

Egg Harbor Township Schools

Central Administration Offices

13 Swift Drive • Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

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August 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On behalf of the staff of the Egg Harbor Township Schools, welcome to Kindergarten! We are very excited about the start of the school year and look forward to getting to know your child and family. You are joining a well-rounded school family and we are honored to have you become part of our learning community. Each stakeholder plays an important role in your child's education and we thank you in advance for your participation and support.

For the 2019-2020 school year, Kindergarten students will begin school with a new focus to support their social emotional needs. For some of our students, entering into Kindergarten can be stressful and intimidating. Which is exactly why we are approaching our new students differently this year. We believe in the importance of building relationships and supporting the whole child to ensure success. It is our intent to take from September 5, 2019 through September 13, 2019 to build an early childhood learning community for all of our learners through a gradual transition program into our schools.

The transition program will allow for all Kindergarten students to get to know the Kindergarten staff and their peers. For us, it is important for our new students to transition into school feeling safe, secure, and building positive and long-lasting relationships. During the gradual transition, students will:

- Celebrate the Kindergarten community by getting to know teachers, the building (tours), classrooms, and their peers
- Engage in exciting activities: group read aloud, book talks, crafts (self-portraits, name activities, etc.), games (rhyming, letters, shapes), and much more
- Begin learning school rules, procedures (safety drills), and how to navigate throughout the building

While students are interacting with the Kindergarten teacher teams and their peers, staff will get to know students better to learn their individual needs to better support their academic career, while they transition into a formal educational program setting. By Friday, September 13, 2019, we will have assigned all students into heterogeneously grouped classes to ensure there is an appropriate mix of ability levels. You will be communicated with regarding the classroom teacher's name once class lists are created. On Monday, September 16, 2019, all Kindergarten students will begin attending one classroom with the same teacher and peers for the remainder of the school year.

Early Childhood Team

DAVENPORT	SLAYBAUGH	SWIFT
<u>Building Administration</u> Dr. Phillip Heery – Interim Principal Rachel Prakash – Assistant Principal	<u>Building Administration</u> Joseph Marinelli – Principal Doris Borne – Assistant Principal	<u>Building Administration</u> Joetta Surace – Interim Principal
<u>Teachers</u> Ms. Gayle Caberto Ms. Jennifer Meyer Ms. Andrea Nicholson	<u>Teachers</u> Ms. Kristi Barnes Ms. Joanna Culmone Ms. Kaylee Kaenzig Ms. Brittany McCreesh	<u>Teachers</u> Ms. Alissa Lee Ms. Tracy Mortara Ms. Melissa Newhall



E. H. T.
Every Hand Together
Every Child Every Day!

Important information to be aware of during September 5, 2019 through September 13, 2019

- There is an assigned color sticker on this letter that matches the colored sticker on your student's bus pass. This colored sticker will be used to organize students for when they arrive to school each day. The Kindergarten teachers will be present to organize the same group of students each day to escort them to the Kindergarten classrooms.
- Students will only rotate once per day to a different teacher so that they can continue to build relationships with all.

Lastly, you are invited to attend an information session on Monday, August 26, 2019. We will be holding two sessions, one at 8:30am and another at 6:30pm in the Board of Education Room at Alder Avenue Middle School. The intent of these sessions is for staff to fully explain the gradual transition program and to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

We are committed to serve our students and families by fostering a learning community, building relationships, and addressing social emotional concerns prior to the start of introducing curriculum to our Kindergarten students. We believe this approach will help transition our new learners slowly and allow for them to become fully integrated within our schools. Through this transition, it is our goal to build trusting and lasting relationships with you as partners to support your student's success.

If you are unable to attend an information session, please feel free to contact us via phone or email to address your questions or concerns. Once again, we thank you for your time and support as we embark on this journey together.

Sincerely,



John Davis
Assistant Superintendent
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