



Admiral
William F. Halsey, Jr.
Health &
Public Safety
Academy

Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Veronica Vega, Principal
Donald Steup, Vice Principal
Chrystal Rinehold, Vice Principal
Tanya Tenturier-Brinkley, Vice Principal (Annex)

August 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! On behalf of our Team Members at **Admiral William F. Halsey Jr 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 upmost 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. Only individuals listed in PowerSchool will be allowed to pick-up the child. No parents/guardians or unapproved guests are allowed inside the building.
- 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 your child's attendance and



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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,
 Veronica Vega
 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



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:
Tuesday, September 29, 2026

School Uniform



Halsey Academy

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

Navy Blue Polo Shirt*
 Khaki Pants/Skirt
 Navy Blue Tights or 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

Transportation



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

Graduation Requirements



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.*

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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

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](#)



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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. 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.

Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy

UNIFORM SCHEDULE

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR THEIR UNIFORM AND SCHOOL ID DAILY AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY AND SCHOOL PRIDE.

John Smith
PE: 4
L: 5
2026-2027
ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HALSEY ACADEMY — SCHOOL UNIFORM —

TOGETHER WE LEARN. TOGETHER WE LEAD. TOGETHER WE SUCCEED.

TOPS		BOTTOMS	
NAVY BLUE POLO SHIRT*	NAVY BLUE CARDIGAN SWEATER*	KHAKI PANTS	KHAKI PANTS/SKIRT

SOCKS & TIGHTS		SHOES	
NAVY BLUE SOCKS	NAVY BLUE TIGHTS OR SOCKS	BLACK FLAT APPROPRIATE SHOES	NAVY BLUE CARDIGAN SWEATER*

* Polo shirts and cardigan sweaters must have the Halsey Academy logo.
All students are expected to be in full uniform every 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.		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 (18/18)				
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 (18/18)				
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		