

WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thomas A. Edison Middle School

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Xavier M. Fitzgerald, Principal
Steve Melendez, Assistant Principal

September 2020

Dear 6th Grade Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the first year of exciting experiences in your middle school years. We hope that your summer vacation has been relaxing, enjoyable, and fulfilling to this point. What an unprecedented opening for public schools across our nation! Until the pandemic has certain medical or scientific controls we will be facing a different look to education - especially starting the school year with live streaming virtual learning. I am confident our teachers have built upon their skills from the online learning experience last spring to best deliver the necessary grade-level concepts and standards. Our school priority/goal is to ensure families promote the importance of the virtual learning structure and maintain continuity with each and every class until we can convert back to our "brick and mortar" full-day learning or a hybrid of smaller in-person cohorts. We believe that maintaining the regular 8:10 am start and half-day schedule, will provide the necessary routines and school-focused work habits that will enable us to seamlessly resume in-person learning when that occurs.

Your teachers, school counselors, and administrators will assist you in being very successful at Edison Middle School, the "Home of the Knights". We will challenge and motivate all students toward achievement and success in all they will experience this upcoming school year! Our teachers look forward to meeting you during the week of September 14th and during our in-person orientation.

We will focus on social and emotional learning as we adjust to distance learning. We will continue to promote a positive school spirit and engage students in strengthening their character traits, positive decision-making skills, enhancing time management, and online etiquette. We are also committed to strengthening our home/school connection by enhancing communication through "School Messenger" (automated phone calling and email system) through our Edison website <https://www.woboe.org/Domain/15>, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Soon your child's schedule can be viewed "live" using our Parental Portal for PowerSchool. All "report card" reporting each quarter is electronic via the Parent Portal. If you need help with connecting to Parent Portal please contact the school counseling office or any Administrative Assistant and they can walk you through the process of signing up. Parents we are still in the process of balancing our class sizes and the original student schedule you may view Sept. 1st could possibly change due to this balancing. We will do our best to inform you of any changes that are made, and this is the standard process we have done whether we were virtual or "brick and mortar".

Beginning September 14th every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between the hours of 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Edison Central Six will begin distributing breakfast and lunch for parent pick up. Parents/Guardians should enter via door number 3 located on the left side of the school. Additional information will be forthcoming from our food service provider regarding the breakfast and lunch program.

Our proposed opening of school via virtual learning will need some expectations and requirements.

- Students will be required to log on during their class session which would count as students being present, attendance will be taken in each class except for asynchronous classes. Any Google Classroom daily assignment must be submitted on the day assigned.
- Teachers will live stream lessons according to the schedule below and activities will be posted in your child's content area Google Classroom. Missing the live-stream will inhibit asking real-time questions.
- Teachers will provide school supply information and/or notebook requirements during the first days of school.
- Plans are being finalized for distribution and pick up of student curricular supplies, ex. Math 6 iReady books.
- The advisory meeting will utilize a blend of live sessions and other asynchronous counseling led assignments and social-emotional support activities.
- In-person 6th-grade orientation begins Tuesday, September 14th with small groups based upon a sign-up form that was sent out in various forms. If you have not already done so please visit the Edison Website listed above to secure your orientation day and time. To ensure that we can safely provide students and parents with an introductory in-person orientation, please follow the schedule below. We ask that only one parent accompany each child with masks. The in-person portion of the orientation will be held primarily in the Gymnasium and Auditorium. Additional faculty introductions and other information will be posted online and sent to families at the start of the school year.
 - Total Capacity 120 - Monday, September 14th at 10:30 am
 - Total Capacity 120 - Monday, September 14th at 1:30 pm
 - Total Capacity 120 - Tuesday, September 15th at 10:30 am
 - Total Capacity 120- Tuesday, September 15th at 1:30 pm
 - Total Capacity 120 - Wednesday, September 16th at 10:30 am
 - Total Capacity 120- Wednesday, September 16th at 1:30 pm
 - Total Capacity 120- Thursday, September 17th at 10:30 am
 - Total Capacity 120- Thursday, September 17th at 1:30 pm
 - Total Capacity 120- Friday, September 18th at 10:30 am
 - Total Capacity 120- Friday, September 18th at 1:30 pm

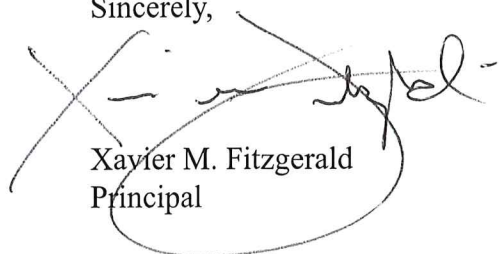
- Our 4-hour school day will follow the schedule below:

| | | Day 1 | Day 2 |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 8:00-8:10 | Report to Period 1 | Report to Period 5 |
| Block 1 | 8:10-9:05 | 1 | 5 |
| Block 2 | 9:20-10:15 | 2 | 6 |
| Block 3 | 10:30-11:25 | 3 | 7 |
| Block 4 | 11:40-12:35 | 4 | Advisory |

Remember that your success in school will be directly proportional to your efforts. I sincerely hope that this will be a very successful school year given these extraordinary challenges! Plans as noted above are underway for an in-person orientation starting the week of September 14th to help orient students to school programs and an opportunity to meet school administration. Enjoy the remainder of your vacation. The school year for students will officially start on Monday, September 14th.

Reminder: Virtual Back-to-School Night will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Sincerely,



Xavier M. Fitzgerald
Principal