



# OAKLYN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Shaping Lives for the Future*

March 19, 2021

Dear Oaklyn School Community,

Happy Friday! Hope you each had a productive week. The Collingswood and Oaklyn School Districts have so many positive things taking place. It is critically important that we take time to reflect on our practices and share with the community. It is also important to hear from and celebrate the efforts of our students and educators.






## School Reopening Update (NEW)

### District Goal: Return to Full-time In-Person Instruction in September

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools are balancing the need to make choices informed by the evidence and the demands from our respective school communities. We are actively engaging in a thorough review of what the science tells us while acknowledging the lived experiences and perspectives of: Teachers, Support Staff, Parents/Caregivers, & Students. Our district goal is to return to full-time in-person instruction in September. The planning for September is a fluid situation and we will continue sharing information with the school community as progress is made.

### Expanding Access to In-person Instruction (Elementary)

Each marking term preschool and elementary school families are afforded the opportunity to shift from Full Remote to Hybrid Learning. School Leaders will regularly re-assess classroom capacity for expanded access to in-person instruction. In the interim, schools will continue to work with families experiencing extreme hardship on a case-by-case basis. Below are the phases for expanding access to in-person instruction in **Elementary Schools**:






PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	
PK-12	PK-5	SELF-CONTAINED	HARDSHIP	PK-5
REMOTE MODEL 	HYBRID MODEL 	HYBRID MODEL 	HYBRID MODEL 	HYBRID MODEL 
All schools will offer  <b>REMOTE LEARNING.</b>	Students in these grades will return to school with a mix of  <b>IN-PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING.</b>  In school at least 2 days a week	Students in self-contained classrooms will return to school with a mix of  <b>IN-PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING.</b>  In school at least 5 days a week	Students with existing extreme hardship will return to school with a mix of  <b>IN-PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING.</b>  In school at least 5 days a week	Students in these grades will return to school with a mix of  <b>IN-PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING.</b>  In school at least 3 days a week *Blue/Gold Cohort Rotations
SEPT 8 <sup>TH</sup> – OCT 19 <sup>TH</sup>	MARCH 15 <sup>TH</sup>	APRIL 19 <sup>TH</sup>	APRIL 26 <sup>TH</sup>	APRIL 26 <sup>TH</sup>

\*Blue Cohort Rotation (Wednesdays) Dates: April 28, May 12, May 26

\*Gold Cohort Rotation (Wednesdays) Dates: May 5, May 19, June 9

**Expanding Access to In-person Instruction (Secondary)**

Like elementary schools, Collingswood Middle and High School are actively notifying families of Remote to Hybrid Opt-In Process each marking period. After this process has completed, Secondary School Leaders will re-assess classroom capacity for expanded access to in-person instruction. In the interim, schools will continue to work with families experiencing extreme hardship on a case-by-case basis. Below are the phases for expanding access to in-person instruction in **Secondary Schools**:

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	
PK-12	6-12	SELF-CONTAINED	HARDSHIP	6-12
REMOTE MODEL 	HYBRID MODEL 	HYBRID MODEL 	HYBRID MODEL 	HYBRID MODEL 
All schools will offer  <b>REMOTE LEARNING.</b>	Students in these grades will return to school with a mix of  <b>IN-PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING.</b>  In school at least 2 days a week	Students in self-contained classrooms will return to school with a mix of  <b>IN-PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING.</b>  In school at least 5 days a week	Students with existing extreme hardship will return to school with a mix of  <b>IN-PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING.</b>  In school at least 5 days a week	Students in these grades will return to school with a mix of  <b>IN-PERSON AND REMOTE LEARNING.</b>  In school at least 3 days a week *Blue/Gold Cohort Rotations
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**Board Office**

**Spring Break Update: All Schools Full Remote the week after Spring Break**

As we look forward to Spring Break (April 2-11th), we want to wish each of our families a safe and enjoyable time. At this time, out-of-region travel is not recommended by public health officials. Due to [travel restrictions](#) not yet being lifted, the Collingswood and Oaklyn School Districts will be fully remote the week immediately following Spring Break (April 12-18). We have assessed the travel plans of each school site and there are operational and safety concerns associated with the potential for students and staff needing to quarantine because of out-of-region travel. This plan will eliminate the need for students and staff to quarantine after Spring Break, like the plan after the Thanksgiving Break. Providing instruction April 12-18th in a full remote setting will allow a continuity of instruction while also providing each of our school community members the opportunity to recharge.

**Proposed Arrival and Dismissal Procedures: Preschool and Elementary (Beginning April 19th)**

We are considering pushing the arrival time for our PreK-5 students back by fifteen minutes in the morning. Our new arrival times would be at 8:45 am - 9:00 am for K-5 students and 9:00 am - 9:15 am for preschool students. By doing this, we will be able to add additional instructional time to academic intervention support in the morning and office hours in the afternoon. Before making this decision, we would like your feedback and a survey has been released through the Genesis Family Portal. Please respond by Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

All Elementary Schools: **(Pending Final Review)**

- Drop-off: 8:45am - 9:00am: Temperature checks and COVID check-in questions will continue to be performed.
- Dismissal: 1:00pm (except for Wednesdays at 12:00pm)

All Preschool Classes: **(Pending Final Review)**

- Drop-off: 9:00am - 9:15am: Temperature checks and COVID check-in questions will continue to be performed.
- Dismissal: 1:15pm (except for Wednesdays at 12:15pm)

Parent Teacher Conference Week (March 22-26)

March 22, 2021	March 23, 2021	March 24, 2021	March 25, 2021	March 26, 2021
Blue In-Person/ Gold Remote PS-5 9:00a – 12:00p w/breaks Preschool: 9:15a - 12:15p w/breaks	Blue In-Person/ Gold Remote PS-5 9:00a – 12:00p w/breaks Preschool: 9:15a - 12:15p w/breaks	PS-5 All Remote Learning 9:00a – 12:00p w/breaks and special areas Preschool: 9:15a - 12:15p w/breaks	Gold In-Person/Blue Remote PS-5 9:00a – 12:00p w/breaks Preschool: 9:15a - 12:15p w/breaks	Gold In-Person Blue Remote PS-5 9:00a – 12:00p w/breaks Preschool: 9:15a - 12:15p w/breaks



The Collingswood School District conducted its preschool lottery on Friday, March 5th and families were notified of their acceptance into the program or if they have been placed on a waiting list on Monday, March 8th. Our district was fortunate to receive Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) funding to continue our program with eleven general education preschool classrooms for the 2021-22 school year! We were excited to understand that we will have 48 students returning to our program from our two- to three-year old program (these families are guaranteed placement for the four- and five-year old program) and we invited 106 new families for the

2021-22 school year. All families who received a place in our preschool program were notified via email and a formal letter can be expected in the mail within the next few days.

All families who were placed on our waiting list also received notification in the same manner. Collingswood will partner with the Head Start Program located in Oaklyn and if you are interested in their comprehensive services, you can reach out to the contacts below for further information:

- Head Start Center Telephone Number: 856.833.5010
- Faith Byrd: Family Service Advocate: 609.828.8942
- Assistance in Spanish: Elizabeth Sanchez: 609.828.8943

**What if our family was placed on the waiting list for the 2021-22 school year?**

**Question: Do families who received a placement notification have a deadline to commit to the preschool program?** Our families do not have a commitment date. This is largely because we understand that a family's circumstances can change at any time. However, we kindly request that families notify us as soon as possible so an additional seat can be made available for the waiting list.

**Question: What if one of my children received a spot and the other did not?** This sometimes presents itself and we recognize the hardship it may place on a family's decision to keep one student in our program or to withdraw for a need to have consistent childcare programming in one location. In these circumstances, we work with the family to establish a plan in the event an opening occurs.

**Question: Are there any other options?** Yes, our partnership with Head Start allows families to apply for their program. We encourage you to reach out to their organization if at any time you would like to explore that option.

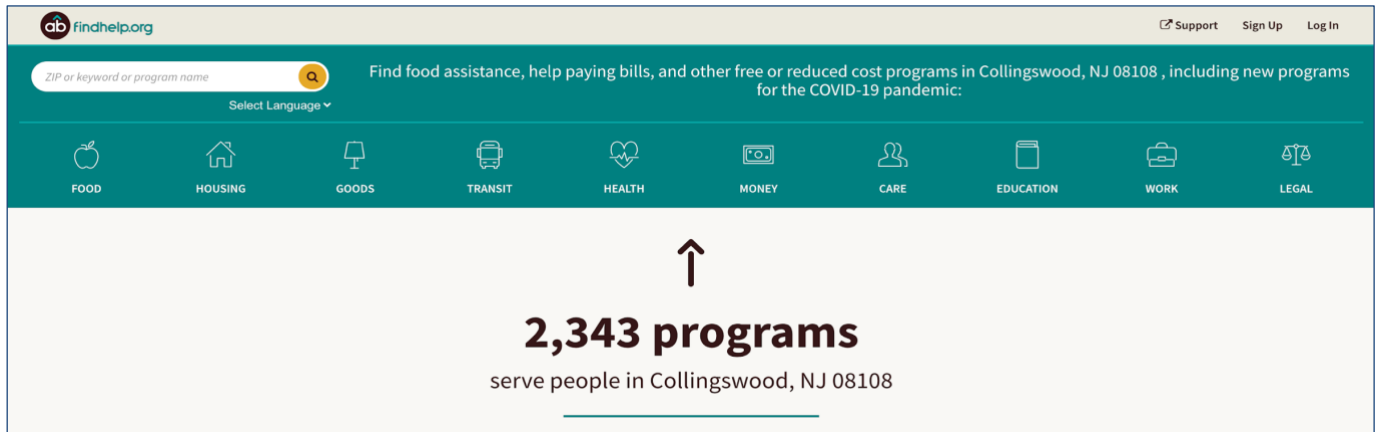
**Question: When would I be notified if a position in preschool becomes available?** Families are notified as soon as a seat becomes available, in the order they have been placed on the waiting list.

**Question: What if our family has already decided we are going to seek preschool in a different location?** We kindly request that your family notify us of that decision at your earliest convenience.

**Nursing/Health Services**

**National Nutrition Month®** is celebrated each year during March with the focus on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. Every day is a good day to eat healthy. Good nutrition is vitally important to kids. Healthy eating fuels their physical and mental development. Accessing healthy and nutritious food can be challenging. Healthy eating patterns change during periods of stress and many people may find their eating habits are quite different than in pre-pandemic days. Eating well looks different for everybody. That's something we're going to celebrate all month long!

## In Need of Assistance Due to COVID?



The screenshot shows the findhelp.org website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "ZIP or keyword or program name" and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar, it says "Find food assistance, help paying bills, and other free or reduced cost programs in Collingswood, NJ 08108, including new programs for the COVID-19 pandemic:". Below the search bar is a "Select Language" dropdown menu. A navigation bar contains icons for various categories: FOOD, HOUSING, GOODS, TRANSIT, HEALTH, MONEY, CARE, EDUCATION, WORK, and LEGAL. In the center of the page, there is a large upward-pointing arrow above the text "2,343 programs" and "serve people in Collingswood, NJ 08108".

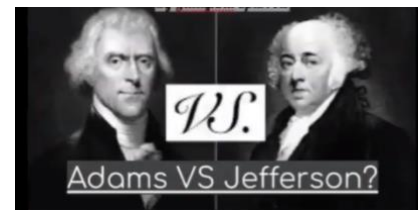
Currently, there are **2,343 programs available to serve people in Collingswood, NJ 08108 area**. Go to [findhelp.org](https://findhelp.org), enter your zip code. Every type of service available can be found for any zip code in the US. Type a search term or pick a category. There is open access to search on network. There are no ads or marketing on the platform. It is user-friendly and easy to understand. [Findhelp.org](https://findhelp.org) helps to connect local non-profits that offer social services. If you need additional assistance, please reach out to your school nurse.

## Special Education



**Examining the Political Process:** In Mr. Fieldman's US History pull out replacement classes, the students have been examining the history of presidential elections, inaugurations, and campaigns. This being an election year, the students have been able to make connections with the past elections to the most recent election this past year. Seeing so many similarities between events over two centuries ago, to modern-day events has enhanced their ability to fully understand their role as active participants in our democratic process.

For many people, this past election was divisive. The students learned of the precedents for these types of campaigns, for example, the one between Jefferson and Adams dating back to 1800. The students were tasked with writing and recording an Election Campaign Video for that election. The finished products ranged from a student rapping his support for Jefferson to multimedia videos with music and period graphs to reporting out in the community. This was a fun, hands-on project that helped to make history relevant.



## Buildings & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds crew continues to keep our buildings clean, safe, and secure for students and staff. Enhanced cleaning protocols such as the use of electrostatic sprayers and increased attention to disinfecting touch points remain in effect throughout the district. Special thanks to Buildings and Grounds as they prepare schools for expanded access to in-person instruction.

## Nutritional Services

In preparation for the return to full-time in-person instruction in September, our Nutritional Services Department is hiring. If you or someone you know enjoy working around children or enjoy working with food, there are opportunities available. Nutri-Serve Food Management is actively seeking motivated, fun, high energy, dependable professionals to join the team. Positions are part-time during the school day and follow the Collingswood school calendar. For more information contact Nancy Hibbard at [CWD@nsfm.com](mailto:CWD@nsfm.com).

## Oaklyn School

### Celebrating Student Work in Oaklyn

Mrs. Pellegrino's 5th grade resource students did an excellent job creating their google slideshow on the American Revolution! Each student chose a topic, researched, and then compiled their own google slides with pictures, a resource page and an all about me page. They worked so hard on this and their finished projects were awesome! Mrs. Pellegrino and Mrs. Tung were both very excited to share this news about their students! Below you will find some examples of the slides they created!



Inspired by the book, "Superheroes Are Everywhere" by Kamala Harris, the 4th grade students in Mrs. McCoy and Miss Miller's class wrote about some real superheroes in their lives. They wrote about the people who make them feel special and brave, and people who protect them, are kind to them, and who they can count on. The students enjoyed writing about the important people in their lives and they did a fantastic job! Here are a few pictures of our own 4th Grade Superheroes working hard!

### Allison Buczko

#### I Can Count On my Sister Maddy

I can count on my sister Maddy because when ever I am sad or feeling left out my sister always finds a way to make me happy or put a smile on my face or make me laugh until that frown is in New York. I can count on her to be there for me when I need her. She's there when I am scared or thinking the worst.



### Zachary Akers

#### My dad makes me feel brave.

He likes football cards



He likes Jordan Burroughs



My dad makes me feel brave because he pushes me to do the stuff I don't want to do. One time I didn't want to surf because I thought I was gonna get hurt but then my dad pushed me to do it and I did it and got good at it.





### Kindergarten Leading the Way

Kindergarten student and future author, Evangeline Callahan, wrote and illustrated her own Kindness Book! We are so proud of all our kindergarten students for working so hard on their writing assignments this year!



### STEM

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Mrs. Dominiak's Medical Physiology class hosted an HIV Educator and Prevention Advocate as a virtual guest speaker. He spoke with students about breaking stigmas and working with HIV+ patients as future medical professionals. Ms. Hirsh's class joined the discussion as well.



### Collingswood Middle School

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Sixth grade Spanish students in Senora Bruner's classes just ended a Spanish speaking countries WebQuest, and in doing so, found out information about the country's location, government, independence, famous foods & holidays, and the weather. They created colorful slideshows or wrote on a document.

Seventh grade students will be learning how to tell time in Spanish next week. This will be super helpful for their future studies and will help them learn to be organized in two languages!

Eighth grade students are starting to prepare for high school by studying verbs. They already learned subject pronouns and can't wait to use them with action words. They will be completing a funny project by creating silly sentences with the verbs and subjects they already know.

# COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

Middle & High School - 3rd marking period ends Thursday, April 1st. Grades will be released on Friday, April 16th

## Scheduling Calendar

### Collingswood 8th Graders:

March 22 - April 1 - Scheduling meetings with CHS Counselors

### Woodlynne 8th Graders:

March 25 & 26 - Scheduling Meeting with CHS Counselors

If you are unable to attend the meeting or have any questions about scheduling, please contact a High School Counselor at 856-962-5701. Extensions, email addresses and counselors' caseloads are listed below:

Counselor	Email	Ext.	Student's Last Name
Mrs. LaToya Goodall	<a href="mailto:lgoodall@collsk12.org">lgoodall@collsk12.org</a>	x6008	A - F
Mr. Matthew Friedman	<a href="mailto:mfriedman@collsk12.org">mfriedman@collsk12.org</a>	x6009	G - O
Mrs. Kylie Smith	<a href="mailto:ksmith@collsk12.org">ksmith@collsk12.org</a>	x6010	P - Z

### Middle School (6th & 7th grade) Course Selections:

March 15 - Students were emailed a video guide and course descriptions

March 18 & 19 - Students will make course selections in Genesis during their PE classes.

Counselors will have a Google Meet open during those classes to answer any questions students might have.

If you have any questions about 6th & 7th grade scheduling, please contact a Middle School Counselor at 856-962-5702. Extensions, email addresses and counselors' caseloads are listed below:

Counselor:	Email	Ext.	Student's Last Name
Mrs. Faith Alexander	<a href="mailto:falexander@collsk12.org">falexander@collsk12.org</a>	x6714	A - K
Mrs. Adrienne Earle	<a href="mailto:aearle@collsk12.org">aearle@collsk12.org</a>	x6715	L - Z

STRAW Meetings (Stress, Tense, Rushed, Anxious, Worried) are available for 6th - 12th grade students. The group runs every Tuesday from 12:45-1:30pm with Mr. Adams and Mr. Jefferson.

## Collingswood High

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On behalf of Mrs. Winkler, "I am happy to announce that Alexa McClintic has won a High School Student Scholarship for her artwork from the Art Educators of NJ. Alexa will be honored at the annual NJ Governor's Awards in the Arts at The Patriot Theater in Trenton in May. In my 20 years of teaching, Alexa is only the second student from Collingswood to receive this honor. Alexa has worked so hard this year to prepare her college art portfolio and she has been accepted into every program to which she applied." Here is an example of Alexa's artwork.

## Student Leadership in Action

Students in the high school Social Justice club created a **Virtual Activity Fair** that provides other students with information about how to get involved with some of the high school's clubs and activities.

[The activity fair presentation can be viewed here.](#)



## Giving Back to the Community

The high school Student Council sponsored a **Red Cross Blood Drive** at the high school cafeteria on Friday, February 26th. The Red Cross implemented social distancing and other COVID safety measures to ensure a safe environment for blood donations.



## Designing the Future

Collingswood High School graphic design classes have long been a training ground for the Adobe suite of Applications (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, After Effects, Animate, and XD). During our hybrid classroom model, the CHS Graphics classes have adjusted by exploring design applications that can be used on students' Chromebooks. The students have adapted well with the modified curriculum. Mr. King, the classroom teacher, creates video tutorials for each lesson for students to reference outside of class. Graphic Design students are exploring animated gifs. Graphic Design 2 students are designing cereal boxes. Motion Graphic kids are designing using filters and image masking. Our Advanced Graphic Designers are creating individualized portfolios displaying multimedia projects. Some of our advanced students can run the Adobe software at home thanks to our Tech Department. The show must go on as the yearbook and Paw Print are still publishing student activities and events. Go Colls!