



Roger León
Superintendent

Science Park High School

Darleen L. Gearhart, Principal



August 4, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians of Newark's finest scholars,

Welcome to School Year 2025-2026 at Science Park High School, the #1 school in Newark! I am thrilled to welcome you back as we begin my fourth year at Science Park. Science Park High School has a longstanding tradition of excellence and we are continuing to build our programming to ensure your child receives the best education. To that end, we have made tremendous strides in the last three years. Our NJGPA passing rate last year was 100% in English and 99.5% in Mathematics. Our AP passing rate went from 56% in 2023 to 76% in 2024 to 85% in 2025. Our improvement is remarkable as our starting point in 2021 was 44%. In addition, 100% of our IB seniors earned the International Baccalaureate diploma which is unprecedented in Science Park history. To continue to improve and become the #1 school in New Jersey as well as the nation, we need every student in school. *Attendance* is the single, strongest predictor of grades so it is imperative that your child attends school each and every day.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 2, 2025. School begins at 8:15 a.m. and dismisses at 3:05 p.m. Our doors open at 7:30 a.m. and as in previous years, we will provide students a hearty breakfast. Students should bring pens and pencils, highlighters, notebooks, a calendar, an empty refillable water bottle, personal hygiene items, and lunch (if your child does not plan to eat the school-provided lunch). Please note important, upcoming dates:

- August 18-22, 2025 is Summer Bridge Week for students in grades 7 and 9. Bridge week is held from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- August 25, 2025 is Senior Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Junior Orientation from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- August 29, 2025 is Sophomore Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Freshman Orientation from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- September 2, 2025 is the first day of school for students from 8:15 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Starting the first day of school, we will use ingress/egress procedures to ensure 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 a child, we ask that you enter the main atrium doors (Left) on Norfolk Street. Please keep in mind that no student, regardless of their age, will be released to anyone not listed on the Emergency Contact Form. Parents/guardians must also bring a valid ID in order to pick up a child and to enter the building. In order to protect the safety of all students, this protocol must be followed. Visitors will be greeted by a security guard. Metal detectors and bag scanning machines 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



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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. Uniforms are both a district and a school policy and must be adhered to on a daily basis. Your child should be dressed for success every day with a blue shirt/blouse with a collar and khaki pants/skirts. Clogs, flip-flops, and slippers are not permitted. Students may not wear hats, hoods, sweatbands, bandanas, 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/> and information about our sports teams is available at <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/science-park-high-school>

Note that cell phone use is not permitted in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, or any other location other than the cafeteria. Students may only use their cell phone during their lunch period. If a student uses a cell phone outside of the cafeteria, they must turn over their cell phone to security and the parent will pick up the device at the end of the day. For repeat offenders, a student's cell phone carrying privileges may be completely revoked with further discipline.

Each family is required to complete an online lunch application – one application per family. 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 our school. 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 link <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/sba/operations/food-services/lunch-application/>. We also realize that transportation in a city may be challenging. If you and your child live more than 2.5 miles from the school, you may receive bus passes. Please contact Wesley Jenkins at wjenkins@nps.k12.nj.us to assist with bus tickets.

As your principal, I believe it's important that I understand both your needs as a parent and the aspirations you have for your child. Please feel free to stop in or schedule an appointment to discuss how we can help. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school at (973)733-8689. More information is available on the school website at <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/SCI/>, Instagram @nps_sciencepark, and Facebook ScienceParkHigh. We thank you for your continued support and commitment towards your child's education!

In Service,

Darleen L. Gearhart

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dgearhart@nps.k12.nj.us