



# OAKLYN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Shaping Lives for the Future*

April 15, 2021

Dear Oaklyn School Community,

Welcome Back! Hope you each had a great week Spring Break. With so many changes taking place at this time of year, 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 incredible students and our amazing educators as we finish the year strong.

## School Reopening Update

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

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 our school community along the way as progress is made. The majority of the summer will be dedicated to ensuring we achieve this goal.

### **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures: Preschool and Elementary**

Effective **April 19th**, we are pushing the arrival time for our PreK-5 students back by fifteen minutes in the morning. Our new arrival times will be 8:45 am - 9:00 am for K-5 students and 9:00 am - 9:15 am for preschool students. During this extended time, we plan to offer additional small group instruction and/or academic support in the areas of reading, writing, and math to all PreK-5 students. Should the new arrival times present a hardship for your family, please contact your Building Administrator for additional support.

#### All Elementary Schools:

- Drop-off: 8:45am - 9:00am: COVID check-in questions will continue to be performed as part of the morning routine at school. Please continue to perform these protocols at home.
- Dismissal: 1:00pm

#### All Preschool Classes:

- Drop-off: 9:00am - 9:15am: COVID check-in questions will continue to be performed as part of the morning routine. Please continue to perform these protocols at home.
- Dismissal: 1:15pm

### **Wednesday Schedule is Changing: Preschool and Elementary**

Effective **April 19th**, we will also be adjusting the Wednesday schedule so that it is an academic day consistent with the regular schedule for the remainder of the week. The instructional day will now take place from 9:00a - 1:00p for elementary students and 9:15a - 1:15p for preschool students. The new Wednesday Schedule is as follows:

- Blue Hybrid (Elementary: 9am - 1pm; Preschool: 9:15am - 1:15pm)
  - Dates: April 28, May 12, May 26
- Gold Hybrid (Elementary: 9am - 1pm; Preschool: 9:15am - 1:15pm)
  - Dates: May 5, May 19, June 9

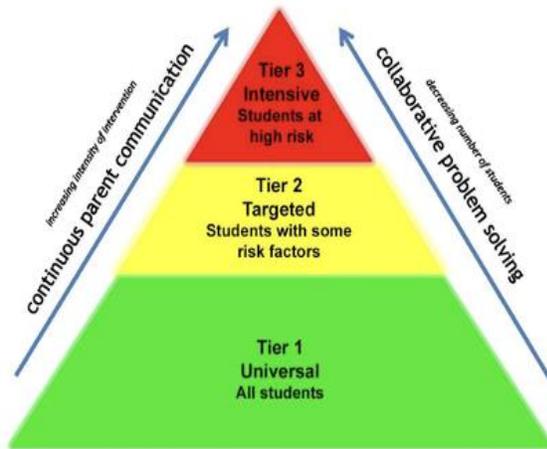
### Expanding Access to In-person Instruction: Self-Contained Classrooms Shift from 4-days to 5-days

Students receiving self-contained services have been offered in-person instruction for four days per week since October 2020, in accordance with the phased-in schedule for special education. Students receiving pull-out replacement services were also offered increased in-person instruction. This schedule allows our students with the greatest needs to receive specialized services in a format that works to meet their educational goals. The new schedule will begin the week of **April 19th** for self-contained services and **April 26th** for pull-out replacement services.

### Expanding Access to In-person Instruction: What are the Considerations for Students?

Elementary schools (K-5) are focused on expanding access to in-person instruction for the last marking period. Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools will continue to use a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) approach to identify **K-5 students** who are struggling academically, socially and/or emotionally. Schools will categorize students based on a three-tier system, and refer to this data when recommending students to return for five days of in-person instruction. The district cannot accommodate all requests at this time. We will extend this offer to as many students as possible in order to fill all available seats. Please be advised that capacity will vary from school to school because not all classrooms are equal.

#### What does this mean for students?



The following Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) process is taking place at every elementary school:

- Educators will analyze key data and communicate with families in order to gain additional knowledge about the unique needs of all students.
- Students will be placed in a tier (I, II or III) based on the information collected. Students who are making progress in their current learning environment will remain in tier I. Students who are struggling to make progress will be assigned to either tier II or tier III based on their individual needs.
- In order to provide our students in tier II and tier III with the academic interventions and/or support services they need to succeed, we will make every attempt to bring them back to school for five days of in-person instruction starting the week of **April 26th**.

#### What will be the process for families?

Elementary Schools continue to contact families to invite more students to participate at school in-person based on classroom capacity and student need. Please be advised that capacity will vary from school to school because not all classrooms are equal.

#### What about the school buildings?

The district is committed to ensuring that all elementary classrooms are set up for maximum occupancy per CDC guidelines of 3 feet. There will be an increase in the number of students that can safely be accommodated for in-person instruction. Increased access has been determined according to classroom setup, use of existing furniture, maintenance of safety exits, and ADA compliance. Buildings & Grounds Staff completed scheduled project work the week of Spring Break (April 5 - April 9). Classrooms were reconfigured to support more students in-person April 11 - April 13. School Buildings were made available for educators to set up classrooms April 14 - April 15. Additional desk shields have been ordered and will be delivered prior to student arrival on April 19.

## Board Office

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### **Assessment Update: NJSLA have been cancelled for Spring 2021**

On April 6, 2021, the United States Department of Education (USED), recognizing that “we are in the midst of a pandemic that requires real flexibility,” informed the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) that the administration of Start Strong assessments in fall 2021 will satisfy the federal statewide assessment requirement to administer general assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science for the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, there will be no spring 2021 administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA). This flexibility shall apply only to the 2020-2021 school year. The USED is still requiring the NJDOE to administer ACCESS for ELLs or Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). Therefore, the administration of these assessments will continue for Spring 2021. The administration window is from April 5 to June 11, 2021.

## Preschool/Elementary

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**Preschool Registration:** All (new) students for preschool will receive an email from Ms. Jessica Benatti this week with a link to the required paperwork for preschool. We strongly encourage our families to begin this process as early as possible! We know it can be challenging to obtain appointments for routine medical exams (physical, dental exams, etc.) and these items, as well as vaccination records, are required to start our preschool program in the fall. If your family is new to our program and you have questions regarding required documentation you can contact Ms. Jessica Benatti who can be reached at [jbenatti@collsk12.org](mailto:jbenatti@collsk12.org) and Mrs. Harrum Bataloni, school nurse, at [hbataloni@collsk12.org](mailto:hbataloni@collsk12.org)

## Nutritional Services

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### **NEW MEAL PICK UP TIMES**

Starting **April 21st**, meals may be picked up during the following times to ensure the safety of students during afternoon dismissal.

Collingswood: 12:40pm – 2:00pm & 4:00pm – 6:00pm  
Oaklyn: 1:15pm – 6:00pm



## Buildings & Grounds

It's been a busy spring break for the B&G crew. Some of the many projects the team were able to accomplish include construction of a new wall in Oaklyn School, cleaning up flower beds around CHS and assisting with the Tatem playground project.



## Nursing School Health Services:

### 10 things you can do to prepare for Returning back to School

#### 1 Practice Hand Hygiene

often throughout the day. Teach them to sing their ABCs or have them count for at least 20 seconds ensuring they wash front, back, & in-between their fingers.



#### 6 Update Immunizations/ Physical.

Each are required to enroll for the school year. Contact your child's pediatrician for an appointment. Immunizations can also be obtained at the Health Dept.



#### 2 Practice Putting Mask On/Off.

Your child will be required to wear a mask on the bus, upon entering school, & within the hallways. Teach them to not touch the inside of their mask when taking it off.



#### 7 Change Aerosolized Medication.

Nebulizers & inhalers without a chamber cannot be administered in school. Speak with your child's pediatrician to obtain the proper equipment & to update the Asthma Action Plan.



#### 3 Practice 3-6ft of Distance.

Measure the distance on the floor. Consider temporarily laying pieces of paper down for a visual.



#### 8 Purchase Reusable Water Bottle

to be brought to school. Water fountains will not be in-service.



#### 4 Purchase a Thermometer

Check your child's temperature every morning. If 100.0 or higher, they must stay home until fever free (without the use of Tylenol/Motrin). If they develop a fever at school, they will be required to remain out of school for 3 days.



#### 9 Verify/Update Emergency Contacts.

If your child presents with COVID-like symptoms, they will be placed in an isolation room and will need to be picked up immediately. Please ensure a contact can be reached at any given time.



#### 5 Make/Purchase Extra Masks.

When possible, masks should only be used one time. Consider making or buying multiple masks to give you proper time to wash them between use.



#### 10 Stay Informed.

Educate yourself from reliable sources such as the CDC, NJ Department of Health, and the CPS-OPS Public School websites.



## Special Education

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### Mrs. Gizzo's CMS Pre-Vocational Class

At Collingswood MS, Mrs. Gizzo teaches pre-vocational skills designed to intentionally introduce her students to the world of work and prepare them for entry into further vocational or technical programming. In her class, students experience an office type environment for part of their day to work on many pre-vocational skills that they practice regularly. As part of their pre-vocational programming, the class provides lamination and color-copy services to the district.



Additionally, the students are excited to have expanded this work to Cathedral Kitchen in Camden to meet their printing needs. The students provide Cathedral Kitchen with monthly fliers, menus, and marketing materials to help them market their services throughout the community. Our students work diligently each month to learn these skills and to meet their deadlines. Thank you to the staff at Cathedral Kitchen for providing this opportunity for our students! If you are a business owner and are interested in learning more about our services, please contact Mr. Joseph Gurcsik at 856-962-5701 ext. 6013 or [jgurcsik@collsk12.org](mailto:jgurcsik@collsk12.org).

## Oaklyn School

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### PREPARED FOR FIRST GRADE

These kindergarten students are ready! They might even be able to teach first grade next year! Sophia O'Neill took over for the teacher and gave the class a quick art lesson on how to draw a cat! During a reading lesson, Claire Gribok did a beautiful read aloud of [Never Let a Unicorn Scribble](#). She even prepared her own questions about the story to ask the class! Great job kindergarten!

### SEL SUPERSTARS

Mrs. Schmidt is so proud of her students for the SEL projects they created! Eloise Emmons painted a picture of her favorite stuffed animal who helps keep her calm. Eloise's mother passed this bear down to her. What a nice painting of Samsini bear! After listening to the read aloud, [The Couch Potato](#), Olivia McMillan created a picture of her couch potato learning how to balance time between the couch and other activities! As you can see, her couch potato decided to ride a bike on a nice day!



## Counseling/ College Readiness

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Middle & High School 3rd Marking Period Grades will be available on **Friday, April 16** via the Genesis Parent Portal. Please contact your child's school if you have any questions about the portal. Report cards will be mailed home next week.

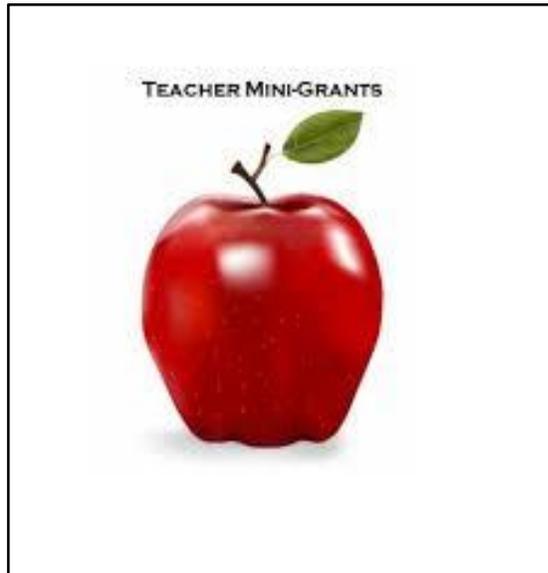
We are pleased to announce that Collingswood HS student **Ava Ostrem** has been selected as a New Jersey Governor's School Scholar for the thirty-eighth [New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences](#) to be held at Drew University this summer. The New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences (NJGSS) is a 3-week residential program where **students are immersed in intense college-level research** on the campus of Drew University. High school students who live in New Jersey are nominated by their schools and applications are submitted in the fall of the junior year for participation in the following summer. New Jersey's Governor's School in the Sciences is a very prestigious program for rising high school seniors. Congratulations Ava!

Please check out the story that includes one of our very own Collingswood HS students, **Maddox Morfit-Tighe**, and his involvement with the [Trenton Circus Squad](#) - The independent after-school program made up of youth from Trenton and surrounding suburbs teaches kids the practice of circus arts, while at the same time allowing them to figure out how to cooperate with people from different backgrounds, push themselves and serve their community.

## Collingswood Middle School

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### PTA TEACHER MINI-GRANTS



Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Collingswood Middle School PTA, 12 CMS PTA Teacher Mini-Grants -- totaling \$2725- - were awarded for the 2020-2021 school year. These grants are intended to assist CMS teachers in supporting, motivating, and engaging our students in the hybrid learning experience. Grant awards funded multiple classroom participation incentive programs, as well as the purchase of equipment to enhance existing classroom technology. Additional CMS PTA Teacher Mini-Grants were awarded to purchase scripts and performance rights for a digital production (as well as minor costume/prop items that might be needed); fund a virtual field trip to the [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#) to view Greek and Roman Art; pay the fee for students to participate in a virtual lesson with the Philadelphia Museum of Art on the topic of Black Art, Black Voices: Identity Activism, and Influence; defray the enrollment cost for CMS students to take the [American Red Cross Babysitting Basics Online Course](#); and finance a teacher appreciation art and writing project.

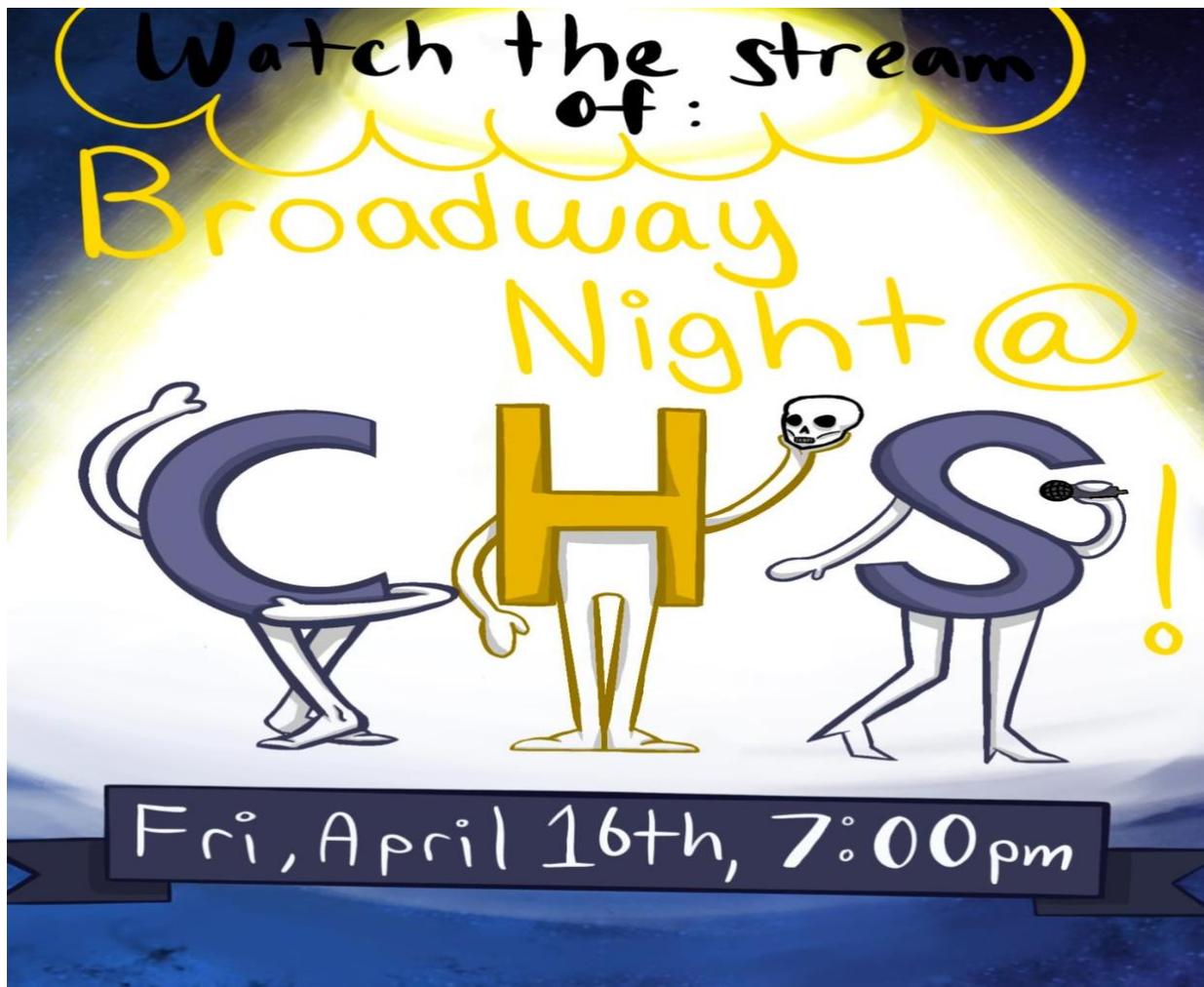
## Collingswood High

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Two TV Production students were nominated for awards at [Rowan University's Media Festival](#)--Josiah Angehr (junior) and Joe Degenhart (senior). Ava Madrieta (senior) also won an award for **Best Television Package** for her piece on "[Chasing Calvin](#)."



For the 5th straight year, Collingswood was named one of the **“Best Communities for Music Education”** by the NAMM Foundation. This program “recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.” Congratulations to our talented and dedicated music educators and students!



Collingswood High School is proud to present their first annual **Online Broadway Night on Friday, April 16 at 7pm!** We have gathered some of the best student performers to sing, dance, and act for you! Including performances from *Heathers*, *Hadestown*, *A Chorus Line*, and more. This entirely student-run showcase runs approximately 30 minutes long and there will be no intermission. Tickets are FREE, but we are asking for donations for the Collingswood High School Theater Department. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. [Get your free tickets here!](#)

## Superintendent's Note

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### I HAVE A QUESTION, WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

In an effort to be responsive to the needs of students and their families, we wanted to provide contact information to the community. Please refer to the list below to address all questions or concerns to the appropriate staff member or administrator.

**Teachers:** The primary point of contact for questions or concerns related to your child's school is their classroom teacher. Our educators are standing by to address the ongoing learning needs of all students.

**Building Principals/Leaders:** Please direct unresolved questions or concerns related to your child's school to the appropriate Building Leader.

School	Building Leader	Email	Phone
Collingswood High School	Mr. Matt Genna	<a href="mailto:mgenna@collsk12.org">mgenna@collsk12.org</a>	856.962.5701
Collingswood Middle School	Dr. Jack McMullin	<a href="mailto:jmcmullin@collsk12.org">jmcmullin@collsk12.org</a>	856.962.5702
Garfield Elementary	Mr. Mark Wiltsey	<a href="mailto:mwiltsey@collsk12.org">mwiltsey@collsk12.org</a>	856.962.5705
Newbie Elementary	Mr. Steve Smith	<a href="mailto:ssmith@collsk12.org">ssmith@collsk12.org</a>	856.962.5706
Sharp Elementary	Mr. Doug Newman	<a href="mailto:dnewman@collsk12.org">dnewman@collsk12.org</a>	856.962.5707
Tatem Elementary	Mr. Brian Kulak	<a href="mailto:bkulak@collsk12.org">bkulak@collsk12.org</a>	856.962.5704
Zane North Elementary	Mr. Tom Santo	<a href="mailto:tsanto@collsk12.org">tsanto@collsk12.org</a>	856.962.5703
Oaklyn School	Ms. Jennifer Boulden	<a href="mailto:jboulden@oaklynschool.org">jboulden@oaklynschool.org</a>	856.858.0335
Collingswood Preschool/ Early Childhood Center	Ms. Jennifer McPartland	<a href="mailto:jmcpartland@collsk12.org">jmcpartland@collsk12.org</a>	856.833.5291

**Special Education Services:** If your child already has an IEP, please contact your child's Child Study Team Case Manager. If you have questions regarding special education services in the district, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Whitehouse - [ewhitehouse@collks12.org](mailto:ewhitehouse@collks12.org).

**District Data/ Secondary Curriculum & Instruction:** If you have questions regarding the district's data collection practices or Collingswood Middle School and High School curriculum, please contact Mr. Winsor Yamamoto, Chief Performance Officer - [wyamamoto@collsk12.org](mailto:wyamamoto@collsk12.org).

**Preschool/ Elementary Curriculum & Instruction:** If you have questions regarding curriculum and instruction offered at the preschool or elementary level, please contact Ms. Jen McPartland, Supervisor of Preschool and Chief Academic Officer - [jmcpartland@collsk12.org](mailto:jmcpartland@collsk12.org).