

Jericho Union Free School District
GEORGE A. JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

August 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family had a pleasant and relaxing summer vacation. On behalf of the entire Jackson School community, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your youngsters to what promises to be a productive, successful, and enjoyable school year. This letter is designed to highlight plans and explain the routines that will facilitate the operation of our school. Your child's grade, room, and teacher's name are included in the letter addressed to your youngster.

I look forward to seeing your children on the first day of school, **Tuesday, August 29th**. We are all eager to greet you at **Meet the Teacher Night** which is scheduled for September 7th for all grades. Please review the schedule below:

September 7 *Grades K - 2 @ 6:30 PM*
 Grades 3 - 5 @ 7:30 PM

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, suggestions, or questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,
Benny D'Aquila
Benny D'Aquila

Arrival of Children

- School hours are from **8:25 AM-2:55 PM**
- **Arrive** at school **after** 8:15 AM
- First day of school, **weather permitting**:
 - **All children** - line up in the **rear** of the school on the blacktop at their assigned teacher.
 - If weather does not permit us to gather on the blacktop, students will report directly to their classrooms.
 - **Bus children** - walk through the building to the line-up area. **Buses may be late due to substitute drivers, accidents on the road, mechanical issues, bus routes, etc.**
 - **Children arriving by car** - enter the main entrance and walk through the building to the line-up area.
 - **Car pool parents** are reminded that from **8:00 to 8:30 AM**, the circle in front of Jackson will be reserved for car arrivals only.
- Please note that the spots in front of the building are reserved as handicap parking only.
- For safety purposes, lane use is as follows:
 - **Lane 1** - No Parking, Closed (closest to School)
 - **Lane 2** - Drop-off lane for children who leave the car unassisted on the **passenger side only**. The driver may not leave the car and must exit the driveway immediately after children exit the car.
 - **Lane 3** - Parking lane for parents who need to assist their children or leave their car. Children and driver must exit vehicle on the **driver side**. Driver must accompany any children crossing from this lane.

Electronic Devices

The following devices are not permitted in school or on the bus and will be collected for **parent pick-up** if they are seen or heard:

- cell phones (If a student needs to call home, they will always be allowed to use the office phone)
- iWatch/fitness bands
- iPad
- iPod

Dismissal of Children

- **All children**, other than bus children, will be dismissed from the **front** entrance.
- **Bus children** will be escorted to buses from the **rear** of the school.
- All buses are boarded before any vehicles are permitted to move out of the circular driveway.
- **Since all children are entitled to busing, we schedule all children to use the bus. Should you decide not to use the bus, either on a regular basis or on occasion, you must write a note to the teacher indicating how the child will be going home.**
- Beginning at 2:15 PM the circle will be reserved for **dismissal only**.
- Cars may line up in all three lanes, pulling as far forward as possible with the engine shut off.
- Barricades will be removed by staff, and you will be directed when to exit.
- If your child has not entered your car by the time the barricade is lifted, you must leave the circle and re-enter. Children will be kept at the school door.
- **To protect the children, cars are not permitted to back out or turn around in the circle.**

Play Dates

- Play date arrangements will be accommodated **beginning September 11th**.
- Play date notes (grades 1-5) must be sent with the children in the morning.
- **No notes will be accepted after 12 noon**, unless it's an emergency.
- Faxed notes, emails and verbal messages **will not** be accommodated for safety reasons.
- Please write **first and last names** of children involved and a parent signature on paper that will not get easily lost.
- **Kindergarten play dates will be on a pick-up basis only, no bus option. Please have a note regarding the playdate.**
- After academic support clubs, playdates cannot be accommodated.
- Each student can invite up to **two** students for a specific playdate.

Visiting the School

- Please ring the bell and enter through the main entrance and stop at the office window immediately on the right.
- **If entering our hallways, you must always sign in at the main office.**
- **Visitors are not permitted to go to classrooms or to walk the hallways unescorted for safety reasons.**

Releasing Children from School

- No child is released from school to anyone other than a parent/guardian or someone designated **in writing** by you.
- Once the adult escort has arrived and identification has been reviewed, the child will be informed to come to the office.

Absence/Lateness of Children

- **Absences** - a note or letter is legally required from the parent or guardian indicating the reason for absence.
- A note or letter should accompany the child on the day he/she returns to school. Your cooperation will be very helpful to us in keeping an accurate attendance record for your child.
- **Lateness** - must report to the main office for a late pass.
- **It is recommended that dental, medical and other appointments be made at times other than during school hours so that children do not miss valuable school work.**

Children's Lunches

- The cafeteria will be open starting the first day of school, Tuesday, August 29 for grades 1 - 5.
- **Kindergarten youngsters must bring a bag lunch daily until Monday, Sept. 18 when they may begin to purchase hot lunch.**
- A **complete meal, including milk**, costs \$3.00.
- **Milk alone**, is \$.50 for chocolate, regular or skim.
- Please send **exact change** to reduce the wait time on line.
- **Prepaid program** - parents can deposit money to their child's food account. See website for details.
- **Lunch hours:**
 - Grades 1, 3 and 5 - 11:35-12:30
 - Grades K, 2 & 4 - 12:15-1:10

Children's Responsibilities

- Your child is responsible for the following:
 - Lunch or money
 - Snack
 - Sneakers/Physical Education Attire
 - Supplies, textbooks, notebooks, etc.
 - Homework
 - Musical instruments
- Valuables not permitted in school:
 - Watches (including fitbits and smart watches)
 - Cell phones
 - Electronic games
 - Radios
 - Collectibles

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences

- First term report card will be posted on line on Wednesday, December 6
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be scheduled on Thursday, December 7th or Friday, December 8th, 2017.

Open House Visitation

- Classroom visitations, with one month advance notice, to Grades K-5 will occur throughout the school year.
- Our monthly calendar will also include notice of the classroom visits.
- Visitations may include the following:
 - hands-on activities
 - student presentations
 - interactive curriculum activities

Technology Program

- The elements of our technology rich learning environment include:
 - SmartBoards in all classrooms
 - Canvas
 - Classroom computers
 - Computer lab
 - iPads
 - Chrome books
 - Television studio
 - Computer data networks
 - Video-on-demand.

Electronic "Paperless" Communication

- All school/PTA information is sent out electronically.
- Please be sure to notify the main office of any change in your email address.
- Parents may e-mail teachers with any questions or concerns. Please leave a **telephone number**.
- **E-mail should not be used** for same day messages such as changes in transportation plans, or reporting an absence, etc.

Library Program

- Our school library is on-line as part of the Nassau BOCES Library Automation and Resource Sharing Service
- Accessed granted through our Web page via www.jerichoschools.org, the address of the District web site.

World Language Program

The World Language Exploratory Program includes Grade 1 through Grade 5.

Music Program

- **Chorus program** - Grades 3, 4, and 5
- **Band and Orchestra** - optional for Grades 4 and 5. Children may choose to play a musical instrument. We urge you to encourage your youngster to elect to participate in one.

Physical Education

- Students must wear:
 - sneakers with laces or Velcro
 - socks
 - sweatpants/shorts/exercise pants
 - tee-shirts/sweatshirts
- Prohibited items include:
 - sneakers with heels
 - jeans
 - jewelry (small earrings are permissible)
- If a student is unprepared three or more times, he/she will not be allowed to participate in class.
- Any student who is medically excused from physical education class, will not be permitted to participate at recess or in any school sponsored event involving physical education.
- Good sportsmanship, cooperation and teamwork are to be displayed at all times.

Peacekeepers

- Jackson's character education program
- Learn effective strategies in dealing with conflict resolution in **all** grade levels
- Explore a number of concepts including courage, compassion, honesty, and respect
- Read stories from around the world
- Learn global concepts and apply to their daily lives and everyday reactions to each other.

Field Trips

- Jackson PTA is pleased to provide your child with a school T-shirt to be worn on **all** school trips to be readily identifiable to our chaperones during all class excursions.
- Each year, students entering kindergarten, students new to Jackson, and all third graders will be given a complimentary T-shirt.
- Lost or damaged T-shirts can be replaced by the PTA for a nominal fee.

Pupil Personnel Support Services

- Jackson's psychologist, **Dr. Stacey Schwartz**, can be reached at 203-3600 ext. 6235.
- Dr. Schwartz will be providing in-class support, individual and group counseling and evaluation.
- Please plan to meet her during Meet the Teacher Night or at a future PTA Meeting.
- **Mrs. Kim Conger**, K-5 Curriculum Associate for Pupil Personnel Support Services may be reached at 203-3600 ext. 6362.

Health Services

Jackson Nurse, Mrs. Beth Adams, can be reached at 203-3600 ext. 6480

Please Note: A State Mandated Emergency Evacuation Drill (early dismissal) is scheduled for Friday, September 29, 2017. The letter including a tear-off which requires your signature will be emailed home. Please sign and return to your child's teacher upon receipt.