

August 24, 2023

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE START OF THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

On behalf of the entire staff here at the Colts Neck Township Schools, please allow me to officially welcome you and your family to the 2023-2024 school year! As a reminder, the first day of school for students is **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**.

In an effort to mainstream and consolidate communication from the district to our families about the start to this school year, for your convenience, at the bottom of this letter, you will find links to each school's 2023-2024 Welcome Letter.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE GENESIS PARENT PORTAL

Beginning **9:00 AM tomorrow, Friday, August 25, 2023**, after logging into the Genesis Parent Portal, and **before** gaining access to your child(ren)'s 2023-2024 homeroom(s) and transportation information, you will be required to read, acknowledge, and complete all annual parent forms. Thank you, in advance, for your anticipated attention and cooperation with completing these forms. Additionally, for parents/guardians of students entering grades 3-8, please be sure to pay your child(ren)'s Technology User Fee by September 15, 2023. Payments can be made through PaySchools or by delivering a check made out to "Colts Neck Township Schools" to the Business Office, located in the Administration Building.

In preparation for our new school year together, please allow me to share the following important and helpful information:

NEW in 2023-2024 ~ COLTS NECK PARENTS ACADEMY:

For the 23-24 school year, the district is developing a "Colts Neck Parents Academy". The Parents Academy will invite our parents/guardians to participate in a series of programs throughout the school year designed specifically for our parents. Topics for sessions will include Internet Safety, Google Classroom for Parents, Substance Awareness, AND MUCH MORE. We are even planning for student and parent panel discussions. After the start of the school year, will receive a separate email invitation to our Parents Academy with detailed information about the schedule and list of session topics. We hope you will be able to join us!

NEW in 2023-2024 ~ REVISED K-5 REPORT CARDS AND TRIMESTER MARKING PERIODS:

Effective this school year, K-5 students will be assessed on a trimester schedule. Additionally, for K-5 students, the district will be using a new report card that includes a revised design and expanded categories for teachers to use when communicating with parents about academic performance and personal growth. The new report card includes:

- New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)
- All subject/content areas
- Clarifications for expectations and performance levels
- Consistent performance indicators for academic areas, K-5

- Personal and Social Development as well Executive Functioning skills

In the near future, Dr. Erica Reynolds, Colts Neck Twp. Schools' Director of Curriculum and Instruction, will be sending a detailed letter to our K-5 parents/guardians about the district's new K-5 new report card. Dr. Reynold's presentation to the Board of Education on the new report card can be accessed [HERE](#). Additionally, there are scheduled information sessions for parents to learn more about the new report card:

- District Presentation - Wednesday, September 27 at 9:15 AM.
- Board of Education Coffee Chat - Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 P.M.



District Chain of Communication:

The district has a Chain of Communication designed to assist parents/guardians with identifying the appropriate sequence to use when seeking an answer to a question or resolution to a concern. We understand that when contacting the district, it may be frustrating to be redirected to someone else; however, many questions and concerns are able to be answered or resolved first by your child's teacher or appropriate staff with oversight of your child's program. Therefore, as a parent/guardian you are encouraged to start all inquiries with your child's teacher(s). If your question or concern remains unresolved by your child's teacher, the Chain of Communication identifies the appropriate channel through which communications can be elevated. The Chain of Communication is posted to our website under "District Information" or it can be accessed by clicking the following link: [23-24 District Chain of Communication](#).

What's for Lunch in Colts Neck?

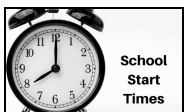


School Lunch Menus and Food Services:

A BIG part of planning for the school day at home involves preparing for your child(ren)'s lunch. In Colts Neck, our school lunch menus are designed to provide healthy food options for our students. Our food services management company, Pomptonian Food Service, is a district partner committed to providing daily fresh meals and snack options featuring local, organic, and hydroponic foods. Our school lunch menus are interactive, allowing users to plan and preview food options, allergens, and nutrition information. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about our interactive lunch menus. School lunch menus and information related to food services are posted to our website under "Departments" or it can be accessed by clicking the following link: [Colts Neck Township Schools Food Services](#)

2023-2024 School Calendar and "Upcoming Events":

To assist you with planning during the 23-24 school year, the [23-24 District School Calendar](#) is always available on the district's website under "District Information". Additionally, and for your convenience, on the main page of our district's website, we maintain a list of "Upcoming Events" and a link titled "More Events" that will take you to an interactive calendar where you can find a schedule of school-specific events.



2023-2024 School Time Schedules:

District and school time schedules are also posted on our district website under "District Information". Under [School Time Schedules](#) you will find time schedules for regular full school days, delayed opening school days, and short session school days. For specific questions related to transportation on delayed opening and/or short session days, please contact the district's Transportation Coordinator, Ms. Kathleen Holland, at holland@coltsneckschools.org.

Colts Neck Township Schools App:

We are consistently exploring ways to enhance communications with our families and community. Through our Colts Neck Township Schools App, parents/guardians have direct access to important district information including Genesis Parent Portal, Payschools School Time Schedules, the District's Calendar, Anti-Bullying Information, and more. The Colts Neck Township App is designed to work on any device. Should you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Phil Capasso at capasso@coltsneckschools.org.

Visit the main page of the district's website to access and download the district's parent app.



Health-Related Protocols for 2023-2024:

On a regular basis, it is important for you to monitor your child(ren)'s health and report any changes in health to your child(ren)'s school nurse(s). To assist us in preventing the spread of illnesses within the school environment, you are strongly encouraged to keep a sick child home. For specific concerns or questions related to school health services, please contact your child(ren)'s School Nurse(s).



2023 Back-To-School Nights:

Dates for the upcoming 2023 Back-To-School Nights are included within the school calendar and posted to our website. Prior to each school's Back-To-School Night, your principal(s) will communicate to parents/guardians

specific information about the schedule for the evening. All Back-to-School Nights are scheduled from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on the following dates:

- Conover Road Elementary School - Wednesday, September 13, 2023
- Conover Road Primary School - Tuesday, September 19, 2023
- Cedar Drive Middle School - Thursday, September 28, 2023



Colts Neck Parent / Teacher Organization (PTO):

I may be biased, but I truly believe that the Colts Neck Township Schools has the most dedicated and supportive PTO around. This group of amazing people work together each year to provide many fun activities and additional learning experiences for our students at all grade levels. With the start of the new school year, the CNPTO will be facilitating its 2023-2024 membership drive; so be on the lookout for information about how you can be a part of this very special group. To learn more about the Colts Neck PTO, please visit their website at <https://www.coltsneckpto.org/>.

Colts Neck Township Schools Social Media Platforms:

Colts Neck Township Schools is currently active on two social media platforms: Twitter and Facebook. The district uses these platforms to share information about our district, promote and celebrate activities and happenings, and to reinforce communications. The district will not utilize social media as a primary source of communication to parents/guardians. For all important communications to our parents/guardians, the district will utilize email and/or direct calling to phone numbers listed in Genesis. **IMPORTANT:** The most efficient way to communicate with us is through the designated individual(s) identified in the district's [Chain of Communication](#). The district will not typically respond to questions

and/or concerns posted to the district's social media platforms. To follow the district on Twitter and Facebook, search @CNSchools.

District and School Security:

Colts Neck Township Schools prioritizes the safety and security of its students and staff. While the majority of the information related to the district's specific security plans and procedures are not public, the following information is intended to provide parents/guardians with an overview of the district's safety and security measures:

- Special Law Enforcement Officers, Class III (SLEO III) in each school, daily
- School Security Monitors: Each school has a School Security Monitor responsible for, among many things, the facilitation of visitor management, which includes the screening of visitors prior to gaining entry to the school buildings
- Security Vestibules: Each school has a secured vestibule at the front entrance that contains all visitors until access is granted by school personnel
- Critical Incident Notification (CIN) System: The district has a Critical Incident Notification System that allows the district to immediately alert school personnel and law enforcement of any emergency incident occurring in our schools
- Surveillance Cameras: The district has several surveillance cameras placed in and around school property, including buses

Each year, I genuinely look forward to September and the return of our students. After all, a school isn't truly a school without our students. As we put the finishing touches on the start of the new school year, please know that our district's website, www.coltsneckschools.org, is designed to provide parents/guardians and school community with the most current district information and resources. From the district's entire [curriculum](#) to a virtual backpack of community flyers and information, our website is the central location for parents/guardians to access information about our schools, programs, operations, and services. If you have difficulty in finding information, please do not hesitate to contact your child(ren)'s school directly and someone will be happy to assist you.

Here are the individual links to each school's **2023-2024 Welcome Back Letter**. For your convenience, each letter will also be posted to the respective school's website:

[Conover Road Primary School \(Preschool - 2\)](#)

[Conover Road Elementary School \(3-5\)](#)

[Cedar Drive Middle School \(6-8\)](#)



The start of the 2023-2024 school brings new opportunities for learning, friendships, and meaningful experiences. We sincerely look forward to working together with our students, parents/guardians, and school community to make this a meaningful and engaging school year. As your Superintendent of Schools, if I may be of any assistance to you, I can be reached via email at garibay@coltsneckschools.org or phone at 732.946.0055 ext. 4104.

Educationally yours,

Dr. MaryJane Garibay,
Superintendent of Schools