



Roger León
Superintendent

Elliott Street School

Karisa DeSantis, Principal



August 6, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and in good spirits! It's very safe to say that my first two years as Principal of Elliott Street School are ones I will never forget. We have persevered through a global pandemic and have become an even closer school community in spite of physical distance. I am so proud of the collaboration, hard work and dedication that has been exhibited by our Elliott family and I am extremely optimistic for what will come during the 2021-2022 school year. While we continue to face many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest in this nation, one important fact consistently remains true--the residents of our great city of Newark are resilient and possess the grit necessary to overcome any challenges we may face!

I am proud to announce that our Vice Principals Daniel Guerra, Emily Lamboy, Norma Ramos and Cristiana Santos are all back with us at Elliott this year! On behalf of our staff, we are extremely excited to begin the process of restoring normalcy for our students. This is something I did state at the beginning of last year, however we are much closer now to getting back to the world we used to know.

This year remote learning is no longer an option for children. All students must return to school in person for the full school day. For many of our Eagles, this will be the first time they are entering a school building since March of 2020. This means it is our responsibility as educators and families to remind the students of the importance of routines, procedures and of course adhering to CDC guidelines and school reopening plan expectations when they return in September.

Our Safe Return Plan will be discussed with you at a family meeting at the end of August. Our staff is looking forward to getting back to in-person instruction which utilizes paper and pencil along with technology as a learning tool. As a school we are committed to providing high quality instruction including academic interventions, tutoring and social emotional support in order to maximize social-emotional and academic success of all students. I am certain that with your assistance and collaboration we will fill our school with staff and children while maintaining the safety and wellbeing of all stakeholders. **Please read the following information carefully:**

- The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7, 2021. School hours are 8:25 am until 2:55 pm. We will continue to utilize our 6 entrances in order to minimize congestion during ingress. Pre-k and kindergarten students will enter through the upper playground on Elliott Street. First and second grade students will use the main entrance on Summer Avenue. Students in grades 3 through 6 will enter through the playground gates on Elliott Street. Students in grades 7 and 8 will enter through the purple doors on Grafton Street. Students will exit through these same locations at the end of the day. Please do not bring devices with you on the first day of school. You will be informed of when you need to bring your device to school. Please continue to take good care of them at home!
- Student attendance in school is required daily. Students must be on time (arriving to school no later than 8:25 am). Students must be picked up on time daily (no later than 2:55 pm). If your child is going to be absent from school you must inform their teacher and provide the nurse with a doctor's note in order to excuse the absence.
- Safety Precautions: All children and adults are required to wear masks while on school property (including outside) and adhere to CDC guidelines for social distancing. We will continue to utilize our 4 step ingress procedure (symptoms screening, temperature check, foot sanitizing and hand sanitizing) before students and staff enter the building. Please be sure to download the [Activity Scheduler App](#) as this will be used by all students to track their symptoms and should be completed before the child arrives at the school. This will help to speed up our ingress process. Please do not send your child to school with a temperature or if they are not feeling well. They will not be permitted to enter the building. If your child develops symptoms throughout the school day, they will be assessed by the nurse and will wait in our isolation room until they are picked up. Here is our district's [Safe Return Plan](#) for your reference.
- Your child's teacher will be in touch with you before September 2nd to introduce themselves and provide you with the expectations and needs for her/his classroom as well as provide you with your child's schedule. They will inform you of what to bring on the first day of school. Please be sure you update contact information (email, telephone number, and address) on School Mint/Newark Enrolls website--<https://newarkenrolls.schoolmint.net/signin>). All new and returning families must complete this information.



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- Elliott Street School continues to be a contactless school site. Parents/Visitors will not be permitted to enter the school building until further notice. In the event that a parent/guardian needs to pick up their child, we ask that you contact the school ahead of time so that we can facilitate getting the student to the door, where a staff member will greet you and have you sign out the student at the door. Please keep in mind that no student will be released to anyone not listed on the Emergency Contact Form that must be completed and updated on School Mint (see link above). Parents/guardians must also bring a valid ID in order to pick up their child. All parents/guardians must meet these expectations in order for students to be released, as this is a protocol to protect the safety of all students.
- **Back to School Night will be conducted virtually this year and it will take place on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6pm.** More information on this is forthcoming.
- **Face Covering and Uniforms are mandatory in school:**
Uniform code is as follows:
Shirts/Blouses: White **Collared Shirt** and **Pants/Skirts:** Navy Blue **Shoes:** Navy
blue or black close toed shoes are preferred. Clogs, flip-flops or slippers are not permitted **Physical**
Education attire: Navy blue top and bottom are preferred.
- Lunch Applications: Every family is required to complete a lunch application online. Applications must be completed online. Please follow the Newark Public School Website to apply: [Lunch Application Link](#). Our goal is to have 100% of students with applications on file before the start of school.
- Summer Reading Assignments: Please be sure your child reads the book that was assigned to them this summer and completes their summer reading assignment. Assignments were shared on Google Classroom last year and have been posted on our school's website. This will be their first recorded grade for the 21-22 academic year so be sure your child completes the work.

Since information is changing rapidly, I have tentatively scheduled a virtual Q & A session for parents on August 26th at 10:00 a.m. and 6 p.m. I will confirm the date and time with you as it gets closer as well as provide you with the Webex link. I want to ensure you are fully informed on the Safe Return process. **Please continue to check our school website (<https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/ell/>) and our school's Twitter Account @school_elliott for more information as we will be updating them regularly.** I will also be communicating through Robo Calls.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 973-268-5360. You can also email our clerk Ms. Gina Meyer at gmeyer@nps.k12.nj.us or our clerk Miguel Baez m2baez@nps.k12.nj.us. They will get back to you as soon as possible to assist. We thank you for your continued support and commitment towards your child's education!

Respectfully,

Karisa DeSantis

Principal

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Expect more, Achieve more!