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Superintendent of Schools

Colomb Thomas-Petit
Principal

Gabriela Iannacone
Vice Principal

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Principal (Annex)

August 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! On behalf of our Team Members at **Mabel G. Holmes, School No. 5**, 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.

Pre-K:

Students in Pre-K will have breakfast in their classrooms at 8:20 a.m.

- Pre-K 1 & 4 - Pre-K Door (Playground)
- Pre-K 3 & 5 - Cafeteria Doors (Playground)
- Pre-K 6 & 7 - Trailer doors
- Pre-K Annex - School 5 Annex is located at 720 Clarkson Ave – All students will enter through the Main Entrance.

Dismissal (3:00 p.m.):

Pre-K 1 & 4 - Side Door (Across from cafeteria on playground)

Pre-K 3 & 5 - Cafeteria Doors on Playground

Pre-K 6 & 7 - Trailer Doors

Pre-K Annex - Main Entrance

There will be staff members outside to assist everyone during the first week of school.

Kindergarten:

Students in Kindergarten will have breakfast in their classrooms at 8:20 a.m.

- K6, K18, and K19 - Kindergarten Door (Myrtle St.) – Students will line up in front of doors.
- K17 & K14 - Exit 6 (Playground) – Students will line up to the right of the door.

Dismissal (3:00 p.m.)

K17 & K14 - Exit 6

K6, K18, and K19 - Kindergarten Door (Myrtle St)

There will be staff members outside to assist everyone during the first week of school.

Students in Grades 1-8 will have breakfast at 7:45 a.m. Please arrive before 8:10 a.m. to ensure that students will have enough time to eat.

All students participating in the breakfast program will enter through Exit 6 - back door on the playground.

Grades 1-4 Students

- Students will enter the building and meet their teachers in the cafeteria.
- Students arriving after 8:20 a.m. will go directly to their classroom.
- The back doors will close at 8:25 a.m. All students will then enter through the Main Entrance after 8:25 a.m.
- Grades 1 & 2 Exit 5 (Myrtle St) – Students will enter and use Stairwell #5.
- Grades 3 & 4 Exit 6 (Playground) – Students will enter and use Stairwell #1.

Grades 5-8 Students

- Students will enter the school at 8:20 a.m.
- Grade 5 - Exit 5 (Myrtle St) - Students will enter and use Stairwell #5.
- Grade 6 - Main Entrance - Students will enter the front doors and use Stairwell #3.
- Grades 7 & 8 - Main Entrance - Students will enter the front doors and use Stairwell #2.

Dismissal (3:00 p.m.):

- 1st Grade - Exit 4
- 2nd Grade - Exit 3
- 3rd Grade - Exit 2
- 4th Grade - Exit 1
- 5th Grade - Exit 5
- 6th - 8th Grade - Main Entrance

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,

Colomb Thomas-Petit

Back to School Resources Guide

List of School Supplies



Pr-K: Extra Sets of Clothes, Crib Sheet and Blanket, if not potty trained, cleaning essentials
K-8: Notebook, Pencils, Crayons, Folders

Back to School Night Information



*We look forward to meeting parents/guardians at our Back-to-School Night on
September 29, 2026*

5:30 p.m. for Grades **K – 8th** at Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5's Main Building 650 Bayway Ave.
6:30 p.m. for **Pre-K** at the Annex located at 720 Clarkson Avenue.

Transportation



Transportation is available for elementary 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://powerschool.com).

School Uniforms



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNIFORM GUIDE GRADES PRE K-8

SCHOOL	GRADES PRE K - 3 BOYS	GRADES PRE K - 3 GIRLS	GRADES 4-8 BOYS	GRADES 4-8 GIRLS
Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5	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*	Navy Blue Polo* Khaki Pants or Khaki Shorts Navy Blue Socks Black Flat Appropriate Shoes Navy Blue Cardigan Sweater*	Navy Blue Polo* Khaki Pants or Khaki Skort Navy Blue Tights or Navy Blue Socks Black Flat Appropriate Shoes Navy Blue Cardigan Sweater*

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

*All items marked with an asterisk must have the embroidered LEAP logo (neighborhood school emblem).

Technology



K – 8 – Our school operates as a 1:1 technology school. Students are expected to:

- Bring their laptop charged every day.
- Bring their charger/power cord.
- Take proper care of their device throughout the year.

New students will receive their laptops during the first week of school.

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.

Grade 7 - The state of New Jersey Department of Health ***requires*** all students entering the seventh grade to have **one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis vaccine) and one dose of Meningococcal vaccine**. To meet the New Jersey requirements, both vaccines must have been given **on or after your child's tenth birthday**. Documentation that your child has received the required seventh grade immunizations must be turned into the school nurse no later than ***Thursday, September 10th, 2026***.

Students entering 7th grade with birthdays on or after ***Thursday, September 10th, 2026***, must provide written confirmation from your child's healthcare provider of the vaccination appointment. This appointment should be within two weeks of your child turning 10 years of age. The immunization record must be submitted immediately following the appointment. The Elizabeth Public School District is compelled by law to ensure that all students receive their required immunizations.

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.

Updated Cell Phone Policy

Elizabeth Public Schools has adopted an updated cell phone policy in accordance with New Jersey Department of Education Guidelines and state law that, at minimum, requires schools to prohibit the use of

personal internet-enabled devices during the entirety of the school day for students in kindergarten through grade 12. The policy will be implemented as follows:

K-5: Students are not permitted to bring cell phones or devices to school. If brought to school: Cell phones and devices must be checked in the classroom upon arrival and stored securely for the duration of the school day. They will be returned to students at the end of the day. Parents will receive a notification via Class Dojo or School Messenger (PowerSchool) from the school requesting that personal devices be left at home.

Grades 6-8: Students are not permitted access to their cell phones or other devices at school during school hours. Students are encouraged to leave devices at home. If brought to school: Cell phones and devices must be checked in the classroom upon arrival and stored securely for the duration of the school day. Students will re-gain access to their device at the end of each school day.

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.

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SEPTEMBER (16/14)				
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DECEMBER (17/17)				
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FEBRUARY (19/19)				
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MARCH (17/17)				
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MAY (20/20)				
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JUNE (15/15)				
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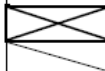
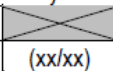
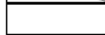
ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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
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
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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 – Schools and District Closed
12/7/26	Mon	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
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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	Tue	Schools Close at 12:15 p.m. for Professional Development
3/10/27	Wed	Schools and District Closed for Eid-al-Fitr–
3/22-25/27	Thu	Schools Closed for Easter Recess
3/26/27	Fri	Easter Recess - Schools and District Closed
3/29/27	Mon	Schools Reopen
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6/1/27	Tue	School 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 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.

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SEPTEMBER (16/14)				
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NOVEMBER (16/16)				
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DECEMBER (17/17)				
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FEBRUARY (19/19)				
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MARCH (17/17)				
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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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