August 9th, 2024

Greetings Newark School of Data Science & Information Technology Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year! My name is Dr. Liana Summey and it is a privilege to introduce myself as the Principal of the Newark School of Data Science & Information Technology. As an educator, I pride myself in recognizing the unique brilliance that lives in each and every student. Through a productive partnership between students, parents, teachers, and the community, I look forward to collectively working with you to ensure that learning and tapping into every student's individual talent is our main priority. We accomplish this by providing every student with a holistic educational experience that addresses high academic standards, social emotional needs, and provides opportunities to prepare them for a successful post-secondary trajectory in college and career.

At the Newark School of Data Science & Information Technology, we **INSPIRE** the future technology leaders and change agents of tomorrow. As we embark on this new academic journey together, I am thrilled to share with you our renewed commitment to our core values represented by the acronym **INSPIRE**:

I.N.S.P.I.R.E

Innovation - We encourage innovative thinking and creativity in our classrooms. Our goal is to foster an environment where students are empowered to explore new ideas, think critically, and solve problems in unique ways.

Navigation - We are dedicated to guiding our students through their educational journey with supportive navigation. Our faculty and staff are here to help students set goals, develop strategies, and stay on course to achieve their academic and personal aspirations.

Sustainability - We believe in teaching the importance of sustainability to achieve success. Through various initiatives and supports, we aim to inspire our students to make responsible choices that benefit their long-term goals.

Passion - Passion drives learning and success. We strive to ignite a passion for learning in each of our students by offering a diverse range of subjects and extracurricular activities that cater to their interests and talents.

Inclusion - Inclusivity is at the heart of our community. We celebrate diversity and ensure that every student feels valued, respected, and included. We are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Relevance- We ensure that our curriculum and teaching methods are relevant to the world our students live in. By connecting lessons to real-world scenarios, we help students see the significance and application of their education.

Excellence- Excellence in education is our standard. We are committed to maintaining high academic standards and providing our students with the tools and support they need to excel both in and out of the classroom.

As we begin this school year, I encourage all students to embrace these core values in their daily lives. Together, we can make this year a memorable and successful one. Let's work collaboratively to INSPIRE each other to achieve greatness.

Below you will find important information and procedures regarding the opening of school this September, including information on school curriculum, programs and activities, and policies and procedures.

Newark School of Data Science & Information Technology

Dr. Liana Summey, Principal

Roger León
Superintendent

- **Freshman Summer Bridge Program -** Monday, August 19th - Friday, August 23rd 2024; @8:30am-1:00PM. Summer Bridge is MANDATORY for all ninth grade students. We look forward to seeing you there!
- **Student Orientations -** All students are required to attend their grade level orientations before school starts. All orientations are held in-person.
  - **Senior Orientation:** Monday, August 26th, 2024; 8:30AM -11:00AM
  - **Junior Orientation:** Monday, August 26th, 2024; 12:30PM -3:00PM
  - **Sophomore Orientation:** Friday, August 30th, 2024; 8:30AM -11:00AM
  - **Freshman Orientation:** Friday, August 30th, 2024; 12:30PM -3:00PM
- **First Day of School -** Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024.
- **Daily Start Time & Dismissal -** The school day begins at 8:15AM and ends at 3:05PM. Students are expected to be in class and ready for instruction daily at 8:15AM.
- **Attendance -** Students who attend school every day succeed academically and socially and outperform their peers who are absent. **Students are expected to be present in school every day**.
- **Lunch Applications -** All families are required to complete a lunch application for the 24-25 school year. Please complete the lunch application [here].
- **School Uniforms -** All students must be in uniform every day. The uniform code is as follows: **Kelly Green** polo shirts with black pants or skirt. **Hunter Green Uniforms will no longer be permitted.** Uniforms may be purchased at Flynn O'Hara -196-198 Ferry Street or Kids Place - 311 Ferry Street, Newark, NJ.
- **Arrival doors for students -** All students will enter at the Chapman street entrance. Student entry begins at 7:45AM daily.
- **Back to School Night -** Thursday, September 26th, 2024, @ 6:00-8:00PM. This will be your opportunity to meet your child's teachers, learn their academic curriculum and goals for the school year, and tour your child's school and classrooms.
- **Communication -** Please continue to check our school website https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/data-science/ for more. I will also be communicating through SchoolMint and Blackboard. Please also follow our social media:
  - **Instagram -** @nps_datascience
  - **Facebook -** https://www.facebook.com/npsdatascience/

Additional information regarding after school activities, student schedules and IDs, and technology distribution will be provided via Schoolmint and at student orientations. If you have any questions or concerns, please call 973-350-5088 or email Rayshawn Hughes at rhughes@nps.k12.nj.us for assistance.

Best Regards,

Dr. Liana M. Summey
Principal
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973-350-5088