

Jefferson Elementary School

ROXBURY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Corn Hollow Road Succasunna, N.J. 07876 (973) 584-8955
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August 17, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are enjoying the final days of summer vacation. I am very excited to see our Koalas back to school in September. As we diligently prepare for the new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to review some important details to assure the transition into the 2021-2022 school year is seamless. You will be receiving district communication from the Superintendent regarding the latest Covid 19 protocols. Please be sure to read all communication from the district carefully and feel free to reach out to me for any clarification.

Important Dates to Remember in September

JES Open House	August 26, 2021	10:00am - 2:00pm Kindergarten Meeting 10am or 1pm in Cafeteria
First Day of School	September 1, 2021	Drop off begins at 8:50 (K-4) Drop off begins at 8:40 (PreK)
Labor Day	September 6, 2021	Schools Closed
Rosh Hashanah	September 7, 2021	Schools Closed
Yom Kippur	September 16, 2021	Schools Closed
Back to School Night	September 22, 2021	7:00-9:00 pm (TBD)
School Pictures	September 27, 2021	During the School Day

District Communication - Genesis

To continue to be an active part in reducing our carbon footprint, Roxbury Public Schools will continue to communicate through the district website www.roxbury.org and the Genesis parent portal as a means of communication. It is essential that you carefully read and complete the required forms and documents on the Genesis parent portal.

District Communication- Blackboard

The district's new communication system, Blackboard, will be used to announce delayed openings, early dismissals, and general events related to the district. Please make sure your contact information and preferences are up to date in Genesis. Directions on how to access your account can be found on the district's homepage, or by clicking on the link.

<https://www.roxbury.org/roxbury>

JES Information

Along with the district website, the Jefferson School website will provide an updated calendar of events, activities, and PTA information specific to Jefferson School. To access the school website click on the provided link: <https://www.roxbury.org/Domain/12#>, or through the district homepage, select "Jefferson Elementary School" which will lead you directly to our homepage. In addition, weekly communication will be emailed home through our weekly newsletter the "The Week at a Glance" that will include PTA and school-wide announcements.

*Please note that school-specific information is not included on the district calendar, so please be sure to check out our school website frequently.

Visiting Jefferson School

All visitors to Jefferson School must enter the building through the main entrance, which is through the first set of doors as you enter the parking lot. For the safety and security of all students and staff, all doors to the building will remain locked. When arriving at the front door, ring the bell and the main office will open the door electronically. If you are picking your child up, please be prepared to show identification. If you have an alternate person assigned to pick up your child, please inform the school ahead of time and inform the designated adult assigned to pick up your child that they must present identification as well.

Class Placement/Bus Assignments

Class placements will be available on Friday, August 20, 2021. Families will be able to access, via Genesis, the finalized placements, and transportation information. This information will ONLY be available if all of the required documents have been completed and/or acknowledged in the Genesis parent portal; until then, all placement and transportation information will remain locked in Genesis. If you are having difficulty accessing and/or completing the documents in the Genesis parent portal, please feel free to contact the main office for support at 973-584-8955.

School Hours Grades K-4

Arrival begins at 8:40 for Preschool and 8:50 for Kindergarten through Grade 4

Instructional day is from 9:10 -3:10 for Grades K-4

Dismissal is at 1:40 for Preschool and 3:20 for K-4

As we prepare for dismissal and ensure that all students are dismissed according to the parent requests, we ask that between 3:00-3:20, parents not pick their children up in the main office and wait for regular dismissal.

Tardy Students:

Any students arriving after 9:10 will be considered tardy. At that time, a parent or guardian must escort the student to the main office and sign them in.

Attendance

As per our attendance policy, students must make every effort to attend school if they are well. Please send in a doctor's note to receive an excused absence. If a student accumulates the following number of unexcused absences, the following may occur;

- ❖ 5 Unexcused Absences: letter home
- ❖ 10 Unexcused Absences: letter home, possible I&RS meeting with the principal
- ❖ 15 Unexcused Absences: letter home, I&RS meeting, possible referral to state agencies for truancy

If a child does not attend at least 150 days of school, they will repeat the grade level.

If your child will be absent from school please report the child's absence in Genesis. Absence verification is required every day of the child's absence.

Arrival Procedures

- ❖ The front doors will be the only entrance open during arrival. Walkers must enter the second set of front doors by the Gymnasium. Only preschool and students riding the bus will enter the first set of doors by the Main Office.
- ❖ To maintain an orderly environment, we appreciate your understanding that parents/guardians may not accompany their children to classrooms. This includes the first day of school.
- ❖ Any student arriving after 9:10 am is considered late and must be escorted to the main office by a parent or guardian to sign your child in.
- ❖ Due to heavy traffic in our driveway every morning we do not want students walking between cars. We ask that all automobile traffic follow the car lane (the lane closest to the road as you pull in the parking lot. The lane closest to the school is only for busses and Preschool parents. All students must exit out of the passenger side door to avoid having them walk in the road.

- ❖ If you must get out of the car to help your child, please do not stop in the drop-off area to do so. Please pull into the lower lot, park your car in the lot, and walk your child to the front door by the Gymnasium. Our driveway is a one lane road, and no one should ever pass to the left of any busses or cars that are dropping students off.

Bikers:

Any students that wish to ride their bikes to school can use the bike rack located in the Playground area by the Gymnasium entrance. To avoid any accidents, bikers should walk their bikes once they arrive on school property. Bike riders should bring their helmets into the classroom with them.

B.A.S.E.S.:

All students attending the BASES program will enter through the cafeteria doors by the driveway in the back of the building and remain in the cafeteria until 8:50. At 8:50, they will be sent directly to their classrooms.

Dismissal Procedures

Buses:

- ❖ All children taking the bus will remain in their classrooms until their busses are called. Staff members will monitor all bus lines. We ask for your patience during the first week, or so, if the buses run a bit late.
- ❖ **Children are not permitted to ride any bus other than their own for any reason, even if a note is provided.**
- ❖ For any change in the pickup routine, please notify your child's teacher and the main office as soon as possible.

Walkers:

- ❖ A written request for students to be picked up at dismissal on a regular basis needs to be submitted at the beginning of the school year.
- ❖ All walkers will exit at the second set of doors by the Gymnasium end of the building. Dismissal for walkers will begin at 3:20 calling students by grade beginning with Kindergarten-Grade 2 students.
- ❖ Staff members will be present signing students out.

- ❖ Parents/guardians picking students up will be required to present identification until recognized by the staff member. The identification must match with the pickup name given before signing the student out. Any discrepancies in the pick-up information will be directed to the main office. Always carry your ID!

BASES:

- ❖ All students attending BASES will be sent to the cafeteria upon dismissal.

Health Information

COVID 19

One of the biggest things that you can do to help keep our community safe is NOT to send your child to school if they have cold or COVID-19 related symptoms. This includes NOT administering a fever reducer in the morning to help your child make it through their day. If in doubt, please keep your child home. Please know that if your child is symptomatic, you will receive a call and be required to pick up your child IMMEDIATELY.

Asthma/Allergies: To maintain a school that provides a safe environment for all students and staff members, Jefferson School will remain **fragrance-free and latex-free**. We are asking that all staff, students, and parents who visit and/or volunteer at Jefferson School be sensitive to this request. Anyone who arrives at Jefferson School with a strong scent of perfume or lotion may be asked to leave to avoid triggering an asthma attack and/or allergic reaction in any of our students. Furthermore, no latex balloons will be allowed for any reason. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation in this matter.

Reporting an absence: If your child is absent from school please report the child absent through the Genesis System. Absence verification is required every day of the child's absence.

Medication: Any medications must be delivered to the school nurse by an adult, along with the written physician's orders. Please do not send medication to school with your child.

Lice: In an effort to reduce the incidences of head lice, we are asking that you take the time before sending your student(s) back to school, to do a thorough head check to determine if there is a possibility of a head lice infestation.

Please consult the district website under the "Nursing Health Services" tab under the informational pages for a complete guide to head lice.

Remember, having a lice infestation doesn't mean you or your family are dirty. Lice can be an unfortunate event when people are sharing grooming tools or in close contact at camps, clubs and sleepovers.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping this nuisance out of our school.

Lunch

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Roxbury School district will be provided lunch through [Maschio's Food Services](#). At this time lunch will remain free for all students.

School Celebrations

The four elementary schools will continue to have **food free** seasonal classroom parties. If there are any changes to this procedure, a food permission slip will be sent home.

Birthday Recognition

We will continue the procedure of not celebrating birthdays with a party. Each day we will recognize students who are celebrating a birthday during the morning announcements. These students will be called to the main office to choose a book and receive a birthday pencil. Summer birthdays will be recognized throughout June.

Party Invitations

We will continue the procedure of party invitations being sent out from home. The PTA usually facilitates a resource to connect families, so please keep an eye out for that communication.

Dress Code

Please dress students appropriately for the weather and ensure that your child has the proper outerwear for recess. Open toe shoes and flip-flops are not permitted in school for safety reasons. Children must wear sneakers to participate in physical education classes or to use the playground equipment. Hats are not to be worn indoors; students may wear hats for outside activities.

Electronic Devices/Cellular Phones

Cell phones and other electronic devices not issued by the district are not permitted in school. If your child has a cell phone, or another device, please be sure it is off and put away safely so that they do not have it confiscated by the school staff during the day. If it is taken during the school day, a parent or guardian will need to come in to retrieve the item.

Thank you for reading through all of the information carefully. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. We are looking forward to a GREAT school year!

Sincerely,
Melissa Cosgrove
Principal, Jefferson School