



Roger León
Superintendent

Science Park High School

Darleen L. Gearhart, Principal



August 8, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Newark's finest scholars,

Welcome to School Year 2022-2023 at Science Park High School! I am thrilled to welcome you back and introduce myself as the new Principal of Science Park. I have served students in Newark for over 28 years, first as a mathematics teacher at Weequahic High School, then as a Supervisor and later Director of Mathematics for the district, and for eight years as the Principal of Sussex Avenue School. I bring experience at both the school and district levels, a deep understanding of teaching and learning, compelling results and leadership, and a passion for ensuring student success.

Science Park High School has a longstanding tradition of excellence and I plan to uphold the reputation of the school. Our team of motivated teachers is ready to take on this new year and provide an outstanding education for your child. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 6, 2022. School begins at 8:15 a.m. and dismisses at 2:40 p.m.

Please note the additional important dates and times:

- August 15-19, 2022 is Summer Bridge Week for new/incoming students in grades 7 and 9. Bridge week is held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- August 22, 2022 is Senior Orientation from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- August 23, 2022 is Junior Orientation from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- August 24, 2022 is Sophomore Orientation from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- August 25, 2022 is Freshman Orientation from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- September 1, 2022 is a Meet and Greet with parents from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- September 6, 2022 is the first day of school for students from 8:15 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
- September 22, 2022 is Back to School Night from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. This will be in-person.

Starting the first day of school, September 6, 2022, we will use ingress and egress procedures that maximize student safety:

- Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 will enter through the main atrium doors on Norfolk Street (Left)
- Grades 11 and 12 will enter through the middle doors on Norfolk Street (Right)

In the event that a parent/guardian needs to pick up your child, we ask that you contact the school in advance so that we can facilitate the dismissal process, that is ensuring the student is at the door where a staff member will greet you and 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 is completed on School Mint at <https://newarkenrolls.schoolmint.net/signin>. Parents/guardians must also bring a valid ID in order to pick up your child. In order to protect the safety of all students, this protocol must be followed.

Masks are required upon entry to school. We will follow social distancing protocols when possible as recommended by the Newark Health Department. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to



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school. Please do not send your child to school with a fever. High contact surface areas will continue to be sanitized throughout the day. Hydroxyl purifiers are in all areas where there are staff and children.

Everyone reporting to the school building and school grounds (this includes student drop off and pick up) is required to wear face covering and follow CDC guidelines for social distancing at all times to protect the safety of everyone. Signage will be displayed around the school to direct the flow of traffic.

In order to ensure students are safe, exterior doors will remain closed and locked. Visitors will be greeted by a security guard. Metal detectors will be located at all ingress doors in order to ensure your child is safe. In addition, regular perimeter checks will be conducted by security with safety and fire drills conducted on a monthly basis. Know that the safety of your child is my priority.

In order to maintain order and build school spirit, uniforms are mandatory at Science Park High School. Your child should be dressed for success every day with a yellow shirt/blouse and khaki pants/skirts. Black, closed toe shoes are preferred. Clogs, flip-flops, and slippers are not permitted. Students may not wear hats, hoods, sweatbands, bandanas (except for religious reasons), or sunglasses while in the school building. A detailed description about school uniforms and gym attire for Science Park High School can be accessed at <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/SCI/school-uniforms/>

Each family is required to complete an online lunch application. Our goal is to have 100% of students with applications on file prior to the first day of school. Lunch application completion is important as this process helps fund both our school and our district. Free breakfast will be served every morning at 7:30 a.m. and lunch will take place in the cafeteria. Lunch applications can be completed using the following link <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/sba/operations/food-services/lunch-application/>

I am hosting a Meet and Greet for parents on Friday, September 1, 2022 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Science Park High School cafeteria. As your new school principal, I believe it's important that I understand both your needs as a parent and the aspirations you have for your child. The Meet and Greet will also give you the opportunity to understand your principal, both as a person and as an educator. A second opportunity to talk, in addition to many times throughout the school year, will occur on September 22, 2022 at Science Park's Back to School Night. I hope you can make it to at least one of these school community events.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school at (973)733-8689. We thank you for your continued support and commitment towards your child's education!

In Service,

Darleen L. Gearhart

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