



Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Jerika Fernandez
Principal

August 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students of Joseph Battin School No. 4,

It is with great pride and pleasure that I write this letter to you as the newly appointed Principal of Joseph Battin School No. 4. I look forward to continuing my work alongside the Battin Community and am honored to have the opportunity to lead a school with such a rich legacy of success and points of pride. I have dedicated my career to the students of Elizabeth for the last ten years. I began my career as an Elementary classroom teacher before transitioning to a Middle School classroom position. I worked in Central Office as a Staff Development Coordinator in 2022 and was welcomed as the Vice Principal of School No. 4 in 2023. I greatly look forward to our work together in the years to come.

We, the entire staff here at **Joseph Battin School No. 4**, are honored and elated to welcome all of our students and family members to the 2024-2025 school year ***beginning on Friday, September 6th***! Our promise is to provide an innovative and personalized learning environment that ensures that every child achieves excellence. Within a safe, rigorous, and welcoming environment, we believe that every student can and will learn at his/her optimal level in order to reach their highest educational potential.

Please take the time to visit our district website and the ***Back to School*** link at <https://www.epsnj.org/Page/4374> for additional information on returning to school. Many of the important topics addressed in detail on the district website are also provided below for your immediate review:

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL / ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

The 2024-2025 school year will begin on Friday, September 6th, 2024. Instruction will be conducted during the hours of 8:20 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 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:

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There will be staff members outside to assist everyone during the first week of school.

ARRIVAL:

Pre-K:

Students will go directly to their TCU. If a student is late, (after 8:35) the student must enter through the main entrance.

Grades 2-5:

Bused students will enter through the **main entrance**, go through security check, and proceed to the multipurpose room. Signs will be placed in the multipurpose room with homeroom numbers and teacher names for students to line up.

Students being dropped off by parents will enter through the **secondary front door**, go through security, and proceed to their designated homeroom area in the multipurpose room.

Grades 6-8:

All 6th-8th grade students will enter through the side gate to the left of the secondary front door. Teachers will be holding signs with their names and homeroom numbers – students should line up according to their homeroom. Teachers and students will then enter through the secondary front door, go through security, and proceed to their classrooms.

All students who come to school after 8:35 must report to the main entrance and receive a late pass.

DISMISSAL:

Bused students will meet in the bus route homerooms and wait until their bus is called. All other students will be picked up at the secondary entrance where they enter in the morning.

Battin Annex (K-1) located at 840 North Broad St.

ARRIVAL:

All students whether bussed or dropped off will enter through the main entrance.

DISMISSAL:

All bussed students will meet in the gym and wait for their bus to be called. Students being picked up will be picked up at the cafeteria door on the right side of the building. Students **MUST** be signed out.

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We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she attends school daily, arrives on time, and is ready for the day's learning experience.

To review the EPS School Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, please visit the following link:

Pre-K:

[SchoolCalendarWrapAroundProgramfor2024-2025.pdf \(epsnj.org\)](#)

K-8:

[School Calendar for 2024-2025.pdf \(epsnj.org\)](#)

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL INSTRUCTIONS

PowerSchool is an electronic management system that is utilized by the Elizabeth Public Schools in order to collect, store, and maintain pertinent student data and records. The application provides parents with real-time access to information that pertains to a student's schedule, attendance, grades, and academic progress; it also offers a convenient and accommodating way for both parents and teachers to communicate as needed. Therefore, everyone stays connected. Schedules for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year will be available to view on PowerSchool on *Thursday, August 29th*.

NEW AND RETURNING PARENTS TO EPS

Parents of new students must request a new account in order to input all of the information required to navigate the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Parents of existing students will need to log in, input, and update any changed information that has occurred for their child.

To obtain instructions on how to navigate the PowerSchool Parent Portal, please visit the EPS website at [Student and Parent Sign In \(powerschool.com\)](#).

If you experience technical difficulties while accessing your child's PowerSchool information, please contact your child's school or visit the EPS website at [Student Support Services / Student Registration \(PreK-12\) \(epsnj.org\)](#). From there, please click on the ***"PowerSchool Parent Portal Help"*** 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 ***Save*** and ***Done*** buttons at the bottom, your request will be submitted and someone from the school will be in contact with you as soon as possible.

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POWERSCHOOL STUDENT PORTAL INSTRUCTIONS

K-8:

To obtain instructions on how to navigate the PowerSchool Student Portal, please visit the EPS website at [Student and Parent Sign In \(powerschool.com\)](https://www.powerschool.com).

UNIFORM POLICY

The intended purpose for the EPS dress code is to promote a positive self-image and to enhance school pride amongst our students. Health, safety, and educational well-being are the primary objectives for the dress code with the goal of fostering an environment that is conducive to discipline as well as to education. School uniforms are expected to be worn on a daily basis.

The uniform and dress code requirements for your child's school are provided on the EPS website at <https://www.epsnj.org/Page/4374>. Please refer to the "*Uniform and Dress Code Policies*" tile and follow the instructions provided.

Parents, we are asking for both your cooperation as well as your support regarding 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 **Friday, September 6th** 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.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Pre-K:

The implementation of iPads into the preschool classrooms provides an opportunity for our youngest students to extend their learning through developmentally appropriate active-learning experiences. While the iPad can serve as a tool to help reinforce skills in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics, it can also provide opportunities for preschool students to investigate, explore, and create within the early childhood setting.

The implementation of the iPad is integrated seamlessly into the preschool curriculum during center time. iPads enhance student learning by providing opportunities for students to retell and create their own stories, investigate and explore exciting new places and diverse cultures, capture their learning through student created portfolios, and reinforce skills through books and learning applications.

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K-8:

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.*

NEW ENTRANTS

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

STAY CONNECTED

Receive School Reminders/Updates via Text Message!

Sign up to receive messages from your child's school and the Elizabeth Public Schools

NEW AND EXISTING PARENT INSTRUCTIONS

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 a 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/Page/4374>. Please refer to the "***Stay Connected***" tile and follow the instructions provided on how to update your information on PowerSchool.

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In addition, please consider volunteering your services and supporting the Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) at your child's school. The PTO provides many opportunities for families within the school community to get involved and *stay connected*. Please be sure to sign up and learn more about the many resources that are available for your child here within the Elizabeth Public Schools.

DISTRICT / SCHOOL INFORMATION

Please 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.

- 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)
- Lunch Application

In order to obtain access to the required documents that are indicated above, please visit the EPS website at <https://www.epsnj.org/Page/4374>. Please refer to the “*Forms and Applications for Your Child*” tile and follow the instructions provided.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Pre-K:

Please be advised that the State of New Jersey, Department of Health Services, has changed several immunization requirements. All children attending licensed childcare centers and preschools are required to receive an annual flu vaccination.

Please provide proof of your child's required immunization as soon as possible and **no later than December 20th, 2024**. Students who do not have the required documentation will be excluded from school as of **January 2nd, 2025**.

K-8:

The state of New Jersey has mandated that all children born after January 1st, 1997 and enrolled in Grade Six, **will be required to receive a booster dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (Tdap) as well as one dose of meningococcal vaccine.** Documentation that

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your child has received the required sixth grade immunizations must be turned into the school nurse no later than ***Friday, September 6th, 2024.***

Students entering 6th grade with birthdays on or after ***Friday, September 6th, 2024*** must provide written confirmation from your child's healthcare provider of the vaccination appointment. This appointment should be within two weeks of your child turning 11 years of age. The immunization record must be submitted immediately following the appointment. The Elizabeth Public School District is compelled by law to ensure that all students receive their required immunizations.

Children who do not meet immunization requirements or do not have documentation of a scheduled appointment within two weeks of turning 11 years of age will be excluded from school beginning the first school day.

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
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SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Teacher will notify students/parents/guardians of school supplies on the first day of school.

Grades 6-8, please see the attached school supply list for the 2024-2025 school year.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

We look forward to meeting parents/guardians at our Back-to-School Night on **Tuesday, September 17th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

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We hope that you will all continue to enjoy the remainder of the summer. Let's continue on our shared mission to reaffirm equity, reestablish expectations, and reclaim excellence! We look forward to starting another journey together on ***Friday, September 6th***.

Sincerely,

Gerika Fernandez

Principal

Joseph Battin School No. 4

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