Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Lauerin Gareis
Principal
Steven Criscuolo
Vice Principal
Eryn Casey
Vice Principal

August 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

We, the entire staff here at *William F. Halloran School No. 22* are honored and elated to welcome all of our students and family members to the 2025-2026 school year *beginning on Thursday, September 4th*! 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 2025-2026 school year will begin on Thursday, September 4th, 2025. 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:

Pre-K: will report to the TCU annex trailers

Grade K-8 Arrival
Grades K-3 enter through Door 1-Gym
Grade 4 enter through Door 2- Gym
Grade 5 – 6 enter through Door #4 and #5- Auditorium
Grade 7-8 enter through door # 10 and #11 on Clifton Road (behind the school).

Dismissal
Parent Pick Up for PreK- at TCU trailer
Parent Pickup for Grades 2 at Door 11- Cafeteria (behind the school). Parent Pick up for Grade 3 at Door 10 – Cafeteria (behind the school).
Parent Pickup for Grades 4-8 at Door 1 – Gym

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

EPS SCHOOL CALENDAR

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 2025-2026 school year, please visit the following link:

Pre-K:
School Calendar Wrap Around Program for 2025-2026.pdf
K-8:
School Calendar for 2025-2026 School Year.pdf

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 2025-2026 school year will be available to view on PowerSchool on *Monday, August 18th*.

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.

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).

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 *Thursday, September 4th* 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.

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.

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.

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Achieving Excellence

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 23rd, 2025.*** Students who do not have the required documentation will be excluded from school as of ***January 5th, 2026.***

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 your child has received the required sixth grade immunizations must be turned into the school nurse no later than ***Thursday, September 4th, 2025.***

Students entering 6th grade with birthdays on or after ***Thursday, September 4th, 2025*** 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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Pre-K:

On the first day of school, please send your child in with the following items:
Change of clothes
Crib sheet and blanket

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

We are excited to begin a new school year and invite parents and guardians to attend our Back-to-School night on:

- **Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 5:30 for PreK (only) in the TCU trailers**
- **Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 6:00 pm for grades K-8 at 612 Pulaski Street**

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 *Thursday, September 4th.*

Sincerely,

Lauerin H. Gareis, Principal