



May 28, 2021

Dear Collingswood School Community,

Happy Friday! Thank you for taking time to view all the positive things taking place and share within the community as we finish the year strong.

School Reopening

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

On [Monday, May 17th](#), Governor Murphy announced that schools will be required to provide full-time, in-person instruction beginning Fall 2021. Remote learning will only be permitted in the event there is a localized outbreak or other emergency. Families will not be able to opt-out of in-person instruction.



Our district will safely 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 along the way as progress is made.

The majority of the summer will be dedicated to ensuring we achieve this goal with the District Reopening Plan and Community Town Halls taking place in early August.

Vaccine Update: FDA Authorizes COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Adolescents

On May 10, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus to include adolescents [12 through 15 years of age](#). The FDA amended the EUA originally issued on Dec. 11, 2020 for administration in individuals 16 years of age and older. The FDA has also updated [Fact Sheets](#) for Families and Caregivers with information to reflect the use of the vaccine in the adolescent population, including the benefits and risks. COVID-19 vaccine information from the NJ Department of Health can be found [here](#).

Getting to our “Next Normal” is going to take all of our tools. If we use all of the tools we have, we stand the best chance of getting our families, communities, schools, and workplaces back to normal sooner. Please also refer to the CDC website for details [here](#). Continued discussion and planning are needed to determine the impact this public health update plays on the District’s plan to return to full-time in-person instruction in September. Ongoing reopening updates will be forthcoming.

What does the FDA announcement mean for our schools?

Until further notice, existing layers of prevention strategies will continue to be adhered to: Universal Wearing of Masks, and Physical Distancing.



Assessment Update



NJ STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

On April 6, 2021, the United States Department of Education (USED) 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 US Education Department 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



REGISTRATION REMINDER. All (new) students for preschool will receive an email from Ms. Jessica Benatti 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 and Mrs. Harrum Bataloni, School Nurse, at hbataloni@collsk12.org

CALENDAR UPDATE. Preschool/Elementary key dates on the district calendar for June 1 - June 17:

JUNE 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 BLUE cohort	2 BLUE cohort	3 GOLD cohort	4 GOLD cohort	5
6	7 BLUE cohort	8 BLUE cohort	9 GOLD cohort	10 GOLD cohort	11 GOLD cohort	12
13	14 BLUE cohort Early Dismissal Elementary 12pm Preschool 12:15pm	15 BLUE cohort Early Dismissal Elementary 12pm Preschool 12:15pm	16 GOLD cohort Early Dismissal Elementary 12pm Preschool 12:15pm	17 GOLD cohort Last Day of School Elementary 12pm Preschool 12:15pm	18 Summer Begins	19
	Road Trip to Summer 12:30 – 1:30pm					

Nutritional Services

MEAL PICK UP TIMES

Meals are available at no charge to all families regardless of eligibility status. 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

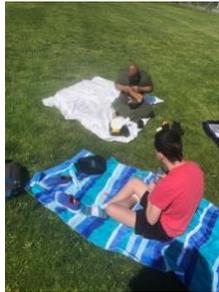


Buildings & Grounds

CRANE AT SCHOOL. What's a crane doing at the high school? The Buildings & Grounds Team is installing air conditioning in the kitchen prep and serving areas. This project required some additional help to lift the new HVAC Unit onto the roof. The new unit was set into place and is awaiting electrical feeds and refrigerant lines. All in a day's work!



Special Education



SEL WEDNESDAYS. The students in Mrs. Williams' classes at Collingswood High School have been working hard this spring. Every Wednesday, her students get fresh air outside while participating in some social, emotional learning-focused, socially-distanced activities. Wednesdays are based around students' social, emotional, functional, academic and behavioral needs involving peer interaction, active movement, coordination, respect, and appropriately socializing. Each Wednesday so far has been a great success with

students showing just how much they have learned this year while enjoying time with their classmates. On Wednesday May 19th, students gathered outside of the High School to have small discussion groups using real life topics - which involved writing, drawing, and verbalizing their responses while soaking up the sun. Students also enjoyed a self-packed snack, a movement game based around each group's questions, as well as a self-reflection opportunity. Mrs. Williams and her team are proud of the students and cannot wait for next Wednesday!

Nursing/School Health Services

Public Health Update: Masking Clarifications for K-12 Schools

On Wednesday, May 19th, the NJ Department of Health released [masking clarification for K-12 schools](#). In close cooperation with the District Nursing Team and guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education, Collingswood Elementary Schools will be using a "feels like" temperature of 80 degrees to determine if/when children can take masks off outside as long as they can remain socially distant of 6 feet or more. If children cannot maintain the recommended physical distance, masks will remain on. Principals will calibrate on such days that heat is a factor and make a decision in the best interest of our students.

The updated guidance also means that no changes will be made to the current safety protocols and procedures in health and physical education classes on campus. School sports will continue to operate using existing NJ Interscholastic Athletic Association ([NJSIAA](#)) social distancing and mask guidance; regardless of vaccination status.

End of Year Ceremonies

Details regarding elementary school track and field day, elementary promotion ceremonies, and high school graduation will be released prior to the event.

“Children need to be **HEALTHY** to be **EDUCATED** and **EDUCATED** to be **HEALTHY**”

How mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19.
Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called **spike proteins**. These **spike proteins** are ideal targets for vaccines.

What is mRNA?
Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins.

What is in the vaccine?
The vaccine is made of mRNA wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it.

How does the vaccine work?
The mRNA in the vaccine teaches your cells how to make copies of the **spike protein**. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.

When your body responds to the vaccine, it can sometimes cause a mild fever, headache, or chills. This is completely normal and a sign that the vaccine is working.

The vaccine DOES NOT contain ANY virus, so it cannot give you COVID-19. It cannot change your DNA in any way.

After the mRNA delivers the instructions, your cells break it down and get rid of it.

Antibody

GETTING VACCINATED?
For information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit: cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines

Video Link: [COVID-19 Vaccines: How do we know they are safe?](#)

Garfield Elementary

SMARTER THAN A FIRST GRADER? Our first graders worked very hard on their Informational books. They brought their own knowledge and used their Chromebooks to research their favorite topics. They included text features to add some spice to their books. Now they get to teach their friends. Such a beautiful display of student learning.



FEELINGS UNO. Mrs. O'Lexy and Ms. Ngo took their SEL lesson out to the playground. Self-awareness is a critical skill that helps individuals understand their own emotions. With a simple twist to the game UNO, students used the colors of the cards to discuss what those colors might mean. For example, Blue may represent sadness or boredom while Green represents happiness or feeling calm. At the end of the day, getting students to discuss their emotions is this key and this was a fantastic way to make those conversations happen.

Thomas Sharp Elementary



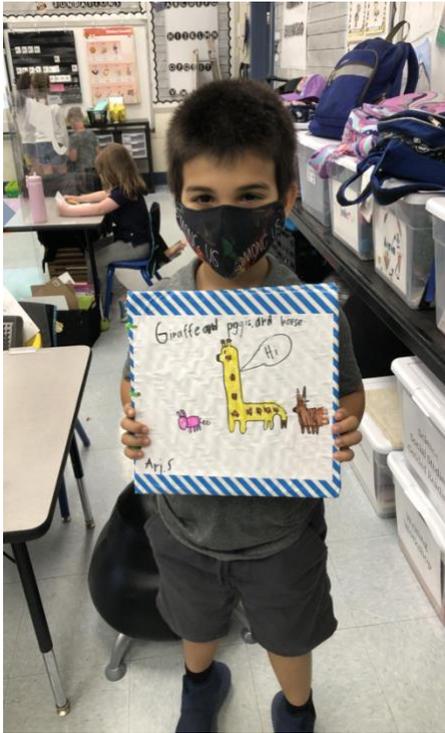
GRADES 3-5. In remembrance and honor of [Memorial Day](#), our students worked together to make an American flag. Thank you to all those who have served.



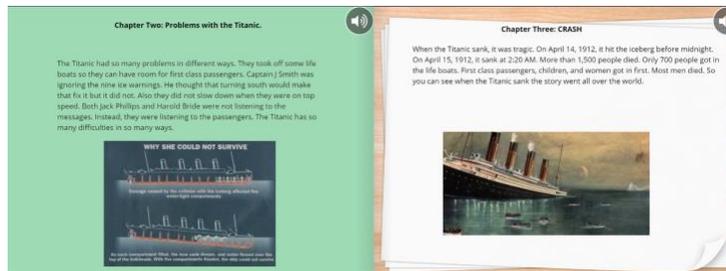
3RD GRADE RESEARCH. We have been sharing about our learning this week in third grade. The students shared their animal research projects with the class. Very soon we will begin our fairy tale writing projects. Students have begun reading and sharing what they notice about how fairy tale stories are developed and written.



Tatem Elementary



WRITER'S RETREAT @ TATEM. Students in Mrs. Miller's 1st grade class and Mrs. Lehr's classes showed off their brilliant writing in both hard and digital copies. As an added bonus, Mrs. Lehr's students used [Book Creator](#) to provide the audio for their work, too!



PAJAMA DAY. Ms. Henderson's kindergarten class enjoyed an end of day treat while sporting their finest pajamas!

Newbie Elementary

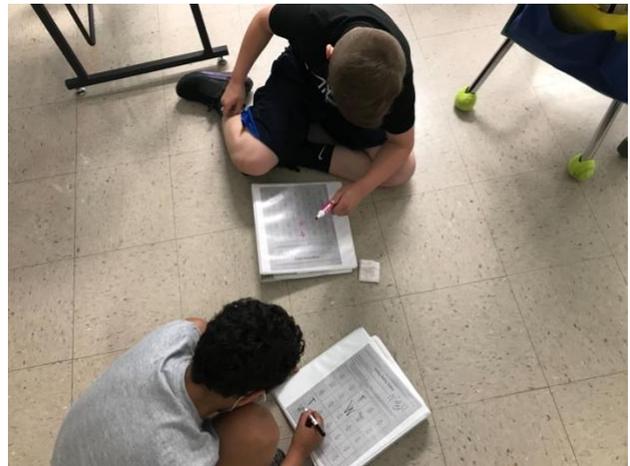


"K" IS FOR KINDNESS

As 1st Grade brings this school year to a close, each day they are celebrating a letter of the alphabet. On this day the classroom decorated the front of the school with colorful images to make our community smile. That's showing Kindness.

HAVING FUN WITH FRACTIONS

Fourth grade students worked together to play a game after studying about fractions. Directions: Roll a die to make a fraction. Then locate an equivalent form on the board. Variations include- most boxes wins or connect five wins.



IT'S A LONG MIGRATORY TRIP TO MEXICO! Thank you to Ms. Hogan and PTA parent Mrs. Boiler for coordinating the design of a monarch butterfly waystation garden. These special places provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Plants were donated to the school by [The Horticultural Society of South Jersey](https://www.facebook.com/HSNJ/) and planted by the energetic students in Mark Newbie's kindergarten class. If you are interested in learning more about monarch waystations in the area, visit: <https://m.facebook.com/collingswoodmonarchproject/>.



Zane North Elementary

OUTDOOR LEARNING STATION. On Thursday May 20th, the Zane North Green Team and 5th grade students installed phase 1 of the new Outdoor Learning Station and Pollinator Habitat Garden. The plants for the new garden consist of Wild Roots monarch pollinator kits granted by the Horticultural Society of South Jersey and then donated to the school by Zane North Parent Alumni Gina and Keith Masem-Lammers and The Collingswood Monarch Project. Additional plants were also donated by Wild Roots. The 5th grade students worked together to plant over 80 native pollinator plants, including milkweed. As students learned, the milkweed plant is essential to the life cycle of monarch butterflies who migrate from Canada to Mexico each year. The pollinator garden will attract and provide nectar to other types of butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and bees as well.



To celebrate the launch of the first Pollinator Habitat Garden, students from each grade enjoyed an educational component on pollinators presented by Lindsey Ifill of Wild Roots in the new Outdoor Learning Station. Zane North's teachers continued the celebration with their own grade-level pollinator educational lessons throughout the week. The project will be complete once tables, benches, and a second Pollinator Habitat Garden are installed in the fall. By partnering together, the Living Learning Landscape Team continues to forge ahead in their mission to promote environmental awareness and stewardship. [Video Highlights Click Here](#)

"Don't be afraid. Change is such a beautiful thing", said the Butterfly."
– S. Newby

Oaklyn School

HONORING MEMORIAL DAY. This week, our students learned all about Memorial Day and why we celebrate this very special holiday. They honored the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to serve our country by participating in various activities and projects. Mrs. Wooleyhand's kindergarten class remembered our heroes by making patriotic ribbons!



PRESCHOOL FUN. Our preschool students had a very busy week! They enjoyed watching their caterpillars turn into butterflies and they are having a blast learning and playing outside in the nice weather. They were also super excited to see some of their kindergarten friends visit their classrooms to read a book to them. Our four-year-old preschool students can't wait to get to kindergarten!!!



Counseling/ College Readiness

SENIOR AWARDS. The Senior Awards Ceremony was hosted on Wednesday, May 26th. Despite some weather challenges we were able to host an in-person event to acknowledge the accomplishments of our seniors in Academics, Arts, and Athletics. 90 students were recognized, with over 300 awards given out. We are extremely proud of the Class of 2021! Thank you to all our generous donors who continue to support our students!



Congratulations to the Top 20 of the Class of 2021

#1 - Dion Chen - [Valedictorian](#)

#2 - Tara Hislip - [Salutatorian](#)

#3 - Sophie Steidle

#4 - Isaac Sipp-Alpers

#5 - Anna Bower

#6 - Dylan Sparano

#7 - Daniella Stokic

#8 - Tyler Kolecki

#9 - Lila DiMasi

#10 - Fiona Basewitz

#11 - Carly Jones

#12 - Asia Vines

#13 - Jose Heredia

#14 - Hailey Spencer

#15 - Phoenix Penny

#16 - Michael Johnson

#17 - Alyssa Marrazzo

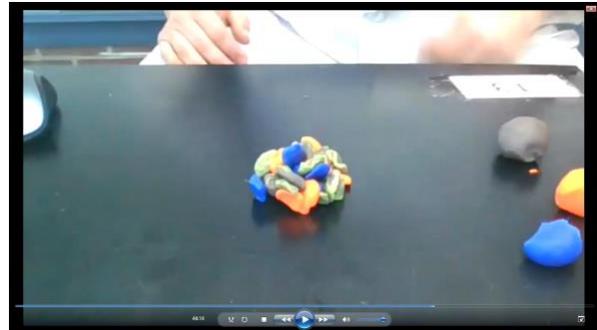
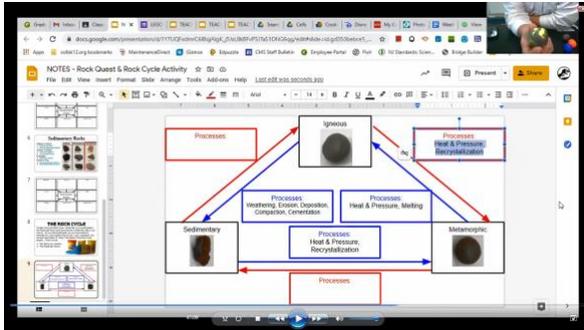
#18 - Samantha Sheridan

#19 - Grace Janco

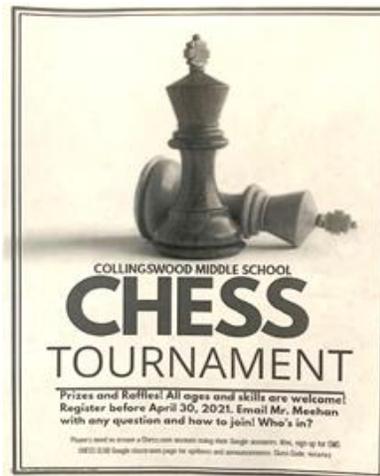
#20 - Milan Minos

STEM

EXPLORING ROCK CYCLES. Mr. Serabian's 6th grade science class has been learning about the rock cycle. Here are some pictures from class and a model made by students to demonstrate changes that take place during the cycle.



Collingswood Middle School



IT'S YOUR MOVE

Thanks to Mr. Meehan, things are heating up this week at CMS with our 2021 First Annual Online Chess Tournament. Any student who is interested in playing may sign up for the tournament, with everyone who registers receiving a raffle for a chance to win prizes. At the conclusion of the tournament, the Top 3 competitors will receive prizes created by our CMS Design Club. To date, over 25 students are registered for the tournament. Good luck to all the participants.

Collingswood High



Into the Woods JR. is an adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's groundbreaking, Tony Award winning musical. *Into the Woods JR.* features all of your favorite characters — Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch — in this lyrically rich retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables. The musical centers on a baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse, and wind up changed forever.



Collingswood High School
@Colls_HS



Congratulations to the cast and crew of "Into the Woods" for their enjoyable performances in Knight Park this week! Well done! @CollsTheater @WonderWhitman @CollsChoirs @MrHartung @Colls_MrGross



Superintendent's Note



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	mgenna@collsk12.org	856.962.5701
Collingswood Middle School	Dr. Jack McMullin	jmcmullin@collsk12.org	856.962.5702
Garfield Elementary	Mr. Mark Wiltsey	mwiltsey@collsk12.org	856.962.5705
Newbie Elementary	Mr. Steve Smith	ssmith@collsk12.org	856.962.5706
Sharp Elementary	Mr. Doug Newman	dnewman@collsk12.org	856.962.5707
Tatem Elementary	Mr. Brian Kulak	bkulak@collsk12.org	856.962.5704
Zane North Elementary	Mr. Tom Santo	tsanto@collsk12.org	856.962.5703
Oaklyn School	Ms. Jennifer Boulden	jboulden@oaklynschool.org	856.858.0335
Collingswood Preschool/ Early Childhood Center	Ms. Jennifer McPartland	jmcpartland@collsk12.org	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.

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.

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.