



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Science Park High School

Darleen L. Gearhart, Principal



August 5, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians of Newark's finest scholars,

Welcome to School Year 2026-2027 at Science Park High School, the #1 school in Newark! I am thrilled to welcome you back as we begin my fifth 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 to 82% in 2026. Our improvement is remarkable as our starting point in 2021 was 44%. We offer a rigorous International Baccalaureate Program, 26 Advanced Placement Courses, Dual Enrollment Coursework with NJIT, internships with Audible, and partnerships with Rutgers Medical School, Montclair State University, NJIT, Rutgers University, the Newark Yoga Movement, and the Jet Black Foundation, among others. 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 8, 2026. 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 24-28, 2026 is Summer Bridge Week for incoming students in grades 7 and 9. Bridge week is held from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- August 27, 2026 is Senior Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Junior Orientation from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- August 28, 2026 is Sophomore Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Freshman Orientation from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- September 8, 2026 is the first day of school for students from 8:15 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
- September 22, 2026 is Back to School Night from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 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, please 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



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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 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. Students are not permitted to use their cell phone at any point in the building. If a student uses a cell phone, 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 which is to be completed 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](mailto: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 schedule an appointment to discuss how we can help. 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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