



Olga Hugelmeyer  
Superintendent of Schools

April 21, 2021

Dear Grades 4-5 Parents and Guardians,

The Elizabeth Public Schools has continued to monitor various metrics and the guidance of health officials while remaining committed to maintaining the safety and wellbeing of our students. I am writing to welcome our families and to thank you for your patience. On **Monday, April 26, 2021**, we will reopen schools for in-person instruction for students in grades 4 – 5.

The pandemic has presented us with many unprecedented challenges and hardships, but through our collective strength and resiliency as a community, we have reached this wonderful milestone. Elizabeth Public Schools is very excited to welcome your children back into our buildings for in-person teaching and learning.

### **Our Commitment to Creating Safe Learning Environments**

Elizabeth Public Schools maintains its pledge to open schools responsibly, guided by the principles of exceeding minimum expectations to place health and safety first for our students and team members, providing high-quality instruction to all students, and delivering accurate and timely communication to team members and families

Please refer to our *Elizabeth Public Schools Reopening Together Plan Guidebook 2.0* <https://www.epsnj.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4192> for access to information regarding the extensive protective measures that have been put in place to make the return to school safe for children.

### **Welcome Back Videos**

In addition, we invite you to access a video to your child's school that demonstrates how a day of in-person instruction will look as we welcome back our students:

<https://www.epsnj.org/ReOpeningVideos>

This overview includes the protocols and the safety measures that will be followed daily by all of our team members. Videos can be found by going to the above link and clicking on your child's school name in the left column.

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### **Office of the Superintendent of Schools**

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### **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

Welcome back letters from principals will also be sent home today with detailed information regarding arrival and dismissal procedures.

### **Daily Virtual Instructional Support**

Teachers will continue to be available daily to interact with their students through virtual support from 2:00pm-3:00pm at the Pre-K – grade 8 level. Teacher interaction in the afternoon may include small/whole group instruction, peer to peer instruction, follow up, questions, and check-in. Full-time distance learning has been made available for students in high-risk health categories or who are not comfortable returning to school in-person.

### **Travel Quarantine/Return to In-Person Instruction**

While our return date for Grades 4 – 5 students to in-person instruction is Monday, April 26, individual travel quarantine circumstances may dictate a delayed return to school for your child. If you have traveled internationally (outside the United States) or within the U.S. to states other than New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, or Delaware, you and your child are required to quarantine for 10 days. With regard to all travel, any child required to quarantine will be able to continue on virtual instruction during the quarantine period.

### **Grab and Go Breakfast/Lunch Program**

Elizabeth Public Schools will continue to offer the Grab and Go lunch program as students return for in-person learning. All students may receive free meals regardless of status and parents are able to pick up the grab and go meals at the nearest location to their home. The latest information regarding available locations/dates/times for grab and go pick up can be found [here](#) on our district website.

In-person students in Grades 4 – 5 will receive breakfast at school each morning.

Elizabeth Public Schools remains strongly committed to educating our students with health, wellness, and safety as a primary concern. We will continue to provide all students the best educational experience possible, with the academic and social-emotional support they need to learn during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeier