

ET Hamilton Elementary School

August 15, 2024

Dear Hamilton Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope your summer has been enjoyable and that you are able to enjoy the last few weeks in the sun! Throughout the summer here at Hamilton, the staff, maintenance, HPFA parents, and I have been working very diligently to prepare the school for another safe and successful year. Summer is full of so much excitement as we make sure we are ready to greet all of you in September!

Special thanks to all the staff who worked with some of our students in our summer learning academy programs. Also, to Mr. Mathes (Director of Buildings and Grounds), Mr. Higgs (Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds), Ms. Daley (Hamilton Building Foreman), and her amazing crew for all their hard work and time spent on keeping our building “in order”, as well as additional areas of improvement that we have been focusing on. As always, procedures are being implemented to ensure the best possible conditions for your child’s return to school. **On August 26th, you will receive an additional news blast titled “Hamilton School Operational Procedures.”** That communication will include specifics on procedural guidelines for things such as lunch and recess times, safety precautions, arrival and dismissal information, main office visits, etc.

Class Assignments for the 2024-2025 School Year...

I know receiving your child’s teacher is incredibly exciting. I can remember driving to my school building, as a kid, to look at the class lists hung on the school doors! Our staff spent countless hours working on these lists. We work incredibly hard to make a class that has a balance of learning styles, academic needs, etc. We also make sure our students will feel comfortable with the teacher and friends in the class. It is a lot to look at! As I communicated in the spring, I value parent input and looked at it closely. However, many parent requests could not be accommodated. Please understand our class lists are set in place.

Class assignments will be posted on the Parent Portal on **Thursday, August 22, after 3:00pm**. To have access to the Parent Portal, there are forms that must be completed in Genesis. **All forms will be available in Genesis on Monday, August 19th, and must be completed and submitted prior to parents/guardians having access to important transportation and class assignment information that will be available that week.**

Our first day of school, **Thursday, September 5th**, is a full day from 9:00am – 3:25pm.

Staff Welcomes and Updates

Please join me in welcoming the following “new” staff:

- Ms. Carley Rettberg (Fourth Grade Teacher)
- Ms. Chrissy Blizzard (Technology Specialist)
- Ms. Sam Siddall (Long Term Substitute)

We also have some exciting movements within our building this year. Mrs. Ellen Carbonaro is beginning the role of reading specialist and Mrs. Kasey Stevens is taking over as our basic skills teacher.

We are looking forward to working together with all our new staff members!!!

Kindergarten Orientation on Wednesday, August 28th

Kindergarten parents and students will get to meet their teacher and visit the classroom during orientation on **Wednesday, August 28th**. Letters with orientation times and specifics have already been sent home.

Wednesday, 8/28 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. for Mrs. Borie and Ms. Kaighn

Wednesday, 8/28 from 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. for Mrs. Deaugustine and Mrs. Starobinets

All Kindergarten students and parents should arrive through THE MAIN ENTRANCE. Students will go to their classrooms with their teacher and parents will be invited to the All Purpose Room for a brief orientation before joining the kids in the classroom.

Important Information

Once the school year begins, I will be emailing weekly newsletters to keep you updated with important information and dates of upcoming events. I hope that this will be an effective way to communicate with families throughout the year about important events.

On Monday, August 19th (at approximately 2 p.m.) the district will post forms on the Genesis parent portal to eliminate the papers that are sent home on the first day of school. All forms must be completed and submitted prior to parents/guardians having access to important transportation and class assignment information that will be available next week. The forms to be completed are as follows:

- *2024-25 Health Form*
- *Food Service/Lunch Information*
- *Free & Reduced Lunch Application Notice*

- *Military Affiliation*
- *NJ Nutritional Snacks in Schools*
- *PFA Consent to Share Email*
- *Parent Policy Review*
- *School Safety*
- *Student Handbooks*
- *Student Technology Use & Internet Safety Contract*
- *Technology/Media Consent*
- *Voorhees Elementary iPad Agreement (elem only)*
- *Voorhees Middle School iPad Agreement (VMS only)*
- *Contact Verification*

If you have trouble accessing the parent portal use Forgot Password for a reset or email helpdesk@voorhees.k12.nj.us for login support. Please include your child's name, school, and grade level in the email so we can assist you more effectively.

How to access and complete forms:

Please log into the PARENT PORTAL at parents.voorhees.k12.nj.us. Select the FORMS tab to access a list of forms. Select a form identified as a blue underlined link in the first column and complete all fields, select UPDATE ANSWER, check FINALIZE and select UPDATE ANSWER one more time to complete the process. Repeat this process for every form. You will see a list indicating when a form is completed. Once the answers are finalized changes cannot be made. Parents will need to call the school secretaries to have this information edited.

If you need to print any of the information, use CTRL + P or Command + P

Thank you for your support and assistance in completing this information.

Food Service / Free and Reduced Lunch Information

Through the National School Lunch Program, healthy lunches will be available every day. Information regarding the application for Free and Reduced Lunch is available on our district website under the food services tab (<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/domain/40>). Information regarding the school lunch

payment portal, lunch menus, and food allergies can be found under the food services tab as well.

Back-to-School Night – Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Our Back-to-School Night presentations will take place as follows:

Grades K and 1st from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Grades 2nd and 3rd from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 4th and 5th from 7:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. (Homeroom Teacher)

Grades 4th and 5th from 8:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Math Teacher)

Additional details will be provided once school begins.

Hamilton Parent Faculty Association (HPFA)

The Hamilton Parent Faculty Association (HPFA) is an organization of dedicated and caring parents and teachers who volunteer their time and effort to make their children's school days as rewarding and fulfilling as possible. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member, please plan to attend the first meeting, in the school library, on **Tuesday, October 15th at 7:00 p.m.** or by contacting a member of the HPFA board at ethpfa@gmail.com.

HPFA Board of Directors

- **President** - Kelli Solomkin
- **Co-Vice President**- Megan Santanna
- **Co-Vice President** - Danielle Wark
- **Co-Secretary** - Jennifer Pocaró
- **Co-Secretary** - Meghan Bernal
- **Co-Treasurer** - Daria Herzer
- **Co-Treasurer**- Jenna Levy

Important Dates and Events:

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- **Monday, August 19th** – Transportation information available on the Genesis parent portal (once all on-line forms are completed and submitted)
- **Thursday, August 22-** – Class Assignment information available after 3:00pm on the Genesis parent portal (once all on-line forms are completed and submitted)
- **Monday, August 26th** – Board of Education Meeting at 7:00pm at the Administration Building
- **Monday, August 26th** - Hamilton School Operational Procedures news blast to parents
- **Wednesday, August 28th** – Kindergarten Orientation (schedule above)
- **Monday, September 2** – School Closed for Labor Day
- **Tuesday, September 3** – Full Day Staff In-Service
- **Wednesday, September 4** – Full Day Staff In-Service
- **Thursday, September 5** - First Day of School – Full Day
- **Thursday, September 12-** - Chalk the Walk, HPFA event, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, September 24** - Back to School Night, 6:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, September 25** – Board of Education meeting at 7:00pm at Administration Building
- **Wednesday, October 2**– Early Dismissal at 1:40pm for Rosh Hashanah
- **Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4** – School Closed for Rosh Hashanah

The staff and I look forward to meeting all of you and your children. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns about the start of the school year. We want the beginning of school to be a smooth and enjoyable experience for you and your child.

Sincerely,

Mary Tadley, Principal