

# Student and Parent Handbook 2023-2024

JAMES H. JOHNSON  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL



#EVERYSECONDCOUNTS

500 KRESSON ROAD  
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08034  
PHONE: (856) 428-8848  
FAX: (856) 795-7132

# ***Student & Parent Handbook***

**Main Office Telephone Number: 856-428-8848**

**FAX Number: 856-795-7132**

Absence	Press 1
Nurse	Press 2
School Counselor	Press 3
Child Study Team	Press 4
Main Office	Press 0
Principal's Secretary	Press 0

**Board of Education..... 856-429-5600**  
**School Aged Child Care (SACC)..... 856-429-6564**  
**Transportation..... 856-489-5851**

**Principal.....Mr. Jared S. Peltzman**  
**Counselor.....Mrs. Shanelle Minaya**  
**Nurse.....Mrs. LeeAnne Keesal**  
**Secretary.....Mrs. Dee Herrmann**  
**Office Assistant.....Mrs. Michelle Pierce**  
**PTA President.....Mrs. Lauren Cygler**

District Website: <http://www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/>

School Website: <http://johnson.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/>

Follow us on Twitter: @JJESOWls - <https://twitter.com/JJESOWls>



## **A Message From The Principal...**

### **Mr. Jared Peltzman**

Welcome to Johnson Elementary School and the 2023-2024 School Year!

Johnson is one of twelve elementary schools in Cherry Hill and has between 420 and 470 students who we welcome every day. The school spans grades Kindergarten through Fifth and provides student services to meet the needs of our diverse learner population. Reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and science are the core components of our outstanding curriculum. With SMART Boards, document cameras and mobile laptops, technology integration is prevalent throughout our school on a daily basis.

Johnson Elementary School's education program is rooted in our community's respect for the dignity and integrity of all our students and families. We believe in keeping promises to our students and their families. We are proud to be one of the most diverse schools in Cherry Hill and we embrace the opportunity to learn about and work with students from many different cultures. We strive to become culturally aware and culturally responsive to assure the engagement and achievement of all Johnson students. We invite you to contribute your time and ideas as we continue our work together to build a positive school culture which values every child, promotes critical thinking, joyful learning and academic achievement. The Johnson Staff is committed to working collaboratively with you and with one another to provide results-oriented instruction that focuses on the success and achievement of every student. We are counting on each and every parent/guardian to partner with us to continue our work to raise the challenge bar and close the achievement gap. Our shared mission is focused on the work we do together to encourage the social, emotional, and academic growth of all our students. Nothing motivates a child more than when learning is valued by schools, families, and community in partnership.

We have a very active PTA at Johnson and our students benefit from the many fundraisers and activities that the PTA provides. We want our parents and our community to feel welcome in our building. There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year to help support the work that goes on behind our doors every day. Being part of the PTA is a great way to become more involved in our school and our community.

The pages that follow will walk you through some of our basic procedures and policies. While it may not be the most interesting read, I highly recommend spending some time with your child going through this handbook. It will hopefully answer many of the most common questions and is a great opportunity to discuss with your child what happens at school.

**Every student matters, every moment counts!**

Mr. Jared Peltzman

Principal



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Absenteeism/Attendance.....	6
Assemblies .....	6
Arrival/Dismissal .....	6
Bicycles .....	7
Breakfast Program.....	7
Bullying & Harassment .....	7
Buses/Bus Safety/Emergency Bus Changes.....	7-8
Child Abuse/Neglect .....	8
Citizenship.....	8
Delayed Opening/Emergency School Closing.....	8
Discipline Code .....	9
Dress Code .....	9
Early Dismissal .....	9
Field Trips.....	9
Fire Drills & Security Drills .....	9
Health/Nurse Services .....	10
√ Reporting Absences      √ Emergencies      √ Emergency Cards	
√ First Aid                  √ Health Screenings      √ Illness	
√ Injuries                  √ Medication              √ Physical Examinations	
Homework .....	11
Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS) .....	11
Lateness/Tardiness .....	11
Lost and Found.....	11
Lunch Information/Birthday Celebrations .....	11-12
Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	12
Parking.....	12
Personal Property.....	12
Pick Up/Drop Off .....	12
Policies .....	13
PTA .....	13
Related Arts .....	13-14
√ Art                          √ Instrumental Music      √ SSI	
√ Library                    √ Music/Chorus            √ Physical Education	
Related Services .....	14
√ Basic Skills              √ Counseling Services      √ ELL	
√ TAG                        √ Speech/Language	
Report Cards/Grading .....	15
School Hours .....	15
Standardized Testing .....	15
Transfers.....	15
Truancy/Excessive Absence .....	15
Twitter .....	15
Visitors & Visitor Guidelines .....	15

## Appendix

Traffic Pattern.....	Appendix A
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## **Cherry Hill Board of Education**

45 Ranoldo Terrace  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034  
(856) 429-5600

Acting Superintendent of Schools .....Dr. Kwame Morton  
Assistant Superintendent .....Dr. Farrah Mahen  
Assistant Superintendent of Business .....Ms. Lynn Shugars  
Assistant Superintendent..... Mrs. LaCoyya Weathington

### **Elected Board of Education Members**

**Miriam Stern - Board President**  
**Joel Mayer - Board Vice President**  
**Corrien Elmore-Stratton**  
**Jennifer Fleisher**

**Kimberly Gallagher**  
**Adam Greenbaum**  
**Benjamin Rood**

For dates & times of all Board meetings, please  
refer to the district website at:  
<http://www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/> or call the  
Board of Education offices

### **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

#### **James Johnson Elementary School Parent Teacher Association**

President*	Lauren Cygler
Executive VP	Amanda Klear
Treasurer	Blair Callahan
VP School Events	Allyson Leibowitz
VP fundraising	Amanda Wu
Recording Secretary	Jessica Cook
Correspondence secretary	Jessica Cook
Honorary VP*	Jared Peltzman
Past President	Lauren Yaker

For questions, contact the PTA at [jamesjohnsonelementary@gmail.com](mailto:jamesjohnsonelementary@gmail.com).  
For the most current calendar of event, forms, and more, check out the PTA website:  
[tinyurl.com/johnsonPTA](http://tinyurl.com/johnsonPTA)

Follow the PTA on Twitter: @JJES\_Owls  
Follow the PTA on Facebook @jamesjohnsonelementaryPTA

***Please join us this year in standing beside all Johnson Elementary School students & staff.***



## ***ABSENTEEISM/ATTENDANCE***

Education is a lifelong process in which students learn through the interaction and teaching of their instructors. It is imperative that students be present in school in order to ensure academic success. Very simply...**when students miss school, they miss out!** Students should be present unless:

- *They are sick or have other serious health impairments which prohibit them from being in attendance.*
- *They are celebrating a religious holiday or have experienced a death in the family*

When a child is to be absent, parents are requested to notify the school's Attendance Line. To report an absence, please call **(856) 428-8848 by 8:30am. Voicemail is available 24 hours a day.** All students returning from any absence must present a note to their homeroom teacher. The note should include the student's name, the date the note was written, the dates of absence, the reason for the absence, and should be signed by a parent. If your child visited a doctor, please present the doctor's note to ensure the absence is marked accordingly. Telephone calls made either by, or to, the school on the day of absence do not take the place of a note.

## ***ASSEMBLIES***

There are various assemblies throughout the school year. Many assemblies are very costly and are sponsored by our PTA and/or Federal/State Funding. Some, though very few, are free. For students to gain value from them, we expect all students to abide by school rules by doing the following:

- Always use good manners
- Use whole body listening
- Clap at appropriate times
- Keep hands and feet to one's self
- Remain seated at all times
- Be quiet during the program

## ***ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL***

Student arrival begins at 8:45 am (8:45 am for students purchasing breakfast). **No students are permitted to arrive prior to these times as supervision is not available.** Students begin to line up outside at 8:55 am, upon hearing the whistle. All students are expected to be in their classrooms by 9:00am. Any student arriving to school after 9:00 am is considered late. Students who arrive late to school will receive a late pass upon entering the building. Any student arriving after 9:00am must be escorted into the building by an adult and signed in at the Main Office to receive a late pass.

Parents dropping off students in the morning are **to stay in a single file lane in the drop off parking lot.** Please do not drop your child off in the visitor lot as cars will be parking in this lot. When dropping off students, wait your turn and drop off at the fence opening in the staff parking lot. Have your child ready to exit at the curb, **making sure s/he exits from the passenger side.** Remain in a single file while exiting school property. REFER TO PARENT PICK UP/DROP OFF MAP, Appendix A and be sure to follow all signage displayed throughout our school's parking area.

Dismissal begins at 3:25 pm. **First Wave:** Students participating in SACC will report to the APR and Kindergarten walkers will be escorted to the back of the building for parent pick-up. **Second Wave:** Grade 1-5 walkers and parent pick-up students will exit via the rear door (the door with the ramp). **Parents picking up a child must park their vehicle and walk to the pick up location.** **Third Wave:** Grade 1-5 bus riders board buses. **Students riding a bus are responsible for reporting to their bus on time.** Students who miss their assigned bus should report to the main office to contact a parent for pick up.

**\*Please have photo identification and your child's ID number ready to present when picking up your child/ren \***



## ***BICYCLES***

Bicycle helmets are required by NJ law. All riders should have locks to secure their bicycles to the bike stands located on the playground. It is important that riders obey all bicycle safety rules. Kindergarten bike riders must be escorted to school by an adult. All bicycle rules apply to scooters/skateboards as well.

## ***BREAKFAST PROGRAM***

Our cafeteria offers a Breakfast Menu to students at the cost of \$1.75 per serving. Serving time is 8:45-8:55 am. Students who are eligible for free/reduced cost lunch are also eligible for free/reduced cost breakfast. A monthly menu is available online. Information pertaining to setting up a cafeteria account for your child will be available the first week of school.

## ***BULLYING & HARASSMENT***

All persons are to be treated with respect and dignity. Bullying is conduct which subjects a pupil to insults, taunts or challenges, whether verbal or physical in nature, which are likely to intimidate or provoke a violent or disorderly response from the student being treated in this way. Conduct constituting bullying will be promptly addressed in the most appropriate manner. It is the policy of the Board of Education and school district that harassment, intimidation and bullying activities are inconsistent with the educational process and will be prohibited at all times (Reference Board Policy #5131).

## ***BUSES/BUS SAFETY***

Transportation provided by the Cherry Hill Board of Education is a privilege. The only request being made in return for this privilege is proper bus behavior that ensures student safety. Treat the bus like it is your classroom, follow school rules, and please remember to:

- Arrive at the bus stop about ten minutes before scheduled time
- Wait on the sidewalk until the bus comes to a full stop
- Keep books, lunch, book bags, and body parts in your seat
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Always ride your assigned bus
- Take assigned seat, sitting at all times
- Wear your seat belt, it's a NJ law
- Help keep the bus clean
- Follow the bus driver's directions.
- Speak softly, using appropriate language.

Students must ride the bus to which they have been assigned. **Please do not request a pass to ride a different bus.** Pupils transported to school must return home via the same route. **Parents wishing children to visit friends, relatives, etc., should make plans to do so after the child returns home.** Also a parent can sign out both students as long as each parent submits a note to the office prior to 11:30 a.m.

**The District's only responsibility is to transport eligible students to and from their homes.** A pupil may be excluded from the bus for disciplinary reasons by the principal; the parent shall provide transportation to and from school during the period of such exclusion. Below is a copy of the New Jersey Statute that grants the Board of Education the right to exclude pupils who display behavior detrimental to the safety of other pupils:

### ***18A:25-2. Authority over pupils***

"The driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and shall be responsible for order; s/he shall never exclude a pupil from the bus, but, if unable to manage any pupil, shall report the unmanageable pupil to the principal of the school which he attends.

A pupil may be excluded from the bus for disciplinary reasons by the principal and his parents shall provide for his transportation to and from school during the period of such exclusion."



## **EMERGENCY BUS CHANGES**

From time to time an emergency may arise, and you may need your child to be transported on a different bus (shared school projects and social get-together are not considered valid reasons for a bus change). **In all cases, permission will be given for the switch ONLY if it is an EMERGENCY provision and if space is available on the bus.** In such situations, the student must take the following steps:

- *Secure a note from his/her parent making a request to switch buses for a specific date and stating the reason*
- *Secure a note from the adult whose home is the child's destination*
- *Submit the notes to the principal for approval*
- *After the principal's signature and central approval is obtained, give the approved notes to the bus driver when boarding.*

## **CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT**

Any knowledge or suspicion of child abuse and/or child neglect by law must be reported, immediately, to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (<http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/>). Failure to make a report is a violation of the law. All information is kept confidential. The building administrator, school nurse, and school counselor have further information relating to this process.

## **CITIZENSHIP**

Many student expectations while in the school setting are not mentioned in the formal curriculum. Because these principles are as much a part of the school's objectives as is the acquisition of knowledge, these important qualities of citizenship to which both students and faculty strive to aspire are listed below:

✓ *Respect Yourself*

✓ *Respect Others*

✓ *Respect Our Environment*

## **DELAYED OPENING OR EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING**

In order to allow school to remain open on days when weather conditions are poor in the early morning hours, a two-hour delayed opening schedule has been developed.

### ***SCHEDULE FOR TWO-HOUR DELAYED OPENING:***

Here are some important facts you need to know for any two-hour delay we may have:

- School hours will be 11:00-3:30
- Recess will be cancelled
- Lunches **WILL BE** served
- SACC remains open before the school day begins, normally at 9:00am on two-hour delays.

In the event of a two-hour delayed opening, regularly scheduled transportation will be delayed accordingly. For example, a child regularly scheduled to be picked up at 8:30am would be picked up at 10:30am. Although they may be inconvenient, two-hour delays enable the district to avoid extending the school year.





## ***EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS***

If weather conditions cause a delayed opening, interruption or cancellation of school, information will be announced using many sources. An automated phone call will be delivered to the primary phone number you provide the school district. Additionally, the district website ([www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us](http://www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us)) and mobile app are great resources for the most up to date news. Comcast Cable channel 19 and KYW radio (**school closing #551**) will also provide school delay/closing information. It is strongly recommended that you plan in advance for the possibility of an early dismissal. Please ensure that your child is aware of your family's contingency plan and provide the plan in writing to your child's teacher.

## ***DISCIPLINE CODE***

The Cherry Hill Board of Education has adopted a district wide Elementary School Code of Student Conduct. This code is in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff. You can view the entire code online here: [Elementary School Code of Student Conduct](#).

## ***DRESS CODE***

The Board of Education recognizes that each pupil's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the pupil's personal style and individual preferences. The board will impose its judgment on pupils and parents only when a pupil's dress and grooming affect the educational program of the schools. Board of Education Policy #5132 can be accessed online here: [Student Dress Code](#). **School administration shall determine whether the dress or grooming of pupils comes within these prohibitions.**

## ***EARLY DISMISSAL***

A student who needs to leave school early for a legitimate reason must bring a note from his/her parent, to the classroom teacher, indicating the child's name, classroom and the day and time that s/he must leave school. The classroom teacher will forward the parent note to the Main Office in the morning. A contact telephone number should be included in the note as the Main Office may need to verify the note via telephone call. Parents should have photo identification ready to present and report to the office to pick up their child to officially sign them out of school. The student will then meet his/her parent in the Main Office at the designated time. If for some reason the parent picking up his/her child is running late, kindly call the office.

## ***FIELD TRIPS***

Field trips will be considered as instruction and planned as such, with definite objectives determined in advance. Appropriate instruction will precede and follow each trip. Students are expected to dress appropriately and to conduct themselves courteously at all times during field trips. All school rules are in effect during field trips. Denial of student participation for field trips shall not be used as a disciplinary measure. However, students may be barred from field trips when there is a serious concern for their own safety, or the safety of others. **All students attending field trips must ride district appointed transportation to the trip location and back to school. Parents can only sign out their child once transportation has returned to school.**

## ***FIRE & SECURITY DRILLS***

There will be a fire drill conducted each month, as required by state law. A visual and auditory alarm will signal the need to evacuate the building. Students should follow the directions given by staff members. A map indicating the nearest exit, as well as an alternate route is posted in each classroom. To facilitate the evacuation of the building during fire drills and other emergencies, the following rules should guide your actions:

- Move into the hallway in an orderly fashion.
- Leave the building through the nearest exit. If it is blocked, use the next nearest exit.
- Walk rapidly, but do not run. Remain silent and listen for directions.
- Once the class is outside the building, students are to stay together away from the school.
- Unless otherwise directed, the ringing of the fire bell implies that all persons must evacuate the building.



A security drill will also be conducted each month. Teachers review the process with students in advance and address any questions/concerns children might have.

## ***HEALTH/NURSE SERVICE***

The school nurse is on duty every school day. Children who have been absent three days or longer should bring a doctor's note upon return to school. Please be reminded that sick children should not be sent to school. It is necessary for the well-being of all children that following an illness, students should not return to school until their temperature is normal for a 24 hour time period without medication and other symptoms have subsided.

### ***Reporting Absences***

If your child will be absent from school due to illness, please call the school before 8:30am to report his/her absence. The telephone number to call to report an absence is (856) 428-8848, follow prompt #1 to report your child absent. When you call, please state your child's name, teacher's name and the type of illness your child has. The Health Office will be alerted in case other students in the class exhibit similar symptoms.

### ***Emergency Card/Emergencies***

We must have the names and phone numbers of adults who can be contacted in your absence if your child is ill or injured while in school. We cannot keep sick or injured children in school. This is for the health and safety of all involved. If the contact numbers change during the school year, please contact the school nurse to update the form. In case of medical emergencies, the district will call the nearest ambulance service and will make every effort to immediately contact the parent in order to facilitate necessary care.

### ***Medications/Treatments***

Students are not to bring any kind of medication to school or to self-administer any type of medication. If a child is required to take medication during the school day, the medication must be prescribed by a physician and the administration must be arranged by the parent through the nurse's office. The physician's written order must include the diagnosis, the name of the medication, the dosage, the date, and the time(s) of the day to be administered. **All medications and prescriptions are to be brought in their original containers to the nurse's office by a parent.** This better ensures the health and safety of all students. Before the close of the school year, a parent must retrieve all unexpired and/or unused medicine.

### ***First Aid***

According to State regulations, treatment by the school nurse is limited to first aid care for injuries occurring at school. Injuries incurred other than at school must be cared for at home.

### ***Health Screenings***

Your child will be screened, yearly, in height/weight, hearing, and vision. Deviations from the norm will be screened a second time, followed by parental notification should a deviation again be noted.

### ***Injuries***

If your child has sustained an injury and cannot participate in physical education, a written note is required. If an injury will cause a child to miss more than one gym period, a physician's note is required. Children not participating in gym are not permitted to participate in recess.

### ***Physical Examinations***

Physical exams are required of all new enrollees, as well as students in kindergarten and 5th grade. Since your family physician is more familiar with your child, you are encouraged to take him/her to their office for an examination, and request that a report be sent to the school.



## ***HOMEWORK***

Parental support and cooperation is necessary so that homework will have a positive impact upon a child's learning; therefore, providing an appropriate and consistent time, quiet work place, and regular consistent support serves to create a responsibility for learning. Close communication between teacher and parent is essential in order to effectively coordinate this component of the educational program.

At all grade levels, homework will be given on a regular basis Monday through Thursday. On occasion, it may be inappropriate to assign homework, so there will be exceptions to this general guideline. While homework should not be assigned prior to holidays and weekends on any consistent basis, it is an excellent time for students to work on long-term assignments, projects and make-up work. Therefore, students should be encouraged to budget their time for long term assignments accordingly.

**To request homework for a student who is absent, please call: (856) 428-8848 by 8:30 am**

## ***INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (I&RS)***

Johnson Elementary School operates a multi-disciplinary team in order to assist students who appear to be experiencing academic, behavioral, social, or emotional difficulty. Any staff member or parent may request that a child's needs be considered by the team. Referral forms are available from the guidance counselor.

## ***LATENESS/TARDINESS***

Students are marked late if they are not in class by 9:00am. Any student arriving to school after 9:00am is considered late. Students who arrive late to school must enter the front of the building with an adult and receive a late pass. Any student arriving after 9:00am must be escorted into the building by an adult and signed in at the Main Office. Please understand that the incorrect setting of an alarm, oversleeping, or missing the bus are not considered "valid" reasons for lateness. Consideration for "valid" tardiness will be made. However, parents of students with chronic or excessive tardiness whose latenesses negatively impact his/her academic performance will be requested to meet with the principal.

## ***LOST AND FOUND***

Found items will be sent to the Lost and Found container placed in the hallway outside of the main office. Small and/or valuable items (watches, rings, electronics, money, etc.) are secured in a separate location in the Main Office. Students are encouraged to check the Lost and Found as soon as they realize an item is missing. Parents and students should label important personal items such as coats, jackets, and book bags, etc. Items not claimed will be on display before Winter Break, as well as the close of the school year. All items unclaimed at the close of the school year will be donated.

## ***LUNCH INFORMATION***

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for every aspect of their school day, including having their lunch money and/or having money on their lunch account. In case of an emergency, students may charge their lunch. Lunch charges cannot be given for the purchase of snacks. Lunch charges are to be paid back promptly. Outstanding charges will result in *the student's report card and yearbook being withheld until the obligation is paid. Once a student has \$5 in lunch charges, s/he will be limited to a tuna fish sandwich (only exception is for students with food allergies) until the charges are paid in full.* You may view your child's lunch account online and deposit funds into your child/ren's [payschoolscentral.com](https://payschoolscentral.com) payment system by using a credit card or sending payments to school. You can add whatever amount you desire to the account. Each child will utilize the last four digits of their student ID when ordering lunch. Spending restrictions may be made on your child's lunch account. Checks are made payable to: Cherry Hill Food Service. Please include the student, teacher, and school names on the memo line. The cost of lunch for the 2023-2024 school year is \$3.25. Hot lunch is only provided on full school days. More information about our district's lunch program can be found online here: [Cherry Hill Elementary Schools Meal Payment System](#).



## ***LUNCH ROOM PROCEDURES***

1. Students enter the room quickly and quietly and either enter the lunch line if buying food/drink or are seated at their assigned seats.
2. Students are expected to finish their lunches prior to the end of the lunch period, including throwing trash away and keeping their seating/table area clean.
3. Lunch supervisors will give children a visual signal prior to the end of the lunch period, indicating that all students should be seated and finishing their lunches quietly.
4. Lunchroom supervisors dismiss the students when their table has been checked.
5. Expectations for the lunchroom are practiced regularly and reinforced throughout the year.

## ***CLASS/BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS ETC...***

Throughout the school year, classes have opportunities to celebrate various occasions.

Teachers also allow students to bring in cards for each member of the class on Valentine's. Birthdays are acknowledged in the classroom, however, formal birthday parties are to be held outside of school. Parents may drop off a small treat for the entire class for their child's birthday. Balloons are prohibited. Parents are not permitted in classrooms as part of a birthday celebration. Please be aware that many students have allergies to specific foods. Please contact your child's classroom teacher to ensure that the treat you provide can be appreciated by all. **To avoid hurt feelings, invitations to private parties should not be distributed in school.**

## ***PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES***

Parents are encouraged to maintain ongoing communication with teachers through email, telephone conferences and/or in person conferences arranged throughout the year. Annual Parent-Teacher conferences are held in the fall for every student. Typically, parents can sign up for a fall conference time at Back to School Night. When a parent has a specific concern, s/he should first contact the appropriate staff member (teacher, school counselor, nurse, etc.) to remedy the situation. If the concern continues, s/he should contact the principal.

## ***PARKING***

When visiting our school, you are welcomed to park in our visitor lot located on the side of the building. There are additional visitor spots located in the front of the building but these are limited. **There is no parking on the yellow painted curb in the front loop.**

## ***PERSONAL PROPERTY***

The school district can assume no responsibility in the event of loss, theft, or damage to personal property. Therefore, students are not to bring to school large sums of money, valuable jewelry, or any other items of value such as any type of electronic devices. If a child is discovered to have any item that is of significant value, the child's parents will be contacted and a request to pick up the valuable item will be made.

## ***PICKUP/DROP OFF***

A student is not permitted to leave the school via a privately owned vehicle with anyone who has not been clearly identified as his/her parent/guardian or a person authorized to act on the behalf of the parent/guardian. To ensure the safety of the students, office and parent pick-up supervisory staff are permitted to request a form of photo identification to verify the identity of anyone arriving to pick up a student. Parents are prohibited from riding on the bus during the hours that children are being transported



unless they have been approved to chaperone a field trip. Please refer to "Arrival/Dismissal" on page 6 and the map on Appendix A for more details.

## ***POLICIES***

Board Policy is available on the district webpage at <http://www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/>. Please contact the Main Office if you would like a copy of any specific policy.

## ***PTA (PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION)***

Parents and teachers are always encouraged to join the PTA and to attend meetings. Please check the school calendar or the PTA link on our school's website for more information and updates. The PTA funds many projects and events for the betterment of our students and their school. They graciously make contributions to our school in the form of educational resources and building needs thanks to the success of various fundraisers. The organization is only as good as its volunteers, and ours is excellent! **Take part in the PTA.**

## ***RELATED ARTS/ENCORE***

### ***ART***

The Johnson Elementary School Art program helps to promote a student's understanding and appreciation of art. Various techniques and styles of art from different cultures and different time periods are studied. Students are encouraged to use a variety of media to develop their own creativity. Throughout the year, art projects are related to classroom projects to reinforce holistic learning. All students have an opportunity to showcase their work in ongoing hallway displays. Students in grades 1-5 participate in the Elementary Art program one time per week.

### ***INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC***

Instrumental Music lessons are provided by a certified professional who instructs children in grades 4 & 5 in all aspects of learning to play and master a musical instrument and read music. Students taking instrumental music lessons will have an opportunity to showcase their talents at our annual winter and spring concerts.

### ***LIBRARY***

The library is a quiet place to read, conduct research, gain information about projects and check out books. The library has a wide range of resources for students and staff. Students are encouraged to treat all materials in the library with respect. Students who damage or lose materials are expected to make restitution for the lost or damaged items before the close of the school year. All students will be provided the opportunity to visit our library once per week.

### ***MUSIC/CHORUS***

The music curriculum for young children includes many opportunities to explore sound through singing, movement, listening, and playing instruments, as well as introductory experiences with verbalization and visualization of musical ideas. The music literature included in the curriculum will be of high quality and lasting value, including traditional children's songs, folk songs, classical music, and music from a variety of cultures, styles, and time periods. All children who take an instrument or participate in chorus will have an opportunity to showcase their talents at concerts throughout the school year. Students in grades K-5 receive music instruction on a weekly basis. All grade 5 students participate in our chorus program which meets one time per week.

## ***PHYSICAL EDUCATION***

The Cherry Hill School District is dedicated to the belief that physical education is an essential component of the total education of students. Physical Education is offered to each child in grades K-5 twice per week. All students are required to participate in Physical Education except in the event that:

- A student has an illness or injury which excuses him/her from Physical Education.



- A student has a written doctor's note excusing him/her from Physical Education for an extended period of time.
- A student does not have the proper attire/footwear to participate in Physical Education classes for one period.

### ***SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT INSTRUCTION (SSI)***

The technology curriculum helps integrate individual classroom learning with current forms of technology usage. Students develop needed technological skills as well as supplement in class learning by completing units that are integrated with classroom instruction. The students use a variety of educational resources, including laptop computers, SmartBoards, iPads, and USB Document Cameras to facilitate these skills.

## ***RELATED SERVICES:***

### ***BASIC SKILLS MATH***

The Basic Skills Math teacher is a certified professional who provides services for any student needing additional academic assistance in the area of math. Students receive Basic Skills Math services one to five times a week depending on their academic needs. Students are eligible for basic skills services based on teacher recommendation and assessment scores.

### ***BASIC SKILLS READING***

Basic Skills Reading services are provided by a certified professional who uses strategies to help develop a strong basic reading foundation for students who are in need. Students are eligible for Basic Skills Reading services based on teacher recommendation and a variety of assessments. Services are provided one to five times per week.

### ***COUNSELING SERVICES***

School Counseling helps students to strengthen self-concepts, enhance their ability to solve life problems and explore positive attitudes. A Counselor develops individual, small group and classroom activities to address the social, emotional, behavioral and academic aspects of a child's life. Counselors are available to consult with parents, teachers and others regarding issues related to a child. All School Counselors in the district of Cherry Hill are certified professionals.

### ***ELL (ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS)***

The primary goal of the ELL program is the development of essential skills that will enable the student to function successfully in the mainstream of American schools and society. ELL instruction in Cherry Hill is an integrated process of developing useful and necessary communication skills. Speaking, reading, writing and listening skills are developed and improved through the use of literature-based thematic units.

### ***TAG (TALENTED AND GIFTED)***

TAG seeks to meet the needs of students primarily through "pull out" sessions whose depth of understanding, higher level thinking skills, speed of learning, and related affective needs fall into the range of gifted potential. Students are identified for the TAG program through a variety of assessments. The amount of time students spend with the TAG teacher tiers upwards based on grade level. For more information please click the following link: [TAG Information](#)

### ***SPEECH/LANGUAGE***

Cherry Hill's Speech and Language department's mission is to ensure that all students with speech, language, and hearing disorders, which are negatively impacting academic progress, have access to quality services to help them effectively communicate. A student's IEP determines how often a student receives services.



## **REPORT CARDS/GRADING**

Report cards are issued three times per school year and are a means of communicating to the parent their child's level of academic achievement and progress. Academic grades will solely and accurately reflect achievement. Effort and behavior will be indicated in the appropriate sections of the report card. Please consult with your child's teacher regarding any questions you have concerning your child's progress and/or his/her Report Card. Report cards will only be issued through the Genesis Parent Portal. If you do not have access to the portal or have any questions, please call the Main Office.

## **SCHOOL HOURS**

	<u>School Starts</u>	<u>Half Day Dismissal</u>	<u>Regular Dismissal</u>
Grades 1-5	9:00a.m.	1:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.

## **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

Students in grades 3-5 are required to take the NJ-SLA exam (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment). Information regarding this assessment will be provided as the test dates near.

## **TRANSFERS**

A copy of a transfer card must be obtained from the Main Office when a child is moving out of the district. Student records are forwarded when requested from the school to which the student is transferring. A transfer card is also required when a child moves into the district during the school year.

## **TRUANCY/EXCESSIVE ABSENCE**

Referrals for truancy, or excessive absence, will be made by the school administrator to the district's Attendance Compliance Officer. This individual will investigate the causes of the excessive absences and take appropriate action. Please ensure that your child/ren are regularly at school and on time!

## **TWITTER**

At Johnson Elementary School we are always tweeting! Johnson Elementary can be found on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/JJESOWls>. Stay informed by following us!

## **VISITORS**

All visitors to the school must report directly to the Main Office to sign in. On each visit, the visitor will obtain an official Visitor Pass, which must be visibly worn. Upon leaving the building, the visitor should return the Visitor's Pass, and sign out in the Main Office.



## Traffic Pattern During Arrival and Dismissal

