

Jericho Union Free School District
GEORGE A. JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



August 2020

Dear Jackson Families,

As we plan for a beginning like no other we have ever experienced before, our focus is still on helping every child feel connected with the school, providing challenging and engaging new learning experiences, and strengthening our relationships with one another. We hope that you and your family had an enjoyable and relaxing summer filled with health and happiness. Our time apart has reinforced what I knew all along, that our Jackson community is truly special! I cannot thank everyone enough for helping us get through these past five months.

On behalf of the entire Jackson School community, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your children to what promises to be a productive and successful school year. This letter is designed to highlight and explain the routines that will facilitate a successful school year at George A. Jackson. Your child's grade, room, and teacher's name are included in the letter addressed to your child. Please note that changes to our routines and procedures for the 20-21 school year have been highlighted in yellow.

We look forward to seeing your children on the first day of school, **Thursday, September 3rd**. Also, we are all eager to greet you at our **Virtual Meet the Teacher Night** which is scheduled for **Thursday, September 10th** for all grades. Teachers will be sharing meeting links and times a few days prior.

Lastly, for more information on the district's reopening plan, visit:
http://jerichoschools.org/departments/public_information/reopening_plan

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

Best regards,

Alex Rivera

Alex Rivera Ed.D.
Principal

PROCEDURES

***Please note that all students, staff, and visitors are required to wear a mask while at the school. Masks with vents, gaiters, and bandanas are NOT permitted in school. Should a child, visitor, or staff member need a mask, one will be provided.**

Arrival of Students

- School hours are from **8:25 AM-2:55 PM**
- **Arrive to school between 8:15 and 8:25 AM**
- First day of school
 - **All children** will report directly to their classrooms. There will be staff members located throughout the hallways to assist students and help locate classrooms.
- **Arrival of Students by Car**
 - Please note that the parking spots in the front of the building are reserved for handicapped parking only.
 - **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 "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 (teachers first initial, last name@jerichoschools.org)
- **E-mail should not be used** for same day messages such as changes in transportation plans, or reporting an absence, etc.

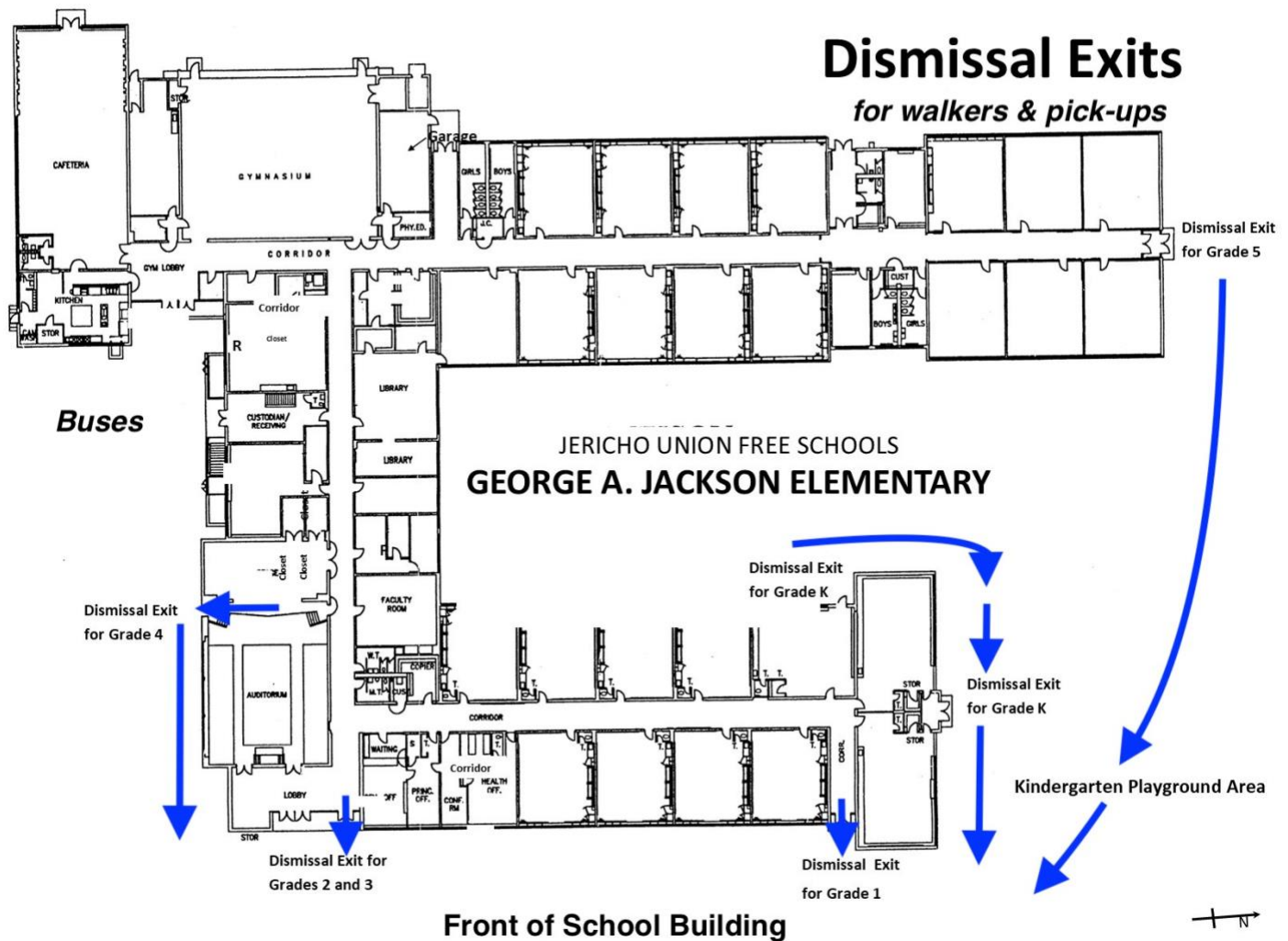
Electronic Devices

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)
- Fitbit and smart watches
- iPads and/or iPods

Dismissal of Children

- **Bus children** will be escorted to buses from the **rear** of the school. Bus dismissal will remain as is for this school year.
- 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.**
- **Students who are walkers and/or get picked up from school will exit to the front of the school building via the exit doors. See the map on the next page. There will be designated spaces where parents can meet their child.**



- 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

- There will be no playdates set up by the school through December. Students are not permitted to ride on other kids' buses. Playdates can be set up by individual families on their own.
- Should we be able to arrange playdates after the new year, we will follow procedures similar to last school year. These procedures may include:
 - 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 school club playdates cannot be accommodated.
 - Each student can invite up to **two** students for a specific playdate.

Visiting the School

- All "visitors" are strongly discouraged from entering the buildings. The principal will make decisions on a case-by-case basis. If "visitors" are allowed, they must schedule an appointment and are subject to temperature checks. Any visitor to the building must be wearing a mask to be granted entry.
- If you need to come to the school due to an emergency, please ring the bell and enter through the main entrance. You must stop at the office window immediately on the right. Identification **MUST** be presented.
- If you do not have identification such as a driver's license, even if the office staff knows you, you will not be permitted inside the building.

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, Thursday, September 3rd for grades 1 - 5.
- **Until further notice, lunch will be in the classroom for students. Opportunities will be provided for students to periodically eat outdoors and in the cafeteria.**
- Kindergarten youngsters must bring a bag lunch daily until Monday, September 21st when they may begin to purchase school lunch.
- A complete meal, including milk, costs \$3.15.
- Milk alone, is \$.50 for chocolate, regular or skim.
- Please send **exact change** to reduce the wait time on line.
- **Prepaid Lunch Program (Point-of-Sale) - To limit our contact with money, parents are encouraged to deposit money in their child's food account. See website for details @ www.jerichoschools.org**
- **Lunch hours:**
 - Grades 1, 3 & 5 - 11:35-12:30
 - Grades K, 2 & 4 - 12:35-1:30

Children's Responsibilities

- You can help your child develop effective work habits by making sure your child comes to school prepared for their day with the following:
 - An appropriate and comfortable face mask
 - Lunch or money
 - Snack
 - Sneakers/Physical Education Attire
 - Supplies, textbooks, notebooks, etc.
 - Homework
 - Musical instruments

Mid-morning drop-offs of lunch or forgotten items interfere with instruction.

- Valuables are **not permitted** in school such as;
 - Fitbits and smart watches
 - Cell phones
 - Electronic devices and games
 - Collectibles

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences

- The first term Report Cards will be posted on December 1st.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be scheduled VIRTUALLY on Thursday, December 3rd and Friday, December 4th, 2020. You will be asked about your preference for the conference at Meet-the-Teacher Night.

Open House Visitations

- There will be no in-school/class visitations from now through December. This will be reevaluated in January. Should we be able to host in-school/class visitations, we will follow procedures similar to last school year. These procedures may include:
 - Classroom visitations (with one-month advance notice) 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:
 - Smart-Boards in all classrooms
 - Canvas
 - A district-provided device (i.e. iPads and Chromebooks)
 - Assorted software programs

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

- **General Music Class**- All students K-5 participate in a weekly class.
- **Chorus program** - Chorus is postponed until further notice. Once resumed, all students in grades 3-5 will participate.
- **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:
 - a face mask (no masks with vents, no gaiters, and no bandanas)
 - 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.

Social Emotional Literacy Program- Jackson Peacekeepers

- A skills-based learning program which encompasses mindfulness, peaceful breathing, active listening and empathy.
- 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

- There will be no field trips from now through December. This will be reevaluated in January. Should we be able to participate in field trips, we will follow procedures similar to last school year. These procedures may include:
 - Students entering kindergarten, students new to Jackson, and all third graders will be given a complimentary T-shirt courtesy of the Jackson PTA to wear on all school trips.
 - 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 conducts lessons in the area of social/ emotional learning as well as in-class support, individual and group counseling and evaluations. Try to stop by to say hello to Dr. Schwartz at Meet the Teacher Night.
- **Mrs. Patricia Ferraro** is the elementary Special Education Facilitator and may be reached at 203-3600 ext. 3840. She is a wonderful resource if you have questions or concerns about special services and if you suspect your child may have a disability.
- **Ms. Shannon Murray**, K-5 Curriculum Associate for Pupil Personnel Support Services may be reached at 203-3600 ext. 6363.

Health Services

- Jackson Nurse, Mrs. Marybeth Medolla, can be reached at 203-3600 ext. 6480

Please Note: A State Mandated Emergency Evacuation Drill (early dismissal) is scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2020. All students will be dismissed at 2:40 p.m. 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.