

Moonachie Public Schools

ROBERT L. CRAIG SCHOOL
20 WEST PARK STREET
MOONACHIE, NEW JERSEY 07074

JAMES KNIPPER
Superintendent/Principal
jknipper@moonachieschool.org

OFFICE: (201) 641-5833 ext. 110
FAX: (201) 641-3723

Friday, August 26, 2022

Moonachie Families & Friends –

As summer comes to a close, I know everyone is anxious for the start of the school year! We are just about ready to welcome our students and families back to our great school! The school looks amazing, thanks to our wonderful custodial staff! Our fabulous teachers have begun to set up their learning spaces! Our office staff are finalizing schedules, bussing, curriculum, procedures, registrations, medical records, calendars of events, and responding to all of the questions and concerns you may have.

Most importantly, we are all excited for what (we hope) will be our first un-interrupted school year since 2018-2019.

Please read this update carefully, as it pertains a lot of important information.

Entrance Times & Procedures

All drop offs will occur via the Gymnasium entrance again this year (same as last year), beginning at 8:10am. Students will report directly to homeroom for individualized tutoring and/or provided extra time to complete projects and assignments. A couple of points during drop off:

- Please do not pass on the left while in the horseshoe. We will continue to utilize cones to create one-lane of traffic.
- Please make sure your child(ren) exit via the sidewalk side of your car.
- We will NOT be utilizing MyMedBot. Students will directly enter the building.
- We need to keep traffic moving. Do NOT leave your vehicle unattended in the horseshoe.
- Drop off will conclude at 8:45am. If you drop off after 8:45am, your child must enter through the main entrance. Homeroom begins promptly at 8:50am. If your child arrives to homeroom after 8:50am, he/she will be marked tardy.

Dismissal Times & Procedures

Dismissal times & procedures are changing this year. Please read carefully & let us know if you have any questions:

- **PreK ONLY:** Car & Walker Pick Up will be between 2:45pm-2:55pm. (1 Session Day: 12:40-12:50pm)
- **Grades K – 8:** Car & Walker Pick up will be between 3:00pm – 3:15pm. (1 Session Day: 12:50-1:00pm)
 - For Security purposes, K-8 families are NOT permitted to arrive before 3:00pm. If there is an emergency, we need to be able to get first responders to the school without a traffic delay. Therefore, you may no longer arrive before 3:00pm, park in the horseshoe and wait for dismissal. Any cars arriving before 3:00pm, will be asked to leave.
 - To accommodate this change, we have extended the dismissal period to 3:15pm.
 - We will utilize the same procedure as last year of calling children individually as your car arrives.
 - Do NOT leave your car unattended in the horseshoe. Your child will come to your car.

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- If you have a PREK student **and** a student in another grade level, you will pick up all children between 3:00-3:15pm.
- Do NOT pass the 'Do Not Enter' gate along the parking side of the road. This is a one-way. You must go around the horseshoe to exit.
- Please Do NOT block the entrance/exit driveway near the playground.
- Please be patient during the first days of school as we learn new families and vehicles.

First Day of School

The First Day of School is for celebration, excitement, and joy! Please review the following information so we can all celebrate the First Day of School:

- You CANNOT leave your car unattended in the horseshoe.
- No parents/guardians are permitted to enter the building, for any reason.
- If you are taking pictures, please be mindful of how long you are present as others behind you wish for the same opportunity.
- Students in grades PK-4 will report directly to the Gymnasium and will meet their class.
- Students in grades 5-8 will report directly to the Cafeteria and will meet their class.
- It makes everything run more efficiently if your student knows the name of his/her homeroom teacher. Please review this with your child before coming to school.

Breakfast & Lunch Ordering

The Federal Government did not renew the COVID benefit of free breakfast and lunch for all students. Therefore, we must go back to families pre-ordering and paying for meals via our Food Service Coordinator, Ms. Lucrezia Maurin. We encourage all families to fill out the Free & Reduced Food Application (information below) to see if your family qualifies for this benefit. Ms. Maurin will be sending out information on September ordering shortly.

- Breakfast (daily) 8:10 – 8:40am
 - Upon arrival to school, all students will report directly to homeroom for tutoring and extra time on assignments/projects/homework. Homeroom begins promptly at 8:50am.
 - If your student requires breakfast, please make sure he/she knows! Your child will go to the cafeteria, pick-up their breakfast, and then report to homeroom. For grades K-2, please also inform your teacher so we can ensure each student who needs breakfast, gets it.
- Lunch & Recess
 - Grades 5-8: 11:35am-12:20pm
 - Grades K-4: 12:20pm – 1:05pm

Free & Reduced Application

All students will be provided a paper copy of the application on the first day of school. You can also access it via our website or in the RealTime Parent Portal. Please submit to Ms. Sandy Diaz:

sdiaz@moonachieschool.org or drop it off at the main office.

- English Application Link: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3747>
- Spanish Application Link: <https://www.moonachieschool.org/Page/3748>

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COVID Protocols Update

NJDOH has not provided schools an update since July 8th. As a result, we must follow this guidance. If we receive updated guidance before school starts, we will provide the community an additional update.

- No individual case-by-case contact tracing.
- No stationary class cohorts. Students will travel for classes. (Elementary students will travel for Specialists; Middle School students will travel for every class)
- Masks remain optional.
- Quarantines are recommended for unvaccinated students where a member in the household has tested positive (Remote learning will be activated)
- If a Student Tests Positive for COVID-19
 - Report positive test to Nurse Gallo
 - Remain home for days 0-5 (Remote Learning will be available), return to School for days 6-10 with a mask.
- Provide a weekly update on positive cases within the school.
- We will continue to provide increased sanitation stations at entrance, in classrooms, bathrooms, and the cafeteria.
- We will continue our increased ventilation protocols.
- Parents are asked to monitor your child at home. Please keep him/her home if her/she is ill.

Reporting Absences

All student absences must be reported to the Attendance Officer, Ms. Lucrezia Maurin by 9:00am on the day of the absence. You can submit via phone (please leave a voicemail) or email:

- Call: 201-641-5833, Option 1 or dial Extension 120
- Email: lmaurin@moonachieschool.org

After School YMCA Registration & Information (Grades 3-8)

The YMCA After School Program will begin on Wednesday, September 7th and run daily from 3:05-6:05pm. This program is available to all students in Grades 3-8 and remains free. You may register [HERE](#).

After School SACC Program Registration & Information (Grades K-2)

The SACC After School Program for Grades K – 2 is tuition based and financial assistance is available if you qualify. For more information on this After School Program, please see links below:

- SACC Grades K-2 Information (English): [CLICK HERE](#)
- SACC Grades K-2 Information (Spanish): [CLICK HERE](#)

Back To School Night & Wellness Fair

Reminder that Back to School Night will be on **Wednesday, September 14th, beginning at 6:30pm.**

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Throughout the evening, thanks to our partnership with CarePlus, we will be hosting a Wellness Fair for families. The Resource Fair will be in the Gymnasium beginning at 6:00pm. Please review the informational flyers below:

- Wellness Fair Information (English): [CLICK HERE](#)
- Wellness Fair Information (Spanish): [CLICK HERE](#)

Bussing

Our Transportation Department is finalizing bus routes. If your child is entitled to bussing, you will receive a letter via US Mail next week indicating bus stop times and location.

RealTime Parent Portal Access

The RealTime Parent Portal permits all families to stay up-to-date on your child's academic progress. You are able to view your child's gradebook for missing work, review their grades for each assignment, and review their attendance data. The Parent Portal is how we send home Progress Reports and Report Cards. There is also an App available to download directly to your phone. We encourage all families to login and get connected. Next week, we will send all parents an e-mail reminder of your Username/Password and directions on how to log-in. If you need help logging in, please contact Ms. Alyssa Spitaleri at (201) 641-5833 ext 123 or email at aspitaleri@moonachieschool.org.

School Messages Going To Spam

Several community members informed us that some email messages from the school were being sent directly to their spam file and never hitting their inbox. If a community member has these notifications going to spam, they will need to select the "**mark this email as safe**" option one time so all future notifications will go to your inbox. Please let us know if you need support with this and our Technology Team will assist you.

Middle School Families – Important Items (Grades 6-8)

Parents in Grades 6-8, please review these items with your child:

- Please bring your printed schedule with you to school on the first day.
- All students have lockers. Bookbags are required to be placed in his/her locker throughout the day. Students will have plenty of opportunities to go to their locker between certain classes, as well as before and after lunch. Teachers will work with students on how to organize themselves for success each day.
- All students are encouraged to keep his/her cell phone in their locker, either off or on silent, throughout the day. Cell phones are not permitted to be used in class. We will provide all the technology items students need for class work.
 - As parents, please refrain from texting/calling your child during school on their cell phone. If you need to get him/her a message or speak with them, please call the main office at 201-641-5833.
- Each student has a unique schedule. Please review it with them. You can also access it via the Parent Portal.

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NJSLA & Start Strong Update

As of this writing we have not received the NJSLA State Assessment results from May for grades 3-8 in ELA, Math, & Science.

The State of NJ is still requiring all districts to administer the State Assessment: Start Strong before September 30th. This will be administered to grades 4-8 in ELA & Math, as well as Grade 6 in Science. Parents will receive an assessment schedule shortly.

PTO Update & Volunteering as Class Parent

Our PTO is planning a wonderful year of fun events for our kids and families. If you wish to volunteer as a class parent, please complete this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/p6jngUaLuvvX9Yfw5>

Comprehensive Health & PE Standards (Grades 2, 5, & 8)

The State of NJ DOE has updated the Standards for Comprehensive Health & Physical Education. Some standards have been a topic of concern, and rightfully so, for parents across NJ & in Moonachie. These standards, as mandated by the NJDOE, must be covered by the End-Of-Grades 2, 5, & 8.

Our team has reviewed each individual standard and identified new standards that may bring concern or cause confusion for families. We are looking to partner with all families in these grade levels, via Town Hall events this Fall. During these events, we will share the Standards and how we propose to present them to the children. You will also be provided the procedure to opt-out your child from these standards, should you choose. None of these standards will be addressed until the Spring of 2023, well after these collaborative events and the opt-out process has taken place. If you are a parent in Grades 2, 5, & 8 – We will communicate directly with you on the schedule of these events. We welcome and look forward to your collaboration and feedback.

PRE-K / Kindergarten Sneak Peek Event Reminder

We are excited to offer a new event for our youngest learners! Please join us for our **Sneak Peek** event for our Pre-K & Kindergarten families on **Tuesday August 30th, from 1 – 2pm**. This is an opportunity for you and your child to meet his/her teacher, while becoming acquainted with their classroom and school. More information will be found in the letter sent home today.

Who To Contact...

Should you have any reopening or entrance/dismissal questions, please direct them to myself at:
jknipper@moonachieschool.org

Should you have any health-related questions, please direct them to Nurse Gallo at:
dgallo@moonachieschool.org

Should you have any new student registration questions, please direct them to Ms. Alyssa Spitaleri at:
aspitaleri@moonachieschool.org

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Should you have any class assignment, curriculum, or scheduling questions, please direct them to the Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Assistant Principal, Ms. Dana Genatt at: dgenatt@moonachieschool.org

Should you have any transportation (bussing) questions, please direct them to Ms. Sandy Diaz at: sdiaz@moonachieschool.org

Should you have any technology questions, please direct them to Mr. Jason Diaz at: admin@moonachieschool.org

Should you have any special education questions, please direct them to our Director of CST, Ms. Paula Hill at: phill@moonachieschool.org

Should you have any Pre-K questions, please direct them to our Master Teacher, Ms. Kathy Kinsella, at kinsella@moonachieschool.org

Should you have any attendance or food service questions, please direct them to our Attendance Officer/Food Service Coordinator, Ms. Lucrezia Maurin, at lmaurin@moonachieschool.org

We are all looking forward to a wonderful school year and cannot wait to see our students and families soon!
Have a wonderful rest of Summer!

Best,



James Knipper
Superintendent/Principal



Dana Genatt
Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Assistant Principal