



Hackensack  
Meridian  
Carrier Clinic  
East Mountain School

Stacey Paulis, Ed. D.  
Director/Principal

Michael Haney, MA, QPA  
Business Administrator

Stephen Bender, Ph.D, D.D.  
Supervisor

Angela DiDolce, MSW, LCSW, ND  
Supervisor

David Seidorf, M. Ed  
Supervisor

August 26, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On behalf of the team at East Mountain School, we welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year! We can certainly state it has been a challenging two years. Our school is committed to making our students' experience a success where they are safe, comfortable, and supported.

As per Governor Murphy's executive order, schools are providing in-person learning. Additionally, it is required students, staff, and visitors be masked due to COVID concerns with the Delta variant. This is *Executive Order 251*, which instituted indoor masking for everyone in schools.

With all the concerns that have come in the past two months, we understand parents may feel uneasy about sending their children to school in-person. We are lucky our school is affiliated with Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic, where we are given the most up-to-date information, helping inform our decisions. Our school closely works with the local Department of Health and follows protocols from the County's Critical Activity Level Index (CALI score).

We know it can be frustrating to continue to face these ongoing concerns with COVID; we all wish it were behind us. However, the East Mountain School team is committed to safe in-person instruction by providing robust support for your child.

Last year, the school team drafted our school's "Restart and Recovery Plan" based on the Department of Education requirements. This year we are fine-tuning our safe return with the "Road Forward," where some guidelines were loosened, but also responsive to changing circumstances of COVID-19. Based on that, we are highlighting the following:

Schedule and Lunches:

- All instruction will be in-person
- For all vaccinated and unvaccinated students, masks are required.
- Students will be expected to distance themselves by at least three feet
- We will continue to have students hand wash and use sanitizer
- Hand sanitizing is required before eating lunch
- Classrooms will utilize dividers and desks arranged three feet apart
- Students will eat meals in groups, either indoors or outdoors when possible
- Lunch Applications are required this year and must be returned quickly

Health Office:



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- Students will be health screened daily and should stay home if sick
- If your student is sick, please keep them home. If anyone in the household is sick, please stay home and have everyone tested.
- Our contact tracing will continue like last year. Please help us keep students and staff safe by responding to medical calls.
- Families may be asked to quarantine and go for testing.
- Requirements for testing and quarantining are from the Department of Health and CDC.
- Student work will be provided if a student is quarantining
- **We encourage all students get vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones**

**Masks:**

- Masks must be worn in all school transportation vehicles
- Disposable masks are available for all students daily
- Cloth masks are acceptable if cleaned regularly
- Masks must cover the mouth and nose.
- Mask breaks are available throughout the day.

At any time these plans may need to be amended based on the virus transmission rate.

We know there are challenges to come this year. Please know we are here to listen and work with you to develop the best educational plan for your child. We are committed to a high level of care, nurturing and personal attention so your child can continue to grow academically, socially and behaviorally.

**First Day of School for Students: Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

**All students arrive at 8:45 a.m.**

**Community Students and Residential Students dismiss at 2:30 p.m.**

Review the enclosed calendar with your child's schedule and attendance requirements.

Regarding transportation, your district will contact you with their schedule. We know some school districts are still arranging busing. Always contact your district directly with any requests or questions.

Enclosed please find the medical information packet, Cosmetology permissions slip, Technology Use agreement, Student and Parent Handbook with authorization forms. There are numerous additions to the Handbook, so review carefully. Please **complete the forms and send/mail in with your child the first day of school.**

Thank you for joining our school and trusting us with your child's education. I know from experience, it is hard making these important decisions about your



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child, especially now. Please remind your children we are here to make this year as smooth as possible. Let them know they will start fresh with us at East Mountain School and we can get through this together. You are always welcome to visit East Mountain School so give us a call. I look forward to working with you and your school district team members. For any questions, please call me at 908-281-1415.

Sincerely,  
Stacey Paulis, Ed. D.  
Director, Principal

*“Take care of yourselves and stay healthy.”*

