



**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

Russell Hudson, M. Ed
Supervisor

Email sent on August 7, 2020

Hello to all East Mountain School Families and Students,

I hope you, your friends and family members have remained safe and have been able to spend time together to enjoy the Summer.

I would venture to guess, there have been so many challenges for you and your families this year. Everyone at East Mountain School wishes to express our care and hopes that you are well and that you have had some good moments in these months.

As you know, all school districts have been tasked with the development of a “return to school” plan. We have done that. Keep in mind though, there are so many uncertainties this year, that any plan we make could require adjustments and/or major revisions in the weeks to come.

Having said that, we put our best educational and medical team together to draft a plan which has an option for our students return to campus and keeps students and staff safe. While we know there is no plan that is completely free of risk, we have been researching and re-designing our school to meet these requirements.

Here are the highlights of our plan.

East Mountain School offers two educational options:

- Five days a week In-Person, with a shortened day
- Five days a week all Virtual Instruction

Requirements to attend school in-person:

- All students will report to school, Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- All students and staff will be health screened upon entry to school
- Face masking is required for all students and staff
- Families may provide masks from home

School Day Schedule:

Commuter Students, 8:45 -1:00 pm, and may opt for remote classes at home

Residential Students, 8:45 – 2:30 pm

- There are Four Educational Cohorts, to divide up class size and mitigate risk of spread of any germs, especially COVID 19
 - Commuter students are scheduled in their own cohort (2 groups)
 - Residential students will be their own cohort
 - Swan School students will be their own cohort

Our Learning Platforms

- Google Classroom, IXL and Zoom will be utilized for all academic programs, for both on-site learning or remote instruction
- All students are required to create a **g-mail** account to join **Google Classroom**. The platforms will be used for in-person and for virtual instruction
- Students will train and prepare to switch to remote instruction at any time, if a closure of the school or a learning cohort are required.
- Therapeutic services will be offered to students and families throughout the day whether in-person or through remote platforms, as needed.
- Commuter students who opt for remote-only, will connect with school staff 1:00 – 3:00 daily.

IMPORTANT: Families may choose an “all remote education” option and would apply in **writing** to the Building Principal **on or before,**

Thursday, August 20th, 2020. The request will be approved.

This option is flexible and offers support to restart students for in-person instruction at any time. Please email, Dr. Paulis at stacey.paulis@hackensackmeridian.org

- Families opting for the ALL REMOTE learning must remain in that option until approved for the switch by both East Mountain School education team and their district’s child study team.

In addition we have made some changes and enhancements to the school

- Classroom spaces will be marked to establish social distance.
- There will be new signage and markings to maintain social distancing
- Face masks are to be worn in classrooms and common areas
- Hand sanitizing/hand washing will be scheduled, especially at snack/meal time or specials classes. Our staff will have the supply to share

- We are encouraging our students to help keep the school clean in all areas

And for Health Safety:

- Parents and guardians must assist us in monitoring the health of the student by checking their temperature daily and if symptoms are noted, to keep the child home
- Students who are screened at the entry to school and assessed as ill, will be required to isolate in a separate area and have their families come to pick them up from school
- Parents must establish a plan to pick up their child if sick
- Families must contact the school if they suspect they may be or their child may be exposed to COVID 19
- If a case of COVID 19 is found in the school, we must report it to the health department and they will follow up with contact tracing
- Commuter students will be given “grab and go” lunches at their 1:00 PM dismissal
- Lunches are available for purchase to take home as well.

Please know we are excited to have your children return. I know too most students are truly ready to come back! Our team is here to welcome you and we expect it will be strange to follow all the new rules and guidelines. We are here to help and will get through this together. It is expected that everyone will follow the rules so we can keep everyone safe.

Attached is our updated school calendar.

In closing, I am sure many of you have questions. Our plan will be posted on our site in the coming week. But it was important to take this opportunity today to update you all so you can plan these next weeks. We are hoping that our plan offering education every day for the children, may be helpful and positive. However, you may need us to help figure out alternate plans and accommodations for your child. That is fine. Give us a call in the days to come so we can start to address your needs and questions.

Keep yourselves safe and we wish you a relaxing Summer!

