox is also checked (highlighted in a red box).

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer