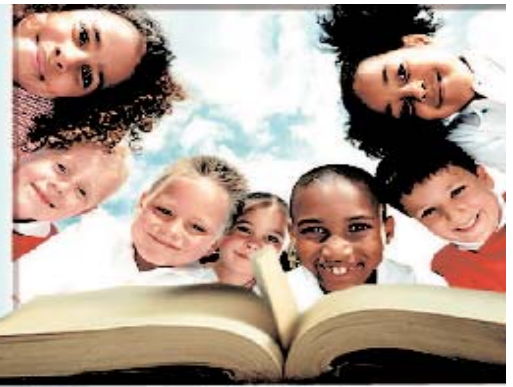


In Our Schools



Back-to-School Issue 2011

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome to the 2011-12 School Year!



The Newark Public Schools opened this September under the leadership of new schools superintendent, Cami Anderson. Ms. Anderson kicked off the 2011-12 school year by touring schools, visiting classrooms, and meeting with principals, students, and staff.

The district started the year with 17 new principals, approximately 300 new teachers, and four new high schools. "After months of hard work and preparation, the 2011-2012 school year is finally here," said Superintendent Anderson. "I am so proud of the progress we've made so far in getting ready and now that teachers are in their classrooms and students are in their seats, the real work begins."



Prior to school opening, the Superintendent held a series of "Community Meet and Greet" sessions around the city, where parents and community leaders were given the opportunity to hear first-hand her core values and vision. Cami also shared her priorities for reforming the school district. Parents asked questions of the Superintendent and presented their hopes and ideas for the Newark Public Schools.



The district will be hosting more meetings for families and the community as the school year progresses.

School Improvement Grants Update

B RICK Avon Academy, West Side High School and Barringer High School are the latest Newark Public Schools to receive assistance through the federal School Improvement Grant program popularly known as SIG. The three schools, which are part of the SIG II process, will join four other Newark Public Schools that are referred to as SIG I.

Funded in conjunction with Title I monies for school improvement, SIGs are used to improve student achievement in Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. The goal is to enable the schools to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) and exit improvement status.

Each school is required to adhere to national guidelines for SIG funds. In addition, schools are required to add programs, activities and resources to enhance learning.

Schools are also required to implement changes according to their designation of "transformation model" or "turnaround model." Transformation calls for a change in the principal but not half of the staff. Turnaround requires the appointment of a new principal and replacement of no more than half the staff. This rule for replacement of the principal does not apply if he or she was appointed to the school in the past two years (2009) as part of a reform model.

Replacement of staff at the three schools began prior to July in preparation for a September 2011 start. Principals were required to attend the SIG Principal's Leadership Institute from July 19 - 29. The training sessions, which were led by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) representatives, provided valuable assistance to help the principals implement new strategies that will guide their academic programs.

Top Photo: Superintendent Cami Anderson received a warm welcome from Peshine Avenue School. **Middle Photo:** During her visit to Peshine, Ms. Anderson (r) was greeted by school principal, Wanda Brooks-Long (l). **Bottom Photo:** The Superintendent also took a moment to toast in the new school year with students at the school.

Parents Log On To School Meals Program

The Newark Public Schools has made changes to the school lunch application and payment process for the 2011-2012 school year. Lunch applications MUST be filled out online and payments MUST be handled through the MealPayPlus system - this allows for faster and more efficient processing and we are already seeing improvements. FREE breakfast is still available for all elementary and high school students, the cost of which is absorbed by the district to ensure that all students receive two balanced meals a day.

Lunch Applications

- All lunch applications must be completed online at www.nps.k12.nj.us
- If you do not have access to a computer, you can file an application using a computer at your child's school, or at the Office of Food and Nutrition Services, 2 Cedar Street, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

- If you have more than one child attending district schools, only ONE application per household is needed. Be sure to print a paper confirmation which you will need to present at the school.

Payment via MealPayPlus

- Parents can sign up with MealPayPlus to pay for their child's lunch either online at www.nps.k12.nj.us OR by phone at 877-237-0946. The MealPayPlus system allows you to use your credit card, debit card or check. There is a small charge (95 cents for a \$20 prepayment) but that is returned as a \$1 bonus to your child's account.

To apply online for Lunch and Meal Pay Plus, parents can go to the NPS Website: www.nps.k12.nj.us and click the School Lunch icon pictured below.



THANK YOU for your cooperation in making the district's meal program more efficient. If you require more information please contact Food Services at 973-733-8805.

Newark Public Schools Unveils New Schools Stadium (State-of-the-Art Stadium features Green Technology)

The Newark Public Schools unveiled an eco-friendly and community centered schools stadium in the heart of the city's North Ward. The stadium with its classical arches and majestically tall clock tower officially opened September 9, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Located on Bloomfield and Roseville Avenues in Newark, with a main entrance accentuated by a spacious courtyard, the stadium represents a departure from the original structure which dated back to 1920 and was demolished in 2008.

Steve Morlino director of the district's Facilities Management Office said, "This stadium has less of an impact on the environment. Modern technology has allowed the builders to provide turf that is more user friendly, fixtures that are most cost effective and community space for programs."

The structure, which took 18 months to complete, was made possible through \$24 million in capital bonds funded by the City of Newark. Among its various features are synthetic turf which requires less maintenance and is more durable, water-less fixtures so conservative amounts of water are utilized during essential operations, more energy efficient lighting which last longer and more comfortable seating. In addition,

the stadium includes regulation football and track fields, soccer fields, two high school softball fields, a little league conversion field, a community center and bleachers for 5,500 spectators.

State District Superintendent Cami Anderson commended the collaborative efforts that began four years ago with the re-building of the stadium.

"Congratulations to the entire Newark community which came together to build this state-of-the-art facility that is for all of Newark Public Schools. I look forward to sharing the spirit of teamwork and great sportsmanship as teams from around the district take to the field. This is going to be an exciting school year: both the academic and sports programs are off to a promising start."

Mayor Cory Booker who has been very supportive of academic and sports programs throughout the city joined the audience of parents and special guests who will officially open the stadium.

Barringer High School, which has a strong tradition of football game victories at

the former stadium, was represented by their marching band. The district's Advisory Board Members, Newark Municipal Council Members and Essex County officials were among the invitees who attended.



Supt. Cami Anderson students and dignitaries pose at the September ribbon cutting.

Parent Place: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. At what age can I register my child for kindergarten?

Students enrolling in kindergarten must be age 5 or older on or before October 1st. Space is limited and subject to availability.

Q. Can a child attend a school other than his/her "home school?"

Depending on the school capacity and individual circumstances students are sometimes allowed to attend schools other than their home school. For more information contact the Regional Office in your ward.

Q. What are the normal hours of school?

Elementary - 8:25 a.m. - 2:55 p.m. High School - 8:15 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. Some school hours are different; please check with your child's school for exact times.

Q. Does my child have to wear a uniform?

The Newark Public Schools has a mandatory school uniform policy for all students. Uniforms impact the school environment in regards to school pride, peer pressure, decreased violence and theft. Parents: When you plan to shop for your children's uniforms, please make sure that you are purchasing uniforms to match the color schemes of the students' schools. Although some schools have selected particular vendors, parents may elect to purchase uniforms at various locations of their choosing.

Q. Who is eligible for transportation?

Elementary and middle school students who live further than two miles from their schools, and high school students who live further than two and a half miles from their schools, will be provided with transportation in the form of bus tickets or passes. The District will provide transportation, bus tickets or bus passes for handicapped or special-needs students identified as needing this service. Transportation reimbursement to non-public and private school students, who meet the New Jersey Statute requirements, is also available.

Q. How can individuals get involved in a school?

Parental involvement is key to a student's success. The Newark Public Schools hosts events throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement. We invite parents to visit their children's schools, join the school's parent/teacher organization, attend parent-teacher conferences and meet the administrators. Please call your child's school and ask to speak to the Parent Liaison for ways to get involved.

Advisory Board Meeting Dates

September 20, 2011 5:30 p.m. Business
2 Cedar Street 10th Floor Conference Room, 1010

September 27, 2011 6:00 p.m. Regular
First Avenue Elementary School, 214 First Avenue

October 18, 2011 5:30 p.m. Business
2 Cedar Street, 10th Floor Conference Room, 1010

October 25, 2011 6:00 p.m. Regular
Arts High School, 550 Dr. Martin L. King Blvd.

November 15, 2011 5:30 p.m. Business
2 Cedar Street, 10th Floor Conference Room, 1010

November 22, 2011 6:00 p.m. Regular
Ivy Hill Elementary School, 107 Ivy Street

December 13, 2011 5:30 p.m. Business
2 Cedar Street, 10th Floor Conference Room, 1010

December 20, 2011 6:00 p.m. Regular
American History High School, 74 Montgomery Street

Upcoming Testing Dates

HSPA Fall 2011: For retained 11th graders, first-time 12th graders, retained 12th graders, returning students and adult high school students
October 4 - 6, 2011 Math and LAL Days 1 and 2

NPS Formative Assessment (Learnia) Grades 3-8:
Week of October 3, 2011

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Dates

October 1, 2011
November 5, 2011
December 3, 2011

American College Test (ACT) Dates

October 22, 2011
December 10, 2011

Progress Reports and Report Cards

Progress Reports
October 6, 2011
December 20, 2011

Report Cards Issued
November 16, 2011
February 8, 2012



2011-2012 School Calendar

SEPTEMBER 1 Organization Day - All Teachers Report
 2 Staff Development Day
 5 Labor Day Holiday
 6 School Opens for Students

School Closing Dates

OCTOBER 10 Columbus Day
 19 Staff Development Day

NOVEMBER 8 Election Day
 10 Puerto Rico Recognition Day
 11 Veterans' Day
 16 Early Dismissal Parent Conference 1:00 p.m.
 23 Early Dismissal 1:00 p.m.
 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER 23 Early Dismissal Holiday 1:00 p.m.
 26-30 Winter Recess

JANUARY 2 New Year's Day
 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Observance
 25 Staff Development Day

FEBRUARY 8 Early Dismissal Parent Conference 1:00 p.m.
 10 Lincoln's Birthday
 15 Staff Development Day
 20 President's Day

MARCH 21 Staff Development Day

APRIL 2-6 Spring Recess
 6 Good Friday

MAY 28 Memorial Day

JUNE 25 Last Day for Students & 10 month Staff
 1:00 p.m. dismissal (students only)

At times, hazardous weather conditions or other emergencies may cause us to close schools or to delay openings. News of these closings and delays will be broadcast between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m. on several radio and TV stations in our area. Parents, students and school personnel are advised to listen for these announcements on the following radio and TV stations:

WRKS (KISS) - 98.7 FM	News 12 New Jersey	WBGO - 88 FM	FOX - 5
WCBS - 880 AM	WKXW - 101.5 FM	WADO - 1280	NBC-TV
WINS - 1010 AM	WBLS - 107.5 FM	WABC - TV	CBS-TV

Univision Channel 41

School Hours:
 Elementary - 8:25 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.
 High School - 8:15 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Report Card Dates:
 November 16, 2011
 February 8, 2012
 April 25, 2012
 June 25, 2012

School Uniforms are MANDATORY for ALL Students in ALL GRADES.

For more information visit: www.nps.k12.nj.us

Save the Date



Thursday, November 3, 2011

Theme

Advocating

For Your Child!



**Where Can I Find Information
 on The Newark Public Schools and
 Programs for Newark Parents?**

**Online @ the NPS Website:
www.nps.k12.nj.us**

**Cami Anderson
 State District Superintendent**



InOurSchools is produced by
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 2 Cedar Street,
 Newark, NJ 07102
www.nps.k12.nj.us