



Applegarth School Principal's Newsletter September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Applegarth Elementary School! Welcome to a place where your child can wonder, experiment, grow, share, shine, play, inspire, explore, dream, make friends, have fun, pretend, smile, imagine, practice, and try new things. We hope you and your family enjoyed a relaxing and safe summer. Many thanks to our teachers, paraprofessionals, office staff, custodians, and technology staff who have been busily preparing the school to be ready for our opening on Wednesday, September 6th. Rest assured the staff and administration will be working together to make sure the children have a safe and enjoyable first day of school.

Back to School Night will be held on the evening of Thursday, September 28th. At 6 PM, Grade 5 parents are invited to Back to School Night and at 7:30 PM, Grade 4 parents are invited to their Back to School Night. More information is available on an attachment to this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you at BTS Night!

We have a handful of new staff members to welcome this year. In a combined fourth and fifth grade class we have Ms. Michelle Petito, along with Gina Fatovic, Deepa Joseph, and Lisa DiGiacomo who work with her as paraeducators. We welcome Mrs. Stephanie Spielholz back to Applegarth as our Spanish teacher. Ms. Mary Katherine Nguyen will return as our Assistant Principal on Mondays and we will have Ms. Vicki Fernandes as our Assistant Principal on Thursdays.

Our number one priority here at Applegarth School are the safety, welfare, and education of your child. Each and every student, parent, and staff member is a special part of our Applegarth School community. We encourage you to establish an open line of communication between you and your child's teacher.

Throughout the school year, we will be making a concerted effort to keep you informed through student work coming home to be signed, communication from teachers, the Genesis Parent access program, homework assignment pads, newsletters posted on our school website, the Blackboard Connect phone and email system, and school happenings via Class TAG and/or Class Dojo.

Please take some time to read the important school related information on the following pages.

Lastly, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or me with questions, concerns, and thoughts at (609) 655-0604 or via email. Remember how important your support and involvement are; they are crucial to your child's success. Once again, welcome to Applegarth School for the 2023-2024 school year!

Sincerely,

Dawn Graziano

Dawn Graziano, Principal

dawn.graziano@monroe.k12.nj.us

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.monroe.k12.nj.us>

School Hours - 2023-2024 School Year

Regular School Day 9:05 AM - 3:34 PM

Four Hour Session 9:05 AM - 1:05 PM

Delayed Opening 11:05 AM - 3:34 PM (2-Hour Delayed Opening)

Important Information for Visitors to Applegarth Elementary School

Our school district requires all visitors to identify themselves and state the purpose of their visit upon entering our buildings. Our Security Guard, Mr. Richard Stemming, will be at the front vestibule to assist and screen visitors. Visitors are required to sign in at the office and wear their visitor's badge in a prominent place on their person. Our staff has been instructed to question anyone who is not wearing a badge.

Anyone wishing to sign out a child during school hours must be authorized to do so and must properly identify themselves with a picture ID, such as a driver's license.

Custody Arrangements: There are many types of families in our community and our first and most important interest is in the safety and welfare of your child. If you are a family in which you, the parents, are either separated or divorced, it would be very helpful for us to have the proper legal court documentation in our files to adhere to the proper legal requirements of any agreements set forth by the court system. Please feel confident that all information will be kept in the strictest confidence and will only be available to those staff members making a decision on the release of your child to someone other than yourself. Please be sure that all the court agreements regarding custody are kept current in the school.

School Lunch

You have already received information from our Food Services Department regarding procedures and prices for the upcoming school year. The student lunch for this year will be \$2.65. Other important information can be found on the Monroe Township website under the "Site Shortcut" for Food Service Information.

Back To School Night – Grade 5, Thursday, September 28th @ 6:00 PM & Grade 4, Thursday, September 28th @ 7:30 PM

You are invited to our "Back to School Night" which will be held on Thursday, September 28th at 6:00 PM for Grade 5 and 7:30 PM for Grade 4. This is a great opportunity to visit your child's classroom, meet his/her teacher, and get an overview of our educational programs. Please make time to attend this informative evening.

At our Back to School Nights, the PTA will be selling "Welcome Back Bags." These bags will have a variety of supplies students will need, such as pencils, erasers, etc.

Code of Conduct, Media Consent & Inter-District Travel

Through Parent Connect, the following documents were sent to you for your acknowledgement. Forms are currently available and information about class placements was made available on August 25th.

Travel Permission
Media Consent
Genesis Verification
Code of Conduct
IPM Notification
AHERA Notice
Health Information Questionnaire

Please review the Code of Conduct with your child. These documents may also be found on our website at www.monroe.k12.nj.us; select Applegarth School.

Anti-Bullying Information

The most recent information regarding anti-bullying can be found on the district website at www.monroe.k12.nj.us and will also be available as a link on the Applegarth website. Should you have any questions, please contact us at 609-655-0604.

Information Update

The Monroe Township School District will continue to use an automated communication system. This system enables the district and the school to dispense important information and notifications (e.g. school closings, delays, etc.) to staff, parents and students in a very short time frame – Blackboard Connect is the telephone message relay system we use. **It is, therefore, very important for Emergency Forms to be reviewed and corrected. Please include your current address, home, cell, work and emergency telephone numbers.** It is *very important* that we have up-to-date phone numbers and addresses in case of emergencies, both in our school records and for the Blackboard Connect Network. **The Blackboard Connect program has the ability to send messages via text. If you would prefer to have a text message sent to your cell phone, please be sure that the primary phone number listed for your family is your cell number. The primary number for the Emergency and Verification forms you will be receiving should reflect your cell number.**



PARKING PROCEDURES

Parents and visitors are to use the visitor parking lot located in the front of the school as well as to the right of the school as you face the school from Applegarth Road. A student drop-off lane is located at the end of the sidewalk on the right of the school, facing the school from Applegarth Road.

PTA UPDATES

Book Fair

The PTA will be sponsoring book fairs throughout the year. More information to follow regarding dates..

Trunk or Treat

The PTA is hosting a Trunk or Treat at Oak Tree School on Friday, October 27th. More information to follow.

The PTA is still working on events and activities. As soon as there is information related to meetings and activities, we will be passing that information along.

The PTA is always appreciative of your support and welcomes your participation! Please watch for updates to come from the PTA with more information as to how you can become involved.



Zero Period For Advanced Instrumental Music And Chorus

Applegarth School will begin our programs for Zero Period Chorus and Band mid to late September. You will receive notification regarding the dates, days and times for Zero Period. Zero Period will begin the week of September 18th. Chorus will be held on Monday for Grade 5, Tuesday for Grade 4 and Friday Grades 4 & 5 will be on an alternating schedule. Wednesday and Thursday Zero Period will be held for Advanced Band students.

If your child is interested in participating in the band, please contact your child's teacher, Christopher Ciarlariello (our Instrumental Music Teacher) or the office. Students interested in Chorus for Grades 4 & 5 please contact Lauren Surick (our Music & Chorus Teacher). **Parents must provide transportation.**

Beginning Band Instrumental Music

Students in grade 4 were given the opportunity to review various instruments at the end of grade 3. Students new to Applegarth School in grades 4 and 5 who are interested in participating in the school band will also have the opportunity to join the program. Mr. Ciarlariello will be available to meet with students interested in instrument instruction at the beginning of the school year and will provide the necessary paperwork to rent an instrument. The instruments are provided by and may be rented from Music & Arts. **The instrumental band program will meet during the school day for individual and small group lesson instruction. Zero period rehearsals are only for students in the Advanced Band.**

Our Winter Band/Chorus Concert will take place on Thursday, December 14th beginning at 7 PM at the Monroe Township High School Performing Arts Center. Performing students will travel to the high school the morning of Thursday, December 14th for a rehearsal. More information will be communicated as this date approaches.

School Bus Flashing Lights - Stop!

All residents are reminded that the state of New Jersey requires motor vehicles to **stop** when school buses are loading and unloading student passengers. School buses display red flashing lights whenever they pick-up or drop off students. Also, would you please share the following important rules with your child...



School Bus Safety Rules

1. Be on time.
2. Never run to or from the bus.
3. Stand back from the curb.
4. Don't push or shove.
5. Stay in your seat with your seat belt belted.
6. Don't yell or shout.
7. Always obey the driver.
8. Wait for the driver's signal before crossing.
9. Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
10. Never crawl under a school bus.

Please review with your child the bus rules as outlined in our Code of Conduct. Thank you.

Free Lunch Forms

Information regarding free lunches will be found on the District website under Food Services Information. All necessary information and forms can be found there and completed for consideration.

Detention

Our after-school detention program will be held for one hour after school. Parents of students assigned detention are responsible for their child's transportation home and the necessary signature forms.

Student Council

Grade 5 Applegarth students interested in being a member of the student council will receive information shortly and will begin meeting after the first couple of weeks of school.

School Pictures

School pictures will be taken Thursday, November 2nd. Please watch for further information.

School Library Media Center

Mrs. Hanneken, Applegarth Elementary School's Media Specialist, posts extensive information on the library website regarding library policies, resources and learning tools. Please check the [Applegarth Library website](#) regularly for updates and new information. Applegarth School Library also has a Twitter which can be reached using @21stcentlib. Students have library class once a week and will begin to borrow materials during their second class. The library catalog can be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/monroe.k12.nj.us/aes-library-media-center/home> (or from a link on the website) for browsing and placing books on hold. Mrs. Hanneken can be reached at anastasia.hanneken@monroe.k12.nj.us



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. ESSIG

Welcome back to Applegarth Elementary School. I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing summer. Please see below for some health office reminders for the upcoming school year.

Required Immunizations and Physicals

All new students transferring into Applegarth Elementary School from a private school or another school out of state will need a physical examination completed by their physician. Proof of the exam should be submitted as soon as possible. Physical forms as well as medication forms and asthma action plans can be found on the Applegarth School website on the nurse's page.

Screenings

I will be performing health screenings on all students over the course of the year which includes height, weight, blood pressure, vision, and scoliosis. The screenings done at each grade level are determined by state guidelines. I will notify parents of any discrepancies that I may find after screening each child.

Attendance

If your child will be absent, please enter the absence into the Parent Access symptom online. It is very important to include the reason for the absence on the Parent Access system for tracking and health purposes. If you do not report the absence, a school representative will call your home and emergency numbers to verify your child's safety.

Illness

Please keep your child home when they are sick. Students should not return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Motrin. If Covid-19 positive, please contact the school nurse. Please see the Applegarth School website for more specific guidelines for common childhood illnesses.

Medications

According to New Jersey State law, medications may not be given in the health office without a physician's order and parental consent. This includes Tylenol, Motrin, cough drops and cough medicine. Students also are not allowed to carry medication on their person or transport medication to school. Students determined to be capable of managing their own inhalers in school may carry their medication in school with a Self-Carry Order from their physician and parental permission. Self-carry medication order forms are available in the nurse's office or on the school website. Any medications that need to be kept at the school are required to be dropped off by a parent and have a doctor's note to accompany the medication. All medication forms for the doctor to fill out can be found on the district website under the health office tab. Link below:

<https://www.monroe.k12.nj.us/Page/10655>

Food Allergies

There are many students with food allergies in our school. Please follow your teacher's guidelines when sending snacks into the classroom as many students have dairy, egg and nut allergies. The cafeteria is not nut free so you may send peanut butter in for your child's lunch. However, we ask that you avoid sending snacks into the classroom that contain nuts of any kind. Students requiring a nut free environment in the lunchroom are provided a safe, monitored place to enjoy their lunch upon parents request. Parents of students with food allergies can contact the Food Service Director Cindy Schaller at 732-521-6042 ext. 2042 for specific allergy information for foods available for purchase in the cafeteria.

New Jersey Family Care

New Jersey Family Care is available to eligible families needing insurance for their children. If you would like information regarding this or available Middlesex County based clinics for required immunizations or physicals, please call the health office for information.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child through the course of the year, please do not hesitate to call the Nurse's office and speak with me. Together, we can work out a plan to meet your child's needs in the school environment.

Upcoming School Closings & 4-Hour Sessions

Please refer to the calendar attached to this newsletter.

Students Being Picked Up at the End of the Day

Please be advised that you can sign your child out of school on our Genesis system if you are picking up early. An alert was sent to you with a direction sheet for how to do so. Please read through the document carefully and note that there is a cut-off time for the system.

Let us know if you have any questions.

File attachments:

[Applegarth Pick-Up Using Genesis PDF.pdf](#)

PROGRESS REPORTS & REPORT CARDS

Progress Reports and Report Cards can be viewed by parents through Parent Access. Progress reports will be available to parents sometime in mid-October. The end of the first marking period is November 16th, and report cards will be available to parents on November 28th.

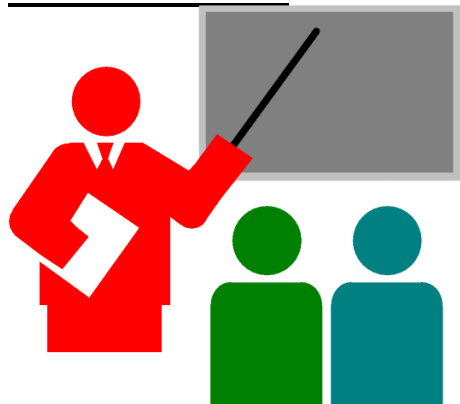
BOOK FAIR

The PTA will be sponsoring book fairs a few times during the school year. More information will be sent home regarding these book fairs.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th and Thursday, October 19th. On Thursday, October 18th, Thursday, October 19th and Friday, October 20th students will have **four-hour sessions** and **no lunch will be served**. Evening conferences will be held on Thursday, October 19th.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK **NOVEMBER 13 - 17**



Applegarth School, like other schools throughout the nation, will be celebrating American Education Week. We are inviting parents and residents to visit our school. We will arrange a schedule to accommodate a visit to your child/children's classroom(s).

On your scheduled day, you may visit your child's class.. All visitors are asked to sign-in at the main office before visiting classrooms. When visiting a classroom please enter and leave quietly so as not to interrupt instruction. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. The schedule for Grade 4 & 5 parents to visit classrooms will be shared with you. More information to follow.

SCHOOL CLOSED

There will be a half-day of school on Friday, September 15th, October 18th - 20th, and Wednesday, November 22nd. Schools will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th.

HOLIDAY SHOP

The PTA will sponsor a Holiday Shop for students to purchase holiday gifts on the evening of Thursday, December 7th and during the school day on Friday, December 8th. More information to follow.

WINTER RECESS

School will be in session for 4-hours on Friday, December 22nd, students will be dismissed at 1:05 PM, and no lunch will be served. School will be closed Monday, December 25th through Monday, January 1st. School will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Calendar

The calendar of events for the months of September, October, November and December are on the following pages. Principal's newsletters will be distributed to you three to four times per year. The next newsletter will be sent to you during the winter months.

CHILD FIND

Potentially Disabled Students

The Monroe Township Public schools is again seeking to identify resident students between the ages of 3 and 21 who may exhibit difficulties with mobility, voice or hearing, visual acuity, physical limitations due to orthopedic or muscle abnormalities, cognitive, language or emotional difficulties. If you have identified a child who resides in Monroe Township with any one or a combination of difficulties listed above, please encourage the parent to contact the Department of Pupil Personnel Services at (609) 642-6128 to schedule an appointment. A member of the Child Study Team will initiate a referral for possible evaluation.

If you have any questions regarding this service, please feel free to call (609) 642-6128 to request additional information.

IPM

In accordance with requirements of the New Jersey Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Act, you can access our required Annual Notice along with a typical IPM policy. Site specific policies for each school are located on the Applegarth website. Please follow this link: www.monroe.k12.nj.us and select Applegarth School. If you would like to see this report, a copy is on file in the main office for your review.



APPLEGARTH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 School Closed For Students Staff InService	2
3	4 SCHOOL CLOSED	5 School Closed For Students Staff InService	6 1 st Day of School for Students	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 4-Hour Session	16
17	18 Zero Period / Grade 5 Chorus	19 Zero Period / Grade 4 Chorus	20 Zero Period / Advanced Band Board of Education Meeting @ 7 PM / MTHS	21 Zero Period / Advanced Band	22 Zero Period / Grade 4 & 5 Alternating Schedule	23 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM
24 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM	25 SCHOOL CLOSED	26	27	28 Back to School Night Grade 5 @ 6:00 PM Grade 4 @ 7:30 PM	29	30 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM



APPLEGARTH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM	2	3	4	5	6	7 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM
8 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM	9 School Closed Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM
15 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM	16	17	18 4-Hour Session for Students Parent / Teacher Conferences Board of Education Meeting @ 7 PM / MTHS	19 4-Hour Session for Students Parent / Teacher Conferences Evening Conferences	20 4-Hour Session for Students	21 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM

22 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM	23	24	25	26	27 PTA Sponsored Trunk or Treat 6 PM / Oak Tree	28 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM
29 PTA Sponsored Fall Festival Red Wagon Farm 10 AM – 5 PM	30	31				



APPLEGARTH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Picture Day	3	4
5	6 School Closed	7 School Closed	8 School Closed	9 School Closed	10 School Closed	11

12	13 American Education Week Begins	14	15	16	17 American Education Week Grade 5 Parent Visitation	18
19	20 Board of Education Meeting @ 7 PM / MTHS	21	22 4-Hour Session	23 School Closed	24 School Closed	25
26	27	28	29	30		



APPLEGARTH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

10	11	12	13 Board of Education Meeting @ 7 PM / MTHS	14 Winter Band & Chorus Students Rehearsal at MTHS for Concert Winter Concert @ MTHS / 7 PM	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 4-Hour Session / Winter Recess	23
24	25 School Closed / Winter Recess	26 School Closed / Winter Recess	27 School Closed / Winter Recess	28 School Closed / Winter Recess	29 School Closed / Winter Recess	30