



Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Jocelyn Rodriguez
Principal

August 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! On behalf of our Team Members at **Donald Stewart School No. 51**, we are excited to welcome you back to school on **Thursday, September 10, 2026**.

We look forward to a year filled with learning and meaningful opportunities for every student and partnering with our families to create a positive and successful school year. Our promise is to provide an innovative and personalized learning environment that ensures that every child achieves excellence.

Please review the following arrival and dismissal procedures to help ensure a safe and efficient start to the first day of school and throughout the 2026-2027 school year:

First Day of School – Arrival and Dismissal Procedures.

First Day of School: Thursday, September 10, 2026

Instructional Hours: 8:20 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please arrive by **8:20 a.m.** At that time, the doors will open for student drop-off. To help students adjust to their daily routine as quickly as possible, teachers will begin classroom activities promptly. We kindly ask that you keep drop-off brief so students can transition smoothly into their day.

Dismissal begins at **2:50 p.m.** Please have a valid photo ID available when dropping off or picking up your child. The doors will close promptly at **3:02 p.m.** To avoid your child being marked late for arrival or dismissal, please arrive on time, as tardiness may affect attendance records.

Parents should use the designated side doors for both drop-off and pick-up. Each classroom has been assigned a specific entrance and exit door for its students:

Rooms:	Arrival & Dismissal (Entrance & Exit):
118, 122, 124, 128	Door #6(Through Pennsylvania Ave.)
131, 135, 139, 141, 145	Door #3 (Through North Broad Street)
147, 151	Door #4 (Through North Broad Street)
119, 123, 125, 129, 142, 146, 148, 152	Large Courtyard (Through Pennsylvania Ave.)
117, 134, 138	Small Courtyard (Through North Broad Street)



Please take the time to visit our district website and the ***Back-to-School*** link at <https://www.epsnj.org/students-and-families/back-to-school-parent-resources> for more information on returning to school. Additionally, many important topics are addressed on the following pages for your immediate review. These topics include **the updated district cell phone policy in accordance with state bell to bell cell phone law, back to school night date, transportation, immunization requirements, student schedules, school calendar, etc.**

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we will make the 2026-2027 school year a successful and rewarding experience for all students. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Thursday, September 10, 2026!**

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Rodriguez
Principal

Back to School Resources Guide

List of School Supplies



On the first day of school, please send your child in with the following items:

- One crib sheet and one blanket (for rest time)
- Two family pictures to display on our family trees in our classrooms (this helps the child feel “at home” in a new environment).
- Two sets of clothes – pants, shirt, underwear, socks (in case of accidents)
- Please be sure to write your child’s name on any of his or her belongings.
- Toys from home are NOT permitted in school.

Back to School Night Information



Place: Donald Stewart School No. 51 in the Multi-Purpose Room

When: October 1, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Transportation



Transportation is available for students who live more than 2.0 miles from the school.

PowerSchool Information



PowerSchool gives families access to student schedules, attendance, grades, and important school information.

- **2026-2027 student schedules will be available on Monday, August 24, 2026.**
- New families should create a Parent Portal account. Returning families should log in and update any contact information or emergency contact information before school begins.
- To obtain instructions on how to navigate the PowerSchool Parent Portal, please visit the EPS website at [Student and Parent Sign In \(powerschool.com\)](https://www.powerschool.com).

School Uniforms



- Students are expected to wear the approved school uniform every day. Uniform requirements for our school are:

SCHOOL	GRADES PRE K - 3 BOYS	GRADES PRE K - 3 GIRLS

**Donald Stewart
School No. 51**

Navy Blue Polo*
Khaki Pants or Khaki Shorts
Navy Blue Socks
Black Flat Appropriate Shoes
Navy Blue Cardigan Sweater*

Navy Blue Polo*
Khaki Jumper* or Khaki Skort
Navy Blue Tights or Navy Blue Socks
Black Flat Appropriate Shoes
Navy Blue Cardigan Sweater*

*All it

Technology



PreK: Our school operates as a 1:1 technology school. Students will:

- Receive a tablet.
- Use the tablet 15 to 20 minutes per day.

New students will not take the tablets home.

Stay Connected!



Please make sure your phone numbers, address, and emergency contacts remain current in PowerSchool throughout the school year. The district uses phone calls, text messages, and emails to share important announcements, emergency notifications, and school updates. To obtain information on how to keep your contact information up to date, please visit the EPS website at <https://www.epsnj.org/students-and-families/back-to-school-parent-resources>.

In addition, please consider volunteering your services and supporting the Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) at your child's school. The PTO provides many opportunities for families within the school community to get involved and *stay connected*.

Required Forms



Please review and complete the required forms by the first day of school, including:

- Emergency Contact Information
- Notice Regarding Physicals
- Media Release Form
- Student Internet & Network Permission Form with Elizabeth Internet Use Policy
- Acceptable Use for Technology – Electronic Mobile Device Form
- Title I Compact
- Lunch Application

In order to obtain access to the required documents that are indicated above, please visit the EPS website at <https://www.epsnj.org/students-and-families/back-to-school-parent-resources>

Immunization Requirements



Pre – Kindergarten - Please be advised that the State of New Jersey, Department of Health Services, has changed several immunization requirements. All children attending licensed childcare centers and preschools are required to receive an annual flu vaccination. Please submit proof of your child's required immunization as soon as possible, but ***no later than November 30, 2026***. Students who do not have the required immunization documentation on file by November 30, 2026, ***will be excluded from school beginning December 1, 2026***, in accordance with New Jersey immunization regulations.



Please be advised that students who do not meet the State's immunization requirements may be excluded from school until the required documentation is submitted. Documentation must be signed by your child's healthcare provider.

2026-2027 School Calendars



**ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

7/3/26	Fri	Independence Day Observance – Schools and District Closed
9/1/26	Tue	New Team Member Orientation
9/3/26	Thu	Opening Day for 10-Month Administrators
9/4 & 7/26	Fri, Mon	Labor Day Weekend - Schools and District Closed
9/8/26	Tues	Schools Open for Administrators, Team Members & Faculty Meetings
9/9/26	Wed	Professional Development Day for Team Members
9/10/26	Thu	Schools Open for Students
9/21/26	Mon	Yom Kippur – Schools and District Closed
9/28/26	Mon	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
10/12/26	Mon	Columbus Day Observance – Schools and District Closed
10/22/26	Thu	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
11/3/26	Tue	School Close at 12:15 p.m. for General Election
11/5-6/26	Thu, Fri	NJEA Convention – Schools and District Closed
11/11/26	Wed	Veterans' Day – Schools and District Closed
11/25/26	Wed	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Thanksgiving Recess
11/26-27/26	Thu, Fri	Thanksgiving Recess – Schools and District Closed
12/7/26	Mon	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
12/23/26	Wed	Schools Close regular time for Christmas Recess
12/24-31/26	Thu - Thu	Christmas Recess - Schools and District Closed
1/1/27	Fri	New Year's Day Observance - Schools and District Closed
1/4/27	Mon	Schools Reopen
1/12/27	Tues	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Parent-Teacher Conference
1/18/27	Mon	Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday – Schools and District Closed
2/8/27	Mon	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
2/15/27	Mon	Presidents' Day – Schools and District Closed
3/2/27	Tues	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
3/10/27	Wed	Schools and District Closed for Eid-al-Fitr–
3/19/27	Fri	Schools Close Regular Time for Easter Recess
3/22-25/27	Mon-Thu	Schools Closed for Easter Recess
3/26/27	Fri	Easter Recess - Schools and District Closed
3/29/27	Mon	Schools Reopen
5/31/27	Mon	Memorial Day – Schools and District Closed
6/1/27	Tues	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Primary Election
6/18/27	Fri	Schools and District Closed for Juneteenth
6/22/27	Tue	Schools Close at 12:15 for Students and Team Members
6/23/27	Wed	Schools Close for 10-Month Administrators

Key

	Schools Closed		Schools and District Closed
	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.	(xx/xx)	Teachers/Students Total Days Per Month

This calendar provides 181 team member days, 180 student days, and 1 Professional Development Day.

In the event that schools must close for inclement weather, etc., days will be made up commencing with June 22, 2027 with an additional day added to the calendar for each day missed through June 30, 2027 to fulfill the legal requirement of 180 days of school attendance for the regular school year. If additional days are needed beyond June 30, 2027 days will come from Easter Recess commencing with March 25, 2027 and working backward from the end of that week.

Administrative offices will remain open until 4:30 p.m. daily except Fridays during summer hours. On Wed., November 25, 2026 all schools will close at 12:15 p.m. for Thanksgiving Recess; administrative offices will be open regular hours and all 12 month employees and all secretaries, security personnel, and custodians will follow their regular schedules.

JULY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
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AUGUST

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3	4	5	6	7
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17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER (16/14)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER (21/21)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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19	20	21	22	23
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NOVEMBER (16/16)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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23	24	25	26	27
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DECEMBER (17/17)

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JANUARY (19/19)

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FEBRUARY (19/19)

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22	23	24	25	26

MARCH (17/17)

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22	23	24	25	26
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APRIL (22/22)

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19	20	21	22	23
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MAY (20/20)

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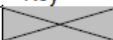
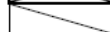
JUNE (15/15)

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**ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR
Wrap-Around Calendar**

7/3/26	Fri	Independence Day Observance – Schools and District Closed
9/1/26	Tues	New Team Member Orientation
9/3/26	Thu	Opening Day for 10-Month Administrators
9/4 & 7/26	Fri, Mon	Labor Day Weekend – Schools and District Closed
9/8/26	Tues	Schools Open for Administrators, Team Members & Faculty Meetings
9/9/26	Wed	Professional Development Days for Team Members
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11/25/26	Wed	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Thanksgiving Recess
11/26-27/26	Thu, Fri	Thanksgiving – Schools and District Closed
12/7/26	Mon	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
12/23/26	Wed	Schools Close regular time for Christmas Recess
12/24-31/26	Thu-Thu	Christmas Recess - Schools and District Closed
1/1/27	Fri	New Year's Day Observance - Schools and District Closed
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2/8/27	Mon	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
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6/18/27	Fri	Schools and District Closed for Juneteenth
6/22/27	Tue	Schools Close at 12:15 for Students and Team Members
6/23/27	Wed	Schools Close for 10-Month Administrators

Key

	Schools Closed	
	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m.	(xx/xx)

Hours of operation for the Wrap Around Program for Preschool Students are: 7:30 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – certified teachers will teach all classes during the regular school day. Licensed Childcare providers will care for students during the wrap-around hours. Monday, September 14, 2026 Wrap Around Program will be available for students attending Schools No. 1, 2, 5, 5b, 7, 16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 50, 51, 52. Teachers will not be present on the following dates: July 1-31, 2026, and August 3-21, 2026.

No wrap-around program will be in session on the following dates: August 24-31, 2026, September 1-11, 2026 and June 22-30, 2027.

JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER (16/14)

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OCTOBER (21/21)

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NOVEMBER (16/16)

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DECEMBER (17/17)

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JANUARY (19/19)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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FEBRUARY (19/19)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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MARCH (17/17)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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APRIL (22/22)

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MAY (20/20)

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JUNE (15/15)

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