



SAMUEL MICKLE SCHOOL

EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Bethanne Barousse, Principal

Mr. Andrew Mettler, Assistant Principal

August 20, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you all are having a fantastic summer with your families and taking time to rest and recharge for the start of a new school year. We have been busy preparing the building and grounds and we look forward to the students' return on September 5!

This year, we welcome Ms. Katherine DellaRova (Grade 6 teacher) and Mrs. Lauren Ficke (Health Room Assistant) to our Samuel Mickle School staff. Please join me in welcoming them to our school community!

We congratulate several staff members in their new roles: Mrs. Jillian Coulahan (Grades 3 and 5 Special Education Teacher), Ms. Amy LeForge (Grades 5/6 Basic Skills), and Mrs. Brittany Silver (Basic Skills). I would like to also extend a welcome to Mrs. Jillian Payne who is joining us from the Jeffrey Clark School. Mrs. Payne will be joining the 5th grade team!

We have many exciting things happening at Samuel Mickle School. We hope you can attend our Back to School Night on **Tuesday, September 17th**. A Back to School Night schedule will be sent home shortly. In the meantime, here are a few highlights:

- Homeroom assignments and schedules will be available in Realtime's Parent Portal on **Tuesday, August 27**. If you need help with your login or password, please contact the main office at 856-423-0412. Please note the district is closed on Friday, August 30 and Monday, September 2. When you login to the portal, you will be asked to confirm your contact information and read some important documents before accessing your student's homeroom information.
- Please take a moment to review pertinent information found in our East Greenwich Parent Handbook. A copy of the 2024-2025 Parent Handbook can be accessed via the school website under the "For Parents" tab.
- Please be sure to complete the [Samuel Mickle Daily Dismissal Procedure Form](#) so we know how you want your child to be dismissed each day. This information will be shared with teachers prior to the first day of school.
- A monthly paper calendar and lunch menu will be sent home with students on the first day of each month. The calendar lists important events and activities at Samuel Mickle School. This information can also be found on the school website and in the weekly newsletter.
- Our school offers a variety of extracurricular activities for students based on grade level and interest. An afterschool activity slideshow will be provided to all parents in mid-September so you may explore opportunities available for your child.
- All of our students participate in a 1:1 Chromebook initiative. In every grade level, students will be using Google applications, such as Google Docs and Google Classroom, to facilitate



SAMUEL MICKLE SCHOOL

EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Bethanne Barousse, Principal

Mr. Andrew Mettler, Assistant Principal

collaboration and deepen knowledge. The Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy will be sent home shortly. Your child's teacher will provide Google Classroom login information to you on Back to School Night.

- Our School Safety Committee met this summer to reflect on the 2023-2024 school year and make changes to our safety procedures for 2024-2025. We will have one fire drill and one safety drill once per month. Prior to the drills, our staff members practice the safety procedures with students.
- This summer, the Curriculum Writing and Resource Development Committee met several times to complete curriculum revisions and develop instructional resources that support the newly-revised 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts. In addition, the ELA Committee launched efforts to select a new ELA program in Grades Beginners-4th. The ELA Committee met several times over the summer to review, evaluate, and conduct a critical analysis of multiple ELA curriculum resources for piloting during the 2024-2025 school year. We are pleased to announce that the East Greenwich Board of Education has approved the novel Save Me a Seat into our Grade 5 ELA curriculum. We are looking forward to helping our students continue to grow their literacy skills!
- During the 2023-2024 school year, math teachers in Grades B-5 piloted math curriculum resources, evaluated the piloted math curriculum resources, and provided feedback throughout the process. After an analysis of teacher and student feedback, we are pleased to announce that iReady Classroom Mathematics was selected as the instructional resource for Grades B-5 moving forward. This summer, the committee developed the curriculum for this new math program aligned with the newly-revised 2023 Math New Jersey State Learning Standards. We are looking forward to the opportunities for growth and real-world problem solving and discourse that this curriculum will bring to our classrooms.
- We are excited to continue our work with the Enhancing School Mental Health Services Project in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education and the Rutgers University Center for Comprehensive School Mental Health. This project supports our school in implementing a comprehensive school mental health system that promotes a positive school climate, social-emotional learning, and mental health support and services.
- For more information on our District Grading Policy, please see the district website to view the components of the 2024-2025 grading policy.
- In grades 3 and 4, our teachers will continue to implement the Daily 5. The Daily 5 is an instructional framework for literacy developed by Gail Boushey and Joan Moser. It focuses on five daily tasks: reading to self, reading to someone, working with words, working with writing, and listening to reading. Research has demonstrated this structure fosters independence, increases motivation and improves reading skills. Students self-select books based on their interests and reading levels, so they are more likely to increase their



SAMUEL MICKLE SCHOOL

EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Bethanne Barousse, Principal

Mr. Andrew Mettler, Assistant Principal

independent reading stamina. As students work on their dailies, the teacher works with students in small groups and one to one.

- In grade 5, students' schedules reflect a transitional elementary schedule. Students will have one teacher for English Language Arts (Literacy and Writing), and another teacher for Math and Science. The homeroom teacher will teach Social Studies.
- In grades 5 and 6, our students will have the same teacher for English Language Arts (Literacy and Writing). This allows more opportunities for authentic reading, writing and discussion about texts. Students have 14 periods of English Language Arts per rotation. Students have a second period of gym in lieu of their fifteenth ELA period.
- In grades 5 and 6, Mathematics is scheduled for 2 consecutive periods daily. An instructional framework includes time for both small and whole group instruction.
- For students entering grades 4 through 6, the Spring 2024 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment Parent Report will be sent home when received by the NJDOE. We anticipate the reports will arrive shortly after school begins, and we will notify you when the reports will be sent home in backpack mail. Our 2023-2024 6th graders' parent reports will be mailed home.
- Summer work packets will be accepted until Friday, September 6.

Below you will find some important information regarding routines and procedures:

First Days of School

- Thursday, September 5 is an early dismissal day for students (12:55 PM). Lunch will NOT be served, but students will have snack time with items for sale by the cafeteria. Friday, September 6 will be a full day for students.
- On the first three days of school (September 5, 6, 9), our **third grade students will proceed directly to the gym**, where they will be met by staff to assist them in locating their homeroom teacher. The staff will help the students become familiar with the arrival procedures, and students will proceed directly to their homerooms on Tuesday, September 10.

Cafeteria Services

The monthly menu is located on our district website. The cost for a school lunch is: **\$3.50**. School lunch includes the daily entrée, assorted fruit and/or vegetable, 1% milk and/or juice. Bottled water can be purchased separately, \$1 for a 16.9 oz bottle or \$.70 for an 8 oz bottle. Milk can be purchased for \$.60. Snacks are also available each day ranging from \$.80 to \$1.50. Please use www.mySchoolBucks.com to add funds to your student's account and monitor your student's spending. You may also send cash or check in an envelope for the cafeteria to deposit into your child's account, or your child may use cash for his or her purchases.



SAMUEL MICKLE SCHOOL

EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Bethanne Barousse, Principal

Mr. Andrew Mettler, Assistant Principal

Mickle Arrival Information

Please review and adhere to the procedures described below to ensure the safety of all students and staff:

Parent Drop-Off Procedures

- Students are permitted to enter the building at 8:25 AM. Parents are permitted to drop students off at the LGI doors by following the traffic pattern of the parking lot. Students are not permitted to exit their vehicles prior to arriving at the drop off location. Please have your student wait to exit your car until directed by a staff member to do so.

Non-Transported Student Arrival

- Non-transported students must safely cross the street in crosswalks under the supervision of crossing guards. They must utilize the sidewalks once on school property. Non-transported students may enter the building at the side gym entrance.

Bike Riders

- Students in grades 3-6 may ride a bicycle to school with a parent/guardian's written permission. Students may arrive at school beginning at 8:25 AM. Students must walk their bicycles while on school property, including past the schools and in the bus lanes. Students are required to wear a helmet in accordance with NJ law. Bike riders will secure their bicycles to the bike racks by the gym doors. In order to obtain a permit for the 2024-2025, parents and students are encouraged to attend the Samuel Mickle Bike Safety meeting on Wednesday, August 28 at 4:00 PM in the Samuel Mickle Cafeteria (enter through the LGI doors).

Late Arrival

- Students arriving late should report to the main entrance. Parents should park their vehicles and walk their child to the door in order to sign them in.

Mickle Dismissal Information

Parent Pick Up Procedures

- At the conclusion of the school day, students who participate in parent pick-up exit via the LGI doors and enter their cars in between the designated cones. Students may not enter a vehicle unless permitted by a staff member or cross the crosswalk or parking lot without an adult.

Non-Transported & Bike Riders Student Dismissal

- Non-transported students and bike riders must safely cross the street in crosswalks under the supervision of crossing guards. They must utilize the sidewalks on school property. Non-transported students and bike riders are required to exit at the side doors at the Mickle gymnasium.

Transported Student Dismissal

- Students will be escorted out of the building by staff, and students will walk to their assigned buses.



SAMUEL MICKLE SCHOOL

EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Bethanne Barousse, Principal

Mr. Andrew Mettler, Assistant Principal

Bussing:

If you have any questions regarding your child's transportation on the school bus or if you would like to report any unpleasant experiences, please contact our Transportation Coordinator, Mrs. Ann Marie Elliott, at (856) 423-0412, ext.1305.

Medical Information:

- To administer medication in school, a doctor's order will be required on an East Greenwich Township school form. Your doctor will not have our school forms. Use this link to print the required [East Greenwich medical dispensing forms and/or Emergency Action Plans](#) before you head to the doctor.
- The New Jersey Department of Health mandates immunization requirements for children after their 11th birthday. A child will not be permitted to start 6th grade unless he/she has completed required immunizations or has been granted provisional status. **The following is required for 6th grade entry:**
 - **Tdap booster** (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis provided at least five years have elapsed from the last documented Tdap dose).
 - **Meningococcal vaccine**
- Please email the school nurse at brownm@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us to discuss your child's medical concerns before school starts.
- The Samuel Mickle Open House/Medication Drop-Off will be Tuesday, August 20 from 4-5:30 PM and Thursday, August 29 from 10:30-12:00 PM. Our school nurse will be on-site and available for medication, paperwork, and form drop-off.

Beyond the Bell:

Beyond the Bell will provide arrival and dismissal procedures. Please note that the location for Beyond the Bell drop-off and pick-up is the parking lot next to the Samuel Mickle playground. This lot is for Beyond the Bell and staff only.

Change of Regular Dismissal Schedule/Early Pick-Up:

- A change of regular schedule means that your child is going home in a manner different than indicated on the "Samuel Mickle Daily Dismissal Procedure" form you were asked to complete. Click [here](#) to fill out the form.
- If a child is to be picked up early during a regular school day, a "Samuel Mickle Daily Dismissal Procedure" form ([Change to Dismissal Both 2024-2025](#)) should be sent to your child's homeroom teacher.
- Paper copies of the "Change to Dismissal Both 2024-2025" form are available in the main office. It can also be found on the district website under the "Parents" tab by clicking on "Forms and Documents".
- If the person picking up the student is someone other than the parent, it is expected that this individual is listed on the Emergency Contact Form.
- If, for some reason, this individual is not on the Emergency Contact Form, his/her name **MUST** be provided on the "Change to Dismissal Both 2024-2025" form.
- If a note is not sent in and the name is not on the emergency form, the student will not be allowed to leave the building.



SAMUEL MICKLE SCHOOL

EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Bethanne Barousse, Principal

Mr. Andrew Mettler, Assistant Principal

- Upon arrival at the school for early dismissals, parents/guardians must fill out the Student Sign In/Out Sheet on the cart outside the building. Once completed, parents/guardians must ring the day bell. The school will require a photo I.D. upon student pick up. An office staff member will ensure your child is dismissed to you.
- If changes have to be made during the school day for an early pickup, a phone call must be made to the school's main office no later than 11:00 AM by the parent or guardian.
- Early parent pickups should occur no later than 12:00 PM during an early dismissal day. After this time, students will be dismissed at the regular dismissal time. Please send in a note in advance, so that we can make the necessary arrangements. This requirement has been put into place to ensure the safety of all students and that all children are in the right place at the right time.
- If a student is dismissed prior to 12:40 PM, it will be recorded as a "half-day" absence.
- If there have been any recent changes to a child's custody, please contact the main office immediately or send in appropriate paperwork.

On behalf of our entire Samuel Mickle School staff, we hope you and your families enjoy the remainder of the summer and we look forward to welcoming your students on September 5!

Sincerely,

Bethanne Barousse
Samuel Mickle School Principal