



Roger León
Superintendent

Science Park High School

Darleen L. Gearhart, Principal



August 4, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of Newark's finest scholars,

Welcome to School Year 2023-2024 at Science Park High School! I am thrilled to welcome you back. I have served students in Newark for 30 years now, first as a mathematics teacher at Weequahic High School, then as a Supervisor and later Director of Mathematics for the district, eight years as the Principal of Sussex Avenue School, and now my second year at Science Park. I bring experience at both the school and district levels, a deep understanding of teaching and learning, compelling results and leadership, and a passion for ensuring student success. Science Park High School has a longstanding tradition of excellence and we will continue to build our programming in order to ensure your child receives an outstanding education. One key to success at Science Park is *attendance*. Your child must be at school each and every day as attendance is the single, strongest predictor of grades.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 5, 2023. School begins at 8:15 a.m. and dismisses at 2:40 p.m. Students should bring pens and pencils, highlighters, notebooks, a calendar, an empty refillable water bottle, personal hygiene items, and lunch (if your child does not plan to eat the school-provided lunch). Please note the important dates and times:

- August 14-18, 2023 is Summer Bridge Week for new/incoming students in grades 7 and 9. Bridge week is held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- August 21, 2023 is Senior Orientation from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- August 22, 2023 is Junior Orientation from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- August 23, 2023 is Sophomore Orientation from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- September 5, 2023 is the first day of school for students from 8:15 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
- September 21, 2023 is Back to School Night from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. This will be in-person.

Starting the first day of school, September 5, 2023, we will use ingress and egress procedures that maximize student safety:

- Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 will enter through the main atrium doors on Norfolk Street (Left)
- Grades 11 and 12 will enter through the middle doors on Norfolk Street (Right)

In the event that a parent/guardian needs to pick up a child, we ask that you enter the main atrium doors (Left) on Norfolk Street. Please keep in mind that no student, regardless of their age, will be released to anyone not listed on the Emergency Contact Form. Parents/guardians must also bring a valid ID in order to pick up a child. In order to protect the safety of all students, this protocol must be followed. In order to ensure students are safe, exterior doors will remain closed and locked. Visitors will be greeted by a security guard. Metal detectors and bag scanning machines will be located at all ingress doors in order to ensure your child is safe. In addition,



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regular perimeter checks will be conducted by security with safety and fire drills conducted on a monthly basis. Know that the safety of your child is my priority.

In order to maintain order and build school spirit, uniforms are mandatory at Science Park High School. Uniforms are both a district and a school policy and must be adhered to on a daily basis. Your child should be dressed for success every day with a blue shirt/blouse with a collar and khaki pants/skirts. Clogs, flip-flops, and slippers are not permitted. Students may not wear hats, hoods, sweatbands, bandanas, or sunglasses while in the school building. A detailed description about school uniforms and gym attire for Science Park High School can be accessed at <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/SCI/school-uniforms/> and information about our sports teams is available at <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/science-park-high-school>

Note that cell phone use is not permitted in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, or any other location other than the cafeteria. Students may only use their cell phone during their lunch period. If a student uses a cell phone outside of the cafeteria, they must turn over their cell phone to security and the parent will pick up the device at the end of the day. For repeat offenders, a student's cell phone carrying privileges may be completely revoked with further discipline.

Each family is required to complete an online lunch application – one application per family. Our goal is to have 100% of students with applications on file prior to the first day of school. Lunch application completion is important as this process helps fund our school. Free breakfast will be served every morning at 7:30 a.m. and lunch will take place in the cafeteria. Lunch applications can be completed using the link <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/sba/operations/food-services/lunch-application/> We also realize that transportation in a city may be challenging. If you and your child live more than 2.5 miles from the school, you may receive bus passes. Please contact Wesley Jenkins at wjenkins@nps.k12.nj.us to assist with bus tickets.

As your principal, I believe it's important that I understand both your needs as a parent and the aspirations you have for your child. Please feel free to stop in or schedule an appointment to discuss how we can help. A second opportunity to talk next month will occur on September 21, 2023 at our Back to School Night. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school at (973)733-8689. More information is available on the school website at <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/SCI/>, Instagram @nps_sciencepark, and Facebook ScienceParkHigh. We thank you for your continued support and commitment towards your child's education!

In Service,

Darleen L. Gearhart

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dgearhart@nps.k12.nj.us