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R A M B L E R S   R I S E

**CARTERET PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COLUMBUS SCHOOL  
1 CARTERET AVENUE  
CARTERET, NEW JERSEY 07008**

MAYLING CARDENAS  
PRINCIPAL

DR. KAREN JONES  
VICE PRINCIPAL

August 30, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**Welcome Back to a New School Year**

**Welcome to the Columbus School Community!** We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our students and families! The faculty, staff and I are looking forward to working with you and your child(ren) this year. At Columbus School, we strive to provide an exciting and rewarding educational program for all our students. As the school year quickly approaches and we prepare to welcome everyone back in September, we wanted to share some important information including upcoming events that will assist with a smooth transition back to school. Please notice some of the bullets are hyperlinked for your convenience.

**First Days**

The first day of school for students will be Tuesday, September 5th. Staff members will be available to direct parents and students to their designated grade level arrival locations listed below.

**Security & Uniforms**

The safety of our students is our top priority. **All parents and visitors must present valid photo identification prior to entering the building and when picking up your child(ren). You will be provided with a visitor's pass when you enter the building.**

Students should not be in the building before 8:30 am unless they are participating in the Before Care Program or Breakfast Program. Parents may make arrangements for the Before/After Care Program on a monthly or per diem basis at the Board of Education Building.

Please note that our district has a uniform policy for all Carteret Public Schools. Please click on the link for the policy for all elementary schools: [Elementary Uniform Policy.pdf](#). Please use the student handbook for your reference when you have a question about school policies and/or

procedures. If further information is needed, please feel welcome to call the office at 732-541-8960, extension 2002.

**Parent Portal (Emergency Contacts, Required Questionnaires & Lunch Application)**

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to log on to the Parent Portal before the first day of school to find out about your child's placement, as well as complete and update the parent questionnaires. Please also fill out the lunch application, regardless of your status. You can access the lunch application directly on the parent portal. Please see additional directions for the lunch application attached. **All parents must complete the lunch application this year.** By completing the questions on the portal, this will assist us in ensuring the safety of your child(ren) **as your child will only be released to adults that you designate on the Student Emergency Contact in the Parent Portal.** We ask that all adults picking students up always have a valid photo ID, and we appreciate your understanding as we work to keep your children safe. [Realtime Parent Portal](#) Link.

**Bus (if eligible)**

On the Parent Portal you will also be able to access busing information, if applicable. Bus students must be transported to and from school on their assigned bus and should be met at the stop by an adult. Students will receive tags; please ensure that your child's bus tag is visible and tied securely to the outside of your child's backpack. Bus passes are checked regularly and must remain visible at all times.

**Arrival and Dismissal**

Students are to arrive at 8:30 am and are dismissed at 2:50 pm. Please see the chart below to determine where your child will be dropped off and picked up each day. Note that all bus students arriving in the morning exit the bus on High Street and report to their respective arrival locations as indicated on the next page.

Grade	Arrival	Dismissal
Pre-kindergarten	Door #3 and # 4 (Carteret Ave)	Individual Classroom Doors: Ms. Hutchinson, Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Atif Door #5: Mrs. Santiago and Mrs. Ciuba New Main Entrance: Mrs. Quinones and Ms. Abdelaal
Kindergarten	Door # 7 (on the playground)	Door #3 and # 4 (Carteret Ave)  (GYM)
1st	Door #8 (on the playground)	Door #7 (on the playground)
2nd	Door #8 (on the playground)	Door #8 (on the playground)
3rd	Door #12 (on the playground)	Door #12 (on the playground)
4th	Door #12 (on the playground)	Door #12 (on the playground)

Ms. Yascur, Ms. Trowbridge, Ms. Costa, Mrs. Kirsh, Mrs. Font/Mrs. Petercsak	High Street Entrance	High Street Entrance
Breakfast/Before and After Care	Door #5 (On Carteret Avenue)	Door #5 (On Carteret Avenue)

**\*\*\*Any student arriving after 8:45 am should enter through the new main entrance on Carteret Ave. to receive a late pass from security, which will be marked in our student record keeping system. Please be sure to be on time every day to optimize the learning experience.**

**Safety**

When walking students to and from the school, please utilize the services of the crossing guard and cross the street at the designated crosswalks. This will ensure the safety of students and parents since the surrounding roads are heavily traveled during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.

**Parent Partners and PTO**

We consider parents our partners in education and welcome your support and assistance. Columbus School has an active Parent Teacher Organization that supports and enhances the instructional program. We encourage all our parents to become a member of the PTO! We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

As the summer winds down, we look forward to a wonderful school year filled with rich, quality learning experiences for all our students. We thank you for the privilege and opportunity given to us each year to work with your children. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way during the school year. I may be contacted by phone at 732-541-8960, ext. 2002.

Educationally yours,

*Mayling Cardenas*

Principal