



John E. Dwyer Technology Academy

Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Sulisnet Jimenez, Principal

Sharon Calixto, Vice Principal

Elliott K. Johnson, Vice Principal

Michael Stephen Robel, Vice Principal Annex

August 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! On behalf of our Team Members at John E. Dwyer Technology 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: 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:

- Once students arrive to school, they will not be permitted to leave the premises. Classroom instruction begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. It is extremely important to drop off your child by 7:15 a.m. to allow adequate time for the student to go to his/her locker and report to their 1st Period Class by 7:45 a.m. to maximize their optimal learning experience.
- Students who arrive late invariably disrupt the educational process. Please refer to the student handbook regarding all tardy and attendance rules and procedures.
- As an important reminder to everyone driving, the speed within the designated parameters of our school should not exceed the limit of 25 mph. Traffic tends to back up, so please plan to drop off and pick-up your child accordingly and drive safely.
- Please know safety is of the utmost importance to us. Upon entering the building, all visitors must report to the security desk, sign in, show proper photo identification, receive a visitor's pass (if permitted, visitors must wear a mask), and then report to the main office where a secretary will assist them. Only individuals listed in PowerSchool will be allowed to pick-up the child. No parents/guardians or unapproved guests are allowed inside the classrooms.
- Any student who accumulates more than nine (9) absences during the school year, in a subject area, may have credit for that course withheld even if absences are medically excused.
- Approximately every five weeks (8 times per year) either a progress report or a grade report will be mailed home. Each report lists important information. Class attendance and tardiness are also noted in both reports. Throughout the school year, please help us to stay on top of



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your child's attendance and tardiness. Guidance counselors and administrators are available to meet with you throughout the school year. Please call ahead for an appointment to discuss your concerns.

- Policy file code: 5131.6 All students should be aware that school authorities will take all reasonable steps to prevent the possession and use of drugs, alcohol, steroids, or tobacco on school property and to apprehend those who possess, use, or distribute drugs, alcohol, steroids, or tobacco. These steps will include: Locker and desk searches when there is reason to believe that inspection is warranted. 1st offence; 3-day suspension, 2nd offence; 5-day suspension, 3rd offence; 7-day suspension.

On **Thursday, September 10, 2026**, the students will be allowed to enter the building at 7:15 a.m. if they wish to eat breakfast. Upon arrival, students will report directly to the school cafeteria.

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,

Sulisnet Jimenez

Principal

Regular Bell Schedule	
Period 1	7:45am-8:32am
Period 2	8:36am-9:23am
Period 3	9:27am-10:14am
Period 4	10:18am-11:05am
Period 5	11:09am-11:56am
Period 6	12:00pm-12:47pm
Period 7	12:51pm-1:38pm
Period 8	1:42pm- 2:29pm

Homeroom Bell Schedule	
Period 1	7:45am-8:32am
Homeroom	8:36am-8:46am
Period 2	8:50am-9:35am
Period 3	9:39am-10:24am
Period 4	10:28am-11:13am
Period 5	11:17am-12:02am
Period 6	12:06pm-12:51pm
Period 7	12:55pm-1:40pm
Period 8	1:44pm- 2:29pm

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Back To School Resources Guide

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:

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026

John E. Dwyer 9th Grade Academy (Annex): 6:00 p.m. - 227 Centre Street

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy (Main): 7:00 p.m. - 123 Pearl Street

School Uniform



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

SCHOOL	BOYS	GIRLS
Dwyer Academy	Green Polo/Oxford Shirt* Black Pants Black Socks Black Flat Appropriate Shoes Black Cardigan Sweater*	Green Polo/Oxford Shirt* Black Pants/Skirt Black Tights or Socks Black Flat Appropriate Shoes Black Cardigan Sweater*

*All items marked with an asterisk must have the embroidered school's logo.

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. You will be able to apply during both 9th and 10th grade orientation days, and during back to school. You will be part of an elite group of parents that will have 24/7 access to school administrators through the REMIND APP, our PTO President is Mr. Castro. We hope you join us!

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

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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>

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 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.