

Jericho Union Free School District  
**GEORGE A. JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



August 2022

Dear Jackson Families,

A new school year is upon us! As always, we hope that you and your family were able to spend time this summer enjoying the outdoors, exploring different places, and discovering new passions. We are excited to build upon our accomplishments from last school year and continue providing challenging and engaging learning experiences throughout all our classes.

On behalf of the entire Jackson School community, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to what promises to be another productive and successful school year. This information shared here is designed to highlight and explain the routines that will facilitate a successful school year at George A. Jackson Elementary School. Please take time to review this information with your family.

We look forward to seeing all the children on the first day of school, **Monday, August 29**. We are also eager to greet you at our **Meet the Teacher Night** here at the school which is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 13** for all grades. The meeting times for this evening are as follows:

**6:30 PM - Grades 3-5**

**7:00 PM - Special Areas**

**7:30 PM - Grades K-2**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions, or concerns you may have.

Warmest regards,

*Alex Rivera*

Alex Rivera Ed.D.  
Principal

# **PROCEDURES**

## ***Arrival of Students***

- School hours are from **8:25 AM-2:55 PM**...be sure that your child arrives to school on time each day
- **Arrive to school between 8:00 and 8:25 AM**
- Morning lineup locations for students are as follows:
  - Grades K, 1, 2 → Auditorium
  - Grade 3 → Cafeteria
  - Grades 4 & 5 → Gymnasium
- **Arrival of Students by Car**
  - Please note that the parking spots in the front of the building are reserved for handicapped parking only.
  - **Lane 1** - No Parking, Closed (closest to school)
  - **Lane 2** - Drop-off lane for children who leave the car unassisted on the passenger side only. The driver may not leave the car and must exit the driveway immediately after children exit the car.
  - **Lane 3** - Parking lane for parents who need to assist their children or leave their car. Children and driver must exit vehicle on the **driver side**. Driver must accompany any children crossing from this lane.

## ***Electronic "Paperless" Communication***

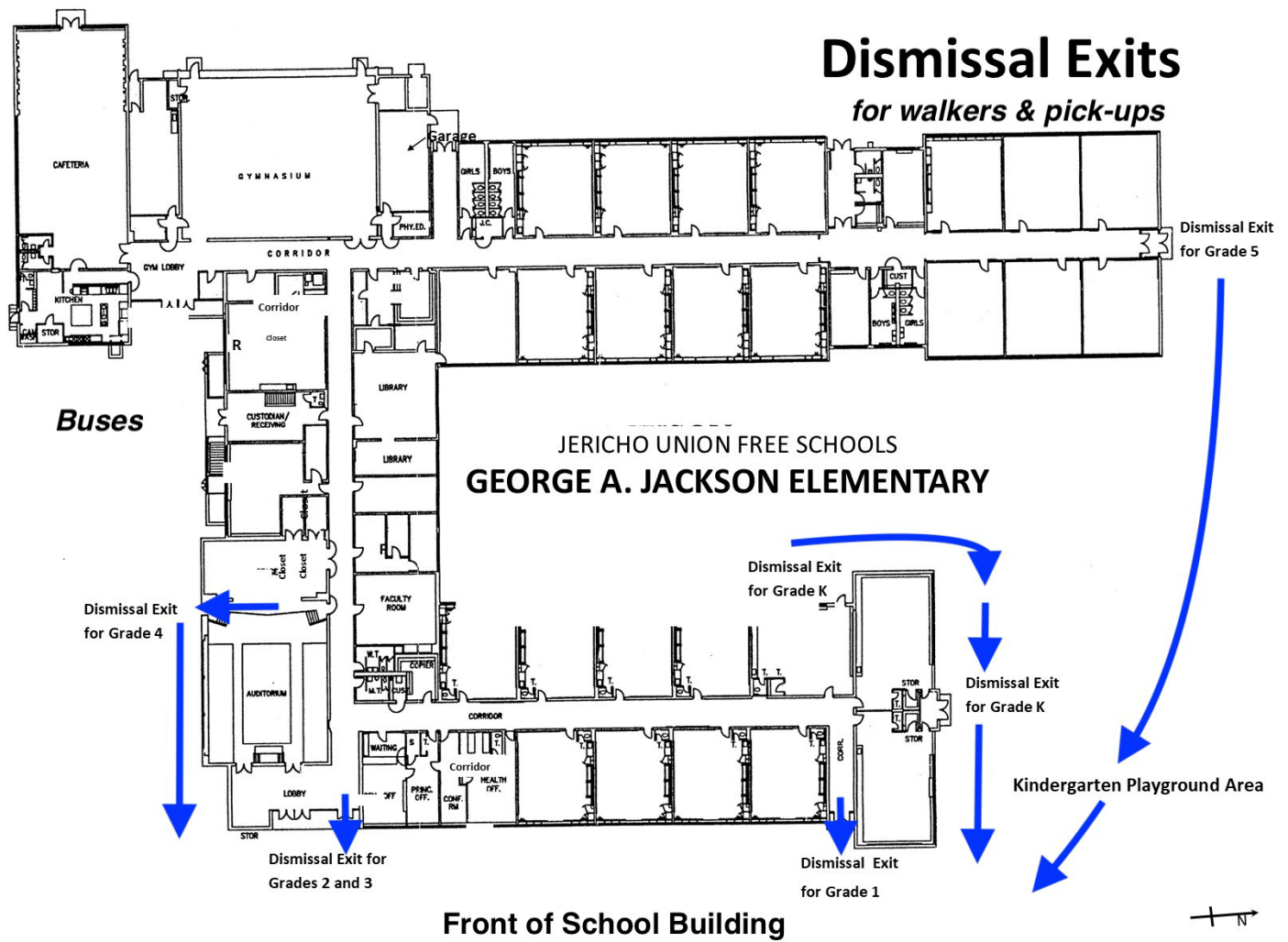
- All school/PTA information is sent out electronically via email. Be sure to check your email daily for updates.
- Please be sure to notify the main office of any change in your email address.
- Parents may e-mail teachers with any questions or concerns (teachers first initial, last name@jerichoschools.org)
- **E-mail should NOT be used** for same day messages such as changes in transportation plans, or reporting an absence, etc.

## ***Electronic Devices***

- Personal electronic devices are not permitted in school or on the bus and should be kept home. Any student needing to call home will be permitted to do so using the main office phone. *Note: All students are provided with a district-issued computer at the start of the school year that can travel to and from school. Students and families are responsible for the proper care of this equipment.*

## ***Dismissal of Children***

- **Bus children** will be escorted to buses from the **rear** of the school. All buses are boarded before any vehicles are permitted to move out of the circular driveway.
- **Since all children are entitled to busing, we schedule all children to use the bus.** Should you decide not to use the bus, either on a regular basis or on occasion, you **MUST** write a note to the teacher indicating how your child will be going home.
- Students who are walkers and/or get picked up from school will exit to the front of the school building via the exit doors indicated below (see the map on the next page). There will be designated spaces where parents can meet their child.



*Photos of each dismissal location*



- Beginning at 2:15 PM the circle will be reserved for **dismissal only**.
- Cars may line up in all three lanes, pulling as far forward as possible with the engine shut off. You will be directed by a staff member when to exit.
- If your child has not entered your car by the time you are directed to exit, you must leave the circle and re-enter. Children will be kept at the school door.
- To protect the children, cars are **NOT** permitted to back out or turn around in the circle.

### ***Playdates***

- Procedures for playdates are as follows:
  - Playdates organized through the school begin on **Monday, September 19.**
  - Playdate notes (grades 1-5) must be sent with the children in the morning.
  - Kindergarten playdates will be on a **pick-up** basis only, no bus option. Please have a note regarding the playdate.
  - **No notes will be accepted after 12 noon**, unless it's an emergency.
  - **Faxed notes, emails and verbal messages will not** be accommodated for safety reasons.
  - Please write **first and last names** of children involved and a parent signature on paper that will not get easily lost.
  - After school club (i.e. SCOPE Cultural Arts) playdates cannot be accommodated.
  - Each student can invite up to **two** students for a specific playdate.

### ***Visiting the School***

- **We ask that visitors schedule an appointment with the school prior to arrival.**
- If you need to come to the school due to an emergency, please ring the bell and enter through the main entrance. You must stop at the office window immediately on the right. Identification **MUST** be presented.
- If you do not have identification such as a driver's license, even if the office staff knows you, you will not be permitted inside the building.

### ***Releasing Children from School***

- No child is released from school to anyone other than a parent/guardian or someone designated **in writing** by you.
- Once the adult escort has arrived and identification has been reviewed, the child will be informed to come to the office.

### ***Absence/Lateness of Children***

- **Absences** - a note or letter is legally required from the parent or guardian indicating the reason for absence.
- A note or letter should accompany the child on the day he/she returns to school. Your cooperation will be very helpful to us in keeping an accurate attendance record for your child.
- **Lateness** - Students must report to the main office for a late pass.
- **It is recommended that dental, medical and other appointments be made at times other than during school hours so that children do not miss valuable school work.**

### ***Children's Lunches***

- Students will have the opportunity to purchase lunch on a daily basis (*Kindergarten families, please take note of the next bullet point*).
- Kindergarten students must bring a bag lunch daily through September 1. The PTA will sponsor a pizza lunch on Friday, September 2. K students may begin to purchase school lunch on Tuesday, September 6 (*no school September 5*).
- A complete meal, including milk, costs \$3.15.
- Milk alone, is \$.50 for chocolate, regular or skim.
- Please send exact change to reduce the wait time on line.
- **Prepaid Lunch Program (Point-of-Sale)** - To limit our contact with money, parents are encouraged to deposit money in their child's food account. See website for details - [www.jerichoschools.org](http://www.jerichoschools.org)
- **Lunch hours:**
  - Grades 1, 3 & 5 - 11:35-12:30
  - Grades K, 2 & 4 - 12:35-1:30

### ***Children's Responsibilities***

- You can help your child develop effective work habits by making sure your child comes to school prepared for their day with the following:
  - Lunch and/or money
  - Snack
  - Sneakers/Physical Education attire
  - Supplies, textbooks, notebooks, etc.
  - Homework
  - Musical instruments

Mid-morning drop-offs of lunch or forgotten items interfere with instruction.

- Valuables are **not permitted** in school such as;
  - Cell phones
  - Electronic devices and games
  - Collectibles

### ***Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences***

- The first term Report Cards will be posted online on December 6.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, December 8 and Friday, December 9. You will be asked about your preference for the conference at Meet-the-Teacher Night.

### ***Technology Program***

- The elements of our technology rich learning environment include:
  - SMART Boards in all classrooms
  - Canvas/Google Classroom
  - A district-provided device (i.e. iPads and Chromebooks)
  - Assorted software programs

### ***Library Program***

- Our school library is online as part of the Nassau BOCES Library Automation and Resource Sharing Service
- Accessed granted through our webpage via [www.jerichoschools.org](http://www.jerichoschools.org).

### ***World Language Program***

- The World Language Exploratory Program includes grades 1-5.

### ***Music Program***

- **General Music Class**- All students K-5 participate in a weekly class.
- **Chorus program** - All students in grades 3-5 are invited to participate.
- **Band and Orchestra** - Optional for Grades 4 and 5. Children may choose to play a musical instrument. We urge you to encourage your youngster to elect to participate in one.

### ***Physical Education***

- Students must wear:
  - sneakers with laces or Velcro straps
  - socks
  - sweatpants/shorts/exercise pants
  - tee-shirts/sweatshirts
- Prohibited items include:
  - Heelys (shoes with wheels)
  - boots/shoes
  - jewelry (small earrings are permissible)

- If a student is not dressed appropriately, he/she will not be allowed to participate in class.
- Any student who is medically excused from physical education class, will not be permitted to participate at recess or in any school sponsored event involving physical education.
- Good sportsmanship, cooperation and teamwork are to be displayed at all times.

### ***Social Emotional Learning***

- We foster a student-centered approach to supporting the social and emotional development of our students. Through a responsive classroom practice, teachers and students work together to create safe, joyful, and engaging classrooms.
- We practice school-wide mindfulness, peaceful breathing, active listening and empathy.
- Students learn effective strategies in dealing with conflict resolution in **all** grade levels.
- We explore literature that emphasizes themes of courage, compassion, honesty, and respect.

### ***Field Trips***

- Jackson PTA is pleased to provide your child with a school T-shirt to be worn on **ALL** school trips (helping chaperones to readily identify students).
- Each year, students entering kindergarten, students new to Jackson, and all third graders will be given a complimentary T-shirt.
- Lost or damaged T-shirts can be replaced by the PTA for a nominal fee.

### ***Pupil Personnel Support Services***

- Jackson's psychologist, **Dr. Stacey Schwartz**, can be reached at 203-3600 ext. 6235. Dr. Schwartz conducts lessons in the area of social/ emotional learning as well as in-class support, individual and group counseling and evaluations. Try to stop by to say hello to Dr. Schwartz at Meet the Teacher Night.
- **Ms. Patricia Ferraro** is the elementary Special Education Facilitator and may be reached at 203-3600 ext. 3840. She is a wonderful resource if you have questions or concerns about special services and if you suspect your child may have a disability.
- **Ms. Shannon Murray**, K-5 Curriculum Associate for Pupil Personnel Support Services may be reached at 203-3600 ext. 6363.

### ***Health Services***

- Jackson Nurse, Ms. Marybeth Medolla, can be reached at 203-3600 ext. 6480

### ***PTA/SEPTA***

- Please join our PTA & SEPTA. Be on the lookout for emails regarding membership and special events. Also, make sure to reference our monthly calendar for additional information.
- Joining our PTA & SEPTA allows you to engage in planning events and programs that support the learning environment as well as the opportunity to connect with fellow families.

***Please Note:*** A State Mandated Emergency Evacuation Drill (early dismissal) is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2022. All students will be dismissed at 2:35 p.m. The letter, including a tear-off which requires your signature will be emailed home. Please sign and return to your child's teacher upon receipt.