



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2020



Holiday Schedule

Last Day of School

December 23

Holiday Recess

December 24 – January 3

Schools Reopen (Virtual Learning)

January 4





Virtual Learning Update

- **Letter to Parents November 10, 2020 – Virtually Learning through February 5, 2021.**
 - Parent notification by Monday, January 25, 2021 with information regarding the status of COVID in our community.



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Parents and Guardians,

As has been the case since we first began working on our Reopening Plan during the summer months, our pledge has been to reopen schools responsibly while exceeding minimum expectations to put health and safety first for our learning community, providing high-quality instruction to our students, ensuring flexibility in our instructional models, and delivering timely and accurate communications to our community throughout the school year.

Our goal of a phased return to in-person instruction was proposed at our October 1, 2020 Board of Education meeting. While maintaining our commitment to a safe return, in consultation with health professionals and within the guidelines of the CDC, NJ Department of Health, and the NJ Department of Education, we are very excited to have been able to take a large step forward on Monday to Phase I of in-person instruction by welcoming back our Autism Program.

While this is a first step we have been eager to take in our mission to return to in-person learning, we also understand that returning to "normal" will be a very gradual and measured process. We are working on returning additional Special Education programs by December 7th as part of our Phase II in-person instruction. We remain cautiously optimistic with our plan and hope to provide all students with in-person learning as part of Phase III by February 5, 2021. We will continue to monitor all of the metrics that apply and will keep you informed as we proceed through the second marking period.



Virtual Learning Update

- **Factors to take into consideration:**
 - **COVID Activity Report published by New Jersey Department of Health**
Understanding that COVID-19 may impact certain areas of the state differently, NJDOH provide weekly information on COVID-19 transmission at the regional level, characterizing risk as low (green), moderate (yellow), high (orange), and very high (red). Currently Union County is High Risk and Elizabeth is Very High Risk. Very High Risk requires full remote learning.
 - **Consultation with Local health officer on guidance regarding COVID-19 in our municipality that can inform our local planning and response actions**

New Initiatives

Amistad Mandate

This month, we are continuing our partnership with Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood. This extended contract will focus on professional development for our principals and social studies teachers to inform them of the curricular enhancements just completed and to also clarify for them the intent of the Amistad Mandate as it relates to future work being proposed. The work of the Amistad Collaborative has continued, and a virtual meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2020 to capture the work just completed and plans moving forward.



WELCOME TO THE NEW JERSEY
AMISTAD COMMISSION
INTERACTIVE CURRICULUM

New Initiatives

Virtual Leading to the Future

The Leading to the Future Program will occur virtually this year and include STEM-minded students from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Health and Public Safety Academy, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and Thomas E. Edison Career & Technical Academy. We are grateful to Michelle Doran-McBean and her entire team at Future City for their commitment in maintaining this program during the pandemic. This year's workshops will include three sessions from January through March 2021 and focus on overcoming obstacles, career planning and the concepts of resilience and sustainability.



New Initiatives

Virtual Student Success Center

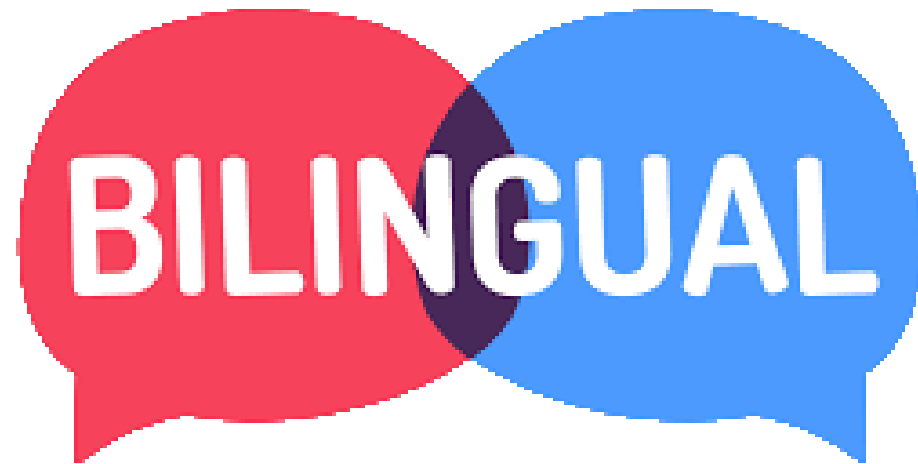
Elizabeth Public Schools and Make the Road New Jersey has partnered once again to provide a Student Success Center at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy. Beginning January 4, 2021, The Virtual Student Success Center will be open daily from 2:00pm to 6:30pm, Monday through Friday. During that time, students may sign up for appointments with the Student Success Center to meet with one of the student College Ambassadors, supervised by the SSC Coordinator. College Ambassadors will conduct outreach to students, prepare pre-recorded videos on the college application process, and support students with college and financial aid applications. They will also host financial aid clinics and SAT practice tests, in addition to virtual college tours. During that time, the SSC Coordinator will also hold supervision meetings with College Ambassadors to provide continuing education, debrief events/workshops and prepare for upcoming events/workshops. There will also be workshops open to parents during this time.



New Initiatives

Virtual Point of Entry Program for K-8

Our students will benefit from a virtual Point of Entry Program starting on January 11, 2021 through June 11, 2021 on Tuesday through Thursday in the afternoon. The focus is on our new entrants, the program aims to develop English-language proficiency skills, share remote learning experiences and address social-emotional learning concerns. Our Bilingual Psychologist will be working with both teachers in the program, students and parents.



New Initiatives



Virtual Bilingual Achievement Strategies Program for 9-12 English Language Learners

Our high school English Language Learner students will benefit from a virtual Point of Entry Program starting on January 11, 2021 through June 10, 2021 on Monday through Thursday in the afternoon. The focus is on developing English-language proficiency skills, mathematical skills, share remote learning experiences and address social-emotional learning concerns. Our Bilingual Psychologist will be working with both teachers in the program, students and parents.

New Initiatives

Partnership with The College of New Jersey for the Expanding Access to Computer Science Education

Elizabeth Public Schools has partnered with the College of New Jersey to provide free computer science professional development for our teachers in district for a twelve-month period. The intent is to expand access opportunities and enable our teachers to participate in high-quality professional learning experiences in computer science education.



New Initiatives

Virtual Interscholastic Athletic Programs

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association authorized school districts to operate a Virtual Winter Interscholastic Athletic Programs beginning on December 14, 2020 for Boy and Girls Basketball and Bowling.



WISHING YOU A SAFE,
WARM, & HAPPY
HOLIDAY
SEASON

