



Estell Manor School District

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Dear Estell Manor School District Families:

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the remainder of the summer days before the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Our team has been working hard over the past three months getting the building, grounds, classrooms, and offices ready for an exciting school year! The school doors will open for all students on **Tuesday, September 7th**. This will be a full day of school.

Our goal, as always, is to maximize instructional learning time within a safe learning environment. At all grade levels:

- Students will attend school five days a week on full day schedules. Our day begins at 9:10 AM and ends at 3:30 PM
- Our school is fully open and near 100% in-person attendance is expected
- Health and safety remain a priority; therefore, our Safe Return Plan remains in place.

The plan will remain in effect as we follow guidelines established by the CDC and those mandated by the State of New Jersey. This includes Governor Murphy's **Executive Order 251: Indoor Mask Requirement for Beginning of 2021-2022 School Year**. The Order reads as follows in regards to mask wearing:

“While masks will be broadly required in school buildings for the coming school year, exceptions will remain unchanged from the 2020-2021 school year, and include:

- *When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;*
- *When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;*
- *When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;*
- *When the individual is under two (2) years of age;*
- *When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering;*
- *When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;*
- *When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals;*
or
- *When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.”*

Social distancing in classroom settings is an important prevention strategy as well. Students will remain three feet socially distanced in the classroom and common areas where practicable. Signs will be placed throughout the building as a reminder to all. We will continue to remain attentive in following guidelines and mandates as the year progresses and will certainly keep all families up-to-date.

Other General Information:

Breakfast and Lunch will be served to all students who want to participate. All meals are free of charge for the 2021-2022 school year for all students. The menu will be posted on our website at the start of school. Please note it is subject to change from time to time.

Transportation – You will receive your child’s bus pass from the transportation coordinator soon. Please arrive at the designated stop at least 10 minutes prior to the pick-up time listed. The time is an estimate that can change depending on what happens prior to your pick up time, especially for the first week or so. Children in fifth grade and younger must be greeted by an adult at drop off. If no one is there, students will be returned to the school to be picked up by a parent/guardian.

Parent Drop off in the Morning:

If you will be driving your child(ren) to school, please do not arrive before 8:50. We are anticipating the buses arriving at 8:45 and would like to limit mixed traffic and long lines if possible. Children can arrive any time between 8:50 and the start of the day. Please drop them off at the front of the building near the kindergarten steps, not the main entrance. For their safety, children should not exit the vehicle until they reach the orange chain and only on the curb-side of the car. A staff member will be out front to monitor and help maintain traffic flow. Please be patient, particularly at the start of school. If you arrive after the start of the school day, you will need to enter through the main doors and sign your child in.

School Dismissal Manager:

The district utilizes School Dismissal Manager. This is an app parents will use when it is necessary to make changes in parent pick-up times. Please look for an email from School Dismissal Manager with specific information coming soon.

Parent Pick Up at the End of the Day:

Please notify the office by 2:30 PM if your child is going to be on the parent pick-up list. Changes made after 2:30 will require you to pick up your child in the main office at dismissal, 3:30 PM. All parent pick-up vehicles will form a line to the rear of the building. The enclosed Parent Pick-up card can be placed on your dashboard to assist the staff in putting child to parent for the first few weeks of school. If a parent/guardian is late for pick-up, students will report to Wildcats Den. A fee may apply.

Wildcats Den:

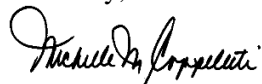
Wildcats Den is our before and after care for all students. It opens at 7:00 AM and closes at 6:00 PM. Students **MUST** be registered to attend. The application and information can be found on the district website in the area called “Quick Links.”

Physicals:

All students participating in fall sports **MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL** to participate. See the district website for forms.

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns. We are here to assist you in any way we can so your child can have a fun, productive school year. Looking forward to seeing all of our children and their families soon!

Sincerely,



Michelle M. Cappelluti, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent