



KATHERINE JOHNSON, DOROTHY VAUGHAN, MARY JACKSON

STEM Academy

Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Theodore Panagopoulos, Principal

Barbara Bartlett, Vice Principal

Juan Camilo Metrio Sanchez, Vice Principal

August 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! On behalf of our Team Members at **Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson STEM Academy**, 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: 7:45 a.m. – 2:29 p.m.

Arrival Procedures: Instruction will be conducted during the hours of 7:45 a.m. to 2:29 p.m. 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:

- Student drop-off (**Grades 10-12**) will take place on both S. Broad Street and South Street from 7:10 a.m. - 7:40 a.m.
- Student drop-off (**Grade 9 ONLY**) will take place in front of the JVJ annex located on 417 Union Avenue from 7:10 a.m. - 7:40 a.m.

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,

Theodore Panagopoulos
Principal

JVJ STEM Academy School No. 92

237 South Broad St., Elizabeth, New Jersey 07206 • Ph: 908.409.6330
Email: panagoth@epsnj.org • Website: [epsnj.org/STEM](https://www.epsnj.org/STEM)



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Back To School Resources Guide

Back to School Night Information



Back to School Night will be scheduled at both our Main and Annex locations on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 6:00 o'clock in the evening.

School Uniform



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



CATEGORY	REQUIRED UNIFORM
BOYS Grades 9-12	• Maroon Polo Shirt* • Khaki Pants (Khaki Sweatpants PROHIBITED) • Black Shoes/Sneakers
GIRLS Grades 9-12	• Maroon Polo Shirt* • Khaki Pants/Skirt (Khaki Sweatpants, Tights, Jeggings, Athletic Form-Fitting Shorts/Pants PROHIBITED) • Maroon Cardigan Sweater* • Black Shoes/Sneakers
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	• Maroon T-Shirt/Sweatshirt* • Maroon Mesh Shorts* or Maroon Sweatpants* • Black Sneakers

* All items marked with an asterisk must have the STEM Academy logo.

** Khaki shorts/skorts/skirts may be no more than 4" above the knee and may only be worn in September, October, May, and June.

Families for whom obtaining the school uniform is a financial hardship are advised to contact the school main office for guidance.

Transportation



Transportation is available for high school students who live more than 2.5 miles away from our school.

Graduation Requirements



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Both the State of New Jersey Department of Education and the Elizabeth Board of Education require that all students meet high standards in order to receive a high school diploma.

Please visit the EPS website at <https://www.epsnj.org/students-and-families/back-to-school-parent-resources> and refer to the **“Graduation Requirements”** symbol to obtain pertinent information regarding graduation requirements.

Technology



Our school operates as a 1:1 technology school; as a result all students will continue to utilize a *laptop computer* for daily classroom practices. *All students are required to bring their **fully** charged laptops and chargers to school daily.*

New Entrants: All new students will receive their laptop 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>. And refer to the **Stay Connected** symbol. 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*.

PowerSchool Information – Parent/Guardian and Student



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 \(powerschool.com\)](#).

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

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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>

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:

Grades 9-12: 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 stored in their locker upon arrival and stored for the duration of the school day. Students will re-gain access to their device at the end of each school day.

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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 (16/14)				
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		

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 (16/16)				
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
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		