



# Chesterfield Township School District

## Office of the Superintendent

### Scott Heino

September 6, 2023

## 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR OPENING UPDATE

### Welcome Back!

I hope that you enjoyed the summer break and took advantage of the wonderful weather, perhaps with a beach getaway, July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks celebration or by simply spending quality time with family and friends. We opened school today to sunny skies and so many smiling student faces. All were welcomed by Chesterfield staff who are eager to begin another great school year! Provided below are a few important updates for the 2023-2024 School Year, organized by topic.

### SECURITY

The NJ Department of Education provided updated guidance for new Policy and Regulation 2419 to be adopted at the August Board meeting and in order to have a **School Threat Assessment Team** in place for the new school year. This builds upon recent security efforts including the addition of Security Officers last school year.

**Threat Assessment Teams** are comprised of multidisciplinary members and include the following individuals:

- School psychologist, counselor, or social worker
- Teaching staff member
- School Principal/senior school administrator
- Safe Schools resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement
- School safety specialist

We have already assembled a **Threat Assessment Team** that will focus on the following goals:

- Defining prohibited and concerning behaviors
- Creating a central reporting mechanism
- Defining a threshold for law enforcement intervention
- Establishing threat assessment procedures and developing risk management options to create and promote a safe school climate.

Team members will also conduct training for other school staff members.

We would also like to remind you that our ongoing security measures include that parents and visitors remain outside the school. Please continue to work with us and thank you for helping to keep our school safe!

### STAFF NEWS

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the newest members of the Chesterfield Elementary School Team:

- **Celina D'Alto** – Special Education
- **Candice Donnelly-Knox** – Occupational Therapy
- **Catherine Gartland** - Lunch Recess Aide
- **Sylvia George-Edwards** – Lunch Recess Aide
- **Madeline Harbach** – Special Education
- **Rose Liedtka** – Lunch Recess Aide
- **Linda Multer** – Lunch Recess Aide
- **Allison Walla** – Special Education
- **Shameka Wise** – Special Services and CST

We held several new staff orientations at the end of August to welcome these newest members to the CES team and to help them feel more comfortable as they start the 2023-2024 School Year.

Please join me in extending them all a warm Chesterfield Dragons welcome!



## STUDENT TEACHERS

Over the past several years Chesterfield Elementary has been helping to develop a new generation of teachers by hosting student teachers and pairing them with a teacher mentor. This helps to address the teacher shortage impacting school districts both here in New Jersey and nationwide by effectively preparing them for the classroom.

This Fall semester we welcome the following:

Anna Capron – 5B  
Gianna Dane – 1Ma  
Stephanie Gallant – 3D  
Arianna Guido - 6A  
Aimee Haberstick – 3Mc

Shannon Laykin - 4FI  
Alexa Montgomery - KRi  
Taylor Smith – 2L  
Nicole Szukalski – 3F

We are confident they will develop the tools necessary to effectively teach while working alongside our own awesome Chesterfield teaching staff!

## TRANSPORTATION

Did you know that approximately 30% of our students are bused to school each day? Even though our school is built in the middle of a housing development, and we have hundreds of students who walk to school each day, transportation is still a major part of our daily operations. Busing information was mailed out directly from our transportation department.

The Chesterfield Township School District only operates one district - owned bus. All other buses are operated from Northern Burlington County Regional School District who serves as our Transportation Department.

If you have any transportation questions this school year, please contact the NBCRSD Transportation Department at (609) 298-3900 ext. 2010.



## PTA and CPEF: PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

As we start the new school year, I want to thank two groups that are integral parts of our school system and major supporters of the school: our Chesterfield Public Education Fund (CPEF) and our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Please see below for the leadership of both organizations.

**CPEF** [thecpef@gmail.com](mailto:thecpef@gmail.com)

- ❖ **President:** Amanda Schmalbach
- ❖ **Vice President:** Brianna Piontek
- ❖ **Treasurer:** James Murray
- ❖ **Secretary:** Amy Emanski

**PTA** [ChesterfieldPTABoard@gmail.com](mailto:ChesterfieldPTABoard@gmail.com)

**First Meeting: Tuesday, 9/12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center**

- ❖ **President:** Meghan Bate
- ❖ **VP Communications:** Casey Schmidt
- ❖ **VP Events:** Stephanie Hope
- ❖ **VP Fundraising:** Kristina McCoy
- ❖ **Corresponding Secretary:** Amanda Layendecker
- ❖ **Recording Secretary:** Christine Cartwright
- ❖ **Treasurer:** Stephanie DeClerico

As with any organization, the CPEF and the PTA are only as strong as their membership. You can make a difference in our school and one way to do so is to be active in one or both organizations. Both rely heavily on their membership, so PLEASE take an interest, and become a part of our school system by contacting them at the e-mails provided above.

## MATH CURRICULUM

We are excited to begin the implementation of our new math curriculum and materials! We will be utilizing *Illustrative Math* in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and *Amplify Math* in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The core lesson content for Amplify Math is based on the Illustrative Math curriculum and thus aligned to the work in our earlier grades.

While the math has not changed, the way that the instruction looks may be different than that with which you are familiar. Illustrative Math is a problem-based program that focuses on student-centered instruction. The lessons will emphasize student-led discovery in which students will explore carefully crafted and selected problems to discover concepts and strategies. The teacher will monitor discussions and push student thinking by asking questions and orchestrating discussions. Students will frequently discuss math with each other, justify their thinking and critique the reasoning of others. This type of instruction has been shown to be more engaging for students and to help students develop a deeper understanding of the math concepts.

We began the process of learning about the best practices in math, reviewing materials, and developing our curriculum two years ago and we are excited to see the results of that work in our classrooms this year. Our Math Curriculum Committee has worked hard developing our curriculum and supporting their colleagues as we prepared for this moment. We thank them for their dedication and expertise!

Below are links to information for families about both programs. You will hear more at Back to School Night and we will be holding Family Math Nights this year. Please keep an eye out for those reminders and dates!

[Amplify Math Caregiver Hub](#)

[Kendall Hunt Illustrative Math Information for Families](#)

## Back to School Night

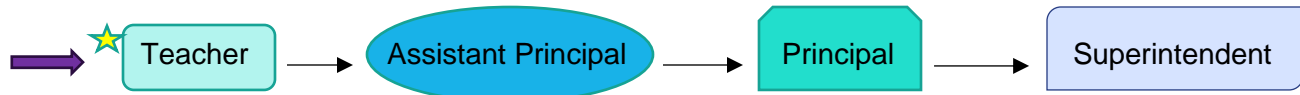
Back to School Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.**

This day is an **early dismissal at 12:45 pm.** Please mark your calendars and see our Principal's Letter sent yesterday for details on [how to reserve a time.](#)

We look forward to hosting all parents and guardians at our annual Back to School Night!

# COMMUNICATION

All parents are encouraged to reach out to our school with any questions or concerns. Our teachers are well informed and should always be your first contact at the school. In most cases, the classroom teacher can address the majority of your questions. If you need to contact an administrator, please follow the chain of command:



If at any time in the process it is determined that one of our supervisors needs to get involved, we will gladly do so. For your reference, contact information for all administrators is listed below:

**Superintendent:** Scott Heino  
[sheino@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:sheino@chesterfieldschool.com)  
(609) 298-6900 x1230

**Business Administrator**  
Andrew Polo  
[apolo@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:apolo@chesterfieldschool.com)  
Extension: 1223

**Principal**  
Coletta Graham  
[cgraham@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:cgraham@chesterfieldschool.com)  
Extension: 1211

**Supervisor of C& I**  
Jeanine May-Sivieri  
[jmay@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:jmay@chesterfieldschool.com)  
Extension: 2318

**Interim Supervisor of Special Services**  
Melissa Carlton  
[mcarlton@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:mcarlton@chesterfieldschool.com)  
Extension: 1214

**Assistant Principal**  
Stephanie DiCarlo  
[sdicarlo@chesterfieldschool.com](mailto:sdicarlo@chesterfieldschool.com)  
Extension: 2252

## NOTES ON HOMEWORK

The Chesterfield Township School District believes homework is a valuable practice to develop study habits, time management skills, practice concepts, and provide an opportunity for school and home to intersect in positive conversations. The district will follow the general rule of no more than 10 minutes of homework per grade level. As an example, a student in third grade should not have more than 30 minutes of homework. Teachers will assign homework for students to practice core concepts that have been taught in school.

Homework should be a positive experience for both students and families. If your child is struggling with homework or exceeds the general rule for how long a student should have homework on a daily basis, the parent or guardian should speak with their child's teacher to address the concerns and develop a plan to improve the situation.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES BEING PROVIDED THIS YEAR

Chesterfield Elementary School is pleased to announce that the district provided many general supplies needed by students such as pencils, crayons, Post-It® notes, notebooks and folders.

We hope this has lessened the financial and time burden placed on families each August to locate the requested school supplies.

