



Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Gina Donahue, Ed.D.
Principal

Maria Vita Guiducci
Vice Principal

Lindsay Walker
Vice Principal

August 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! On behalf of our Team Members at **Christopher Columbus School No. 15**, 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.

The 2026-2027 school year will begin on Thursday, September 10th, 2026. Instruction will be conducted during the hours of 8:20 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In order to help facilitate both a smooth and orderly mode of transition during the times of arrival and dismissal, please adhere to the following safety procedures:

**Students in Grades K-6
will be attending the Christopher Columbus School No. 15 MAIN Building
located at 511 Third Avenue**

TCUs (enter through S. Fifth Street): Kindergarten students in TCU 1, TCU 2, and TCU 3 report directly to their classroom doors.

Door 1 - (S. Fifth Street next to TCUs): 3-111, 3-112, 3-113, and 6-213

Door 2 - (S. Fifth Street closest to Third Avenue): 4-205, 4-206, 4-208, 4-209, and 6-212

Door 4 - (Spencer Street closest to Third Avenue): 2-105, 2-106, 1-108, 1-109, 3-110, and 6-204

Door 5 - (Spencer Street next to parking lot): K-005, 1-101, 2-102, 5-201, 5-202, and 5-203

Students in Grades 4, 5, and 6 (4-205, 4-206, 4-208, 4-209, 5-201, 5-202, 5-203, 6-204, 6-212, 6-213) who would like to eat breakfast in school should enter at 7:45 a.m. through Door 5 and exit through the doors listed above. All Kindergarten through Grade 3 students will have breakfast in their classrooms after they enter the building at 8:20 a.m.

Christopher Columbus School No. 15

511 Third Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 (MAIN)
889 E. Jersey Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201 (ANNEX)

• Ph: 908.436.5730 • Fax: 908.436.5718

Email: donahuegi@epsnj.org Web Page: <https://columbus.epsnj.org/>



**Students in Grades 7-8
will be attending the Christopher Columbus School No. 15 ANNEX
located at 889 E. Jersey Street**

All Students in Grades 7 and 8 enter through Door 1.

Students in Grades 7 and 8 who would like to eat breakfast in school should report to school at 7:45 a.m. and enter through Door 1. Breakfast will be available from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and will not be provided in the classrooms.

***Students will not be permitted on the playground/parking lot prior to or after school hours.**

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,

Gina Donahue, Ed.D.

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Back to School Resources Guide

List of School Supplies



- Backpack (no wheels)
- Clear Pencil Pouch
- #2 Pencils (12)
- 1 Pack of Crayons (24-Count)
- Glue Sticks (2)
- Plastic take-home folder
- Composition notebook (2)
- Highlighter (2)
- Wired Headphones

Back to School Night Information



We are excited to begin a new school year and invite parents and guardians to attend our Back-to-School night on September 29, 2026, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Grades K-6 School No. 15 Main Building – 511 Third Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202

Grades 7 & 8 School No. 15 Annex – 889 E. Jersey Street, Elizabeth New Jersey 07202

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://www.powerschool.com).

School Uniforms



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

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ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Achieving Excellence

SCHOOL	GRADES PRE K - 3 BOYS	GRADES PRE K - 3 GIRLS	GRADES 4-8 BOYS	GRADES 4-8 GIRLS
Christopher Columbus School No. 15	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*

*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



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

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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: Policy: 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: Policy: 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.

Christopher Columbus School No. 15



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every Child, Achieving Excellence

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
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER (18/14)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER (21/21)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER (18/16)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

DECEMBER (17/17)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JANUARY (19/19)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

FEBRUARY (19/19)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

MARCH (17/17)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

APRIL (22/22)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MAY (20/20)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

JUNE (15/15)				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		