

Cambridge School



35 Cambridge Road
Kendall Park, NJ 08824
732-297-2941

Christi N. Pemberton, Principal
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August 2017

Dear Cambridge Families:

On behalf of our Cambridge Staff I would like to officially welcome you to the 2017-18 school year. As a returning Cambridge family, you have experienced firsthand that Cambridge Elementary School is a place where your child can experience success and develop a love for learning. For those families who are new to Cambridge, you are joining a school community that compares to none!

This year, while you will be greeted with many returning faces, some have joined new grade levels. There will also be a few new friendly faces joining our wonderful team! While the summer is a wonderful opportunity to rejuvenate, school is just not the same without your precious children here! I cannot wait to see everyone walking through the doors on September 7th! Over the course of this school year, I look forward to meeting our new members of the Cambridge community as well as reconnecting with our returning families. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have questions, concerns, or just want to share some good news!

This year's theme, "*My approach creates the climate; my mood makes the weather. ~ Make it a sunny day!*" represents the very culture of Cambridge Elementary School. Here at Cambridge we believe that together teachers, students, and parents/guardians make our school "A Special Place for Children." It is that belief that drives us as staff to foster positive relationships and maintain strong lines of communication with our students and parent community. Mrs. Fehte and I appreciate all that you do to support the work of our esteemed and dedicated educators. Let us all commit to a positive, fun-filled, and successful school year.

The Cambridge Communicator, which is attached, includes some important information that should support a smooth transition process into the new school year. Please continue to visit our district's website (www.sbschools.org) for the most current and up to date information.

Educationally Yours,

Ms. Christi Pemberton

Principal

South Brunswick School District

"My approach creates the climate; my mood makes the weather. ~Make it a sunny day!"
~ A Nationally Recognized U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School ~

A decorative banner with two rows of blue pennants. The top row contains the word 'CAMBRIDGE' and the bottom row contains the word 'COMMUNICATOR'. Below the banner, the text 'August 2017' is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font.

CAMBRIDGE COMMUNICATOR

August 2017

Christi N. Pemberton, Principal

Sandra Burghgraef-Fehte, Assistant Principal

35 Cambridge Road, Kendall Park, NJ 08824
732-297-2941

www.sbschools.org/schools/ca/

STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR 2017-2018

If you are unable to access your child's placement, please contact the main office for assistance.

At Cambridge, we are very fortunate to have an exceptional group of teachers and staff to work with our students and families. To that end, the placement teams consider all students' strengths and needs with regard to academic proficiency across all content area, social competency, emotional maturity, leadership qualities, family support, learning style needs, behavioral dynamics, peer relationships and any services received. If you have a specific concern, please feel free to email me. However, please know that it is highly unlikely that I will change a student's placement at this point. We ask that you please trust us to make decisions that have every child's best interests in mind.

Staff Updates

Staff not returning – Good Luck!

- **Mrs. Meghan Fech** has joined the staff at Monmouth Junction. We wish her much success!
- **Ms. Raven Dunbar**, we wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors!
- **Ms. Chaille Godinez**, we wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors!
- **Mrs. Allyson Patterson**, we wish her the best in her new home!
- **Ms. Gina Sciaraffo** has joined the staff at Brunswick Acres. We wish her much success!
- **Mrs. Yim Wong**, we wish her all the best in her retirement!

New Staff – Welcome!

- **Mrs. Courtney DeSandre** is returning from maternity leave!
- **Ms. Blair Eisemen** is joining our Resource Teachers Team.
- **Mrs. Rachel Kline** is joining our Preschool Team.
- **Ms. Ira Mehta** is joining our Preschool Team as a paraprofessional.
- **Mrs. Donna McLean** is joining our Preschool Team as a paraprofessional.
- **Ms. Madhuri Myadam** is joining our Preschool Team as a paraprofessional.
- **Ms. Dushyanthi Naveendra** is joining our Child Study Team.

Staff Changes

- **Mr. Rick Luca**, who taught 3rd grade last year, will be teaching Kindergarten.
- **Mrs. Beth Olsson**, who taught 1st grade last year, will be teaching 2nd grade.
- **Mrs. Jaime Levinson**, who taught 4th grade last year, will be teaching 3rd grade.
- **Mrs. Lauren Chulamanis**, who taught 5th grade last year, will be teaching 4th grade.
- **Mrs. Jennifer Greco**, who taught Kindergarten last year, will be teaching 4th grade.
- **Mrs. Jennifer Plebani**, who taught 4th grade last year, will be teaching 5th grade.
- We are in the process of hiring a 3rd grade and 4th grade teacher. Once board approved, that information will be shared with you.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Please read the Student/Parent Handbook with your child(ren). It will be located on the school's website this month. As we all know, consistent school and parent support is vital to keeping Cambridge Elementary School "A Special Place for Students." Please read the handbook carefully and stay in the know.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: September 7th

Students may enter the building between 8:55am – 9:05am. School ends at 3:30pm. This is a FULL DAY of school! Parents dropping students off will be allowed to briefly escort their children to class on the **FIRST DAY** of school **ONLY** (if needed). Please be sure your child knows how they are going home on the first day.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES

Our regular school day for students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade continues to be from **9:05am – 3:30pm**. Each morning, our "first" bell will ring at **8:55am**. This is the time when students may enter the building. Due to supervision and safety concerns, we ask that you **do not bring your child to school any earlier than 8:55am**, unless they are enrolled in the *Before School* program. Arriving between 8:55am and 9:00am should allow ample time for children to walk to their classroom. The second bell (*late bell*) will ring at 9:05am, signaling the start of the academic day. Any child not arriving in his/her class by 9:05am will be marked tardy by the classroom teacher.

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

8:55am – Students may begin to enter the building

9:05am – All students must be in the building

3:25pm – K-1st grade dismissal

3:30pm – 2nd grade – 5th grade dismissal

Pre-School Program

8:40am – AM Program Arrival

11:10am – AM Program Dismissal

12:10pm – PM Program Arrival

2:40pm – PM Program Dismissal

DROP OFF & PICK UP PROCEDURES

Morning

Bus Students

- All busses will drop students off by the gymnasium on Leahy Road.

Walkers

- Students walking to school should enter the building either by the 4th & 5th grade "Cambridge Road" wing or through the Main Entrance.

Vehicle Drop Off

- All vehicles dropping students off must drive up to the "DROP OFF" sign on Cambridge Road.
- In order to make this drop-off line run smoothly, please...
 1. Have your child ready to get out of the car when you stop at the sign.
 2. DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD OUT BEFORE YOU GET TO THE SIGN.
 3. Students must exit the car via the right passenger side door.

Afternoon

Bus Students

- Bus students will be dismissed to the gymnasium and then called to board their respective busses on Leahy Road.

Walkers/Parent Pick-up Students

- K-1 Students will be dismissed at 3:25. Kindergarten will exit through the Main Entrance and 1st grade students will exit through the Art Room.
- 2nd grade students and 3rd grade students in the main hall classes will exit through the Main Entrance.
- 4th and 5th grade students and 3rd grade students in Ms. Heyer's and Mrs. Levinson's classes will exit through the 4th & 5th grade "Cambridge Road" wing.

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & SNACK

Students may purchase breakfast when they arrive to school. The cost for breakfast is \$2.15. Students may bring their lunch from home or purchase lunch at school. Chartwells will be ready to serve a hot lunch on the first day and every day of the school year. Student lunches cost \$2.40 and include milk. Additional information regarding school lunch may be found on the school website (School Information Tab: Lunch Information). The online application instructions for Free & Reduced Lunch will be sent home the first day of school as well as the lunch menu for the month. Monthly lunch menus may be found on the Cambridge website.

Most classes will also have a daily snack break during the morning. Parents are encouraged to provide a healthy snack (e.g., fruit, vegetables, cheese, or crackers) each day for the mid-morning break. While nut based snacks and high sugar content snacks are not prohibited, we encourage more healthy alternatives and ask for your understanding of the large number of students in our school who have nut allergies.

TRANSPORTATION – BUS PASSES

The transportation department will complete bus scheduling via Genesis. Parents will be able to access this information once it becomes available. Should you not receive one prior to August 30th, please contact the Transportation Office at 732-297-7800, ext. 5108.

BEFORE AND AFTER CARE

Families needing extended care before or after the regular school day should contact Community Education at 732-297-7800 ext. 3196.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS

School supply lists are on the school website under "Class Pages". Any parents who ordered the PTO sponsored Supply Kit for their children will not need to purchase anything additional. The kits will be delivered to school and distributed to students on the first day of school. Finally, please remember that backpacks with wheels are NOT permitted.

NEW STUDENT/FAMILY ICE-CREAM SOCIAL

SEPTEMBER 13th, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Our PTO would like to invite incoming kindergartners and new students to an Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, September 13th, from 7:00-8:00 pm. Come on out and meet the principal, staff, other Cambridge families, and PTO members. To be held in the cafeteria. *Note: *This event is for new families only.*

CAMBRIDGE PTO

Our PTO Executive Board and Committee Chairs are very enthusiastic about the upcoming school year. They are eager to plan a variety of programs and activities to help develop a strong school community. All families are encouraged to join. A PTO membership form will be sent home in the first day packet.



JOIN THE PTO FACEBOOK PAGE!! If you are a FACEBOOK Member, please "like" the Cambridge School PTO Page!

DISTRICT THEME FOR 2017-2018

Mr. Scott Feder, Superintendent of Schools, has announced that the district theme for the 2017-2018 school year is ***"My approach creates the climate; my mood makes the weather. ~Make it a sunny day!"*** This motto will be affixed to all school district communications.

COMMUNICATION

Throughout the year you will be getting information sent home in your child's Friday Folder. In addition, please sign-up for the Electronic Friday Folder option on the district website. This will allow us to go virtually paperless for most communications.

We are now on Facebook and Twitter. Please visit and like us at:



<https://www.facebook.com/SBSDCA>



CambridgeES@sbsdca

Are you MOVING?

If your family will be moving out of the Cambridge sending area before the start of the next school year, it would be very helpful for you to contact our registrar, Mrs. Cicero in the Cambridge Main Office. She may be reached at 732-297-2941. This will enable us to assist you and your child in a smooth transition to his/her new school for September.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Calling all students! Have you completed your Summer Reading Bingo Challenge?

Please use the following link, [Summer Reading Bingo Challenge](#), for details. Students will submit completed projects to their classroom teachers by Friday, September 15th. A celebration will be held in October (date TBD) for students who completed their BINGO Challenge!

GRADE LEVEL TEAMS AND SPECIALISTS

Pre-School: Mrs. Kline, Mr. Ulshafer

Kindergarten: Mrs. Canonico, Mr. Luca, Mrs. Ruina-Isaacs

Grade 1: Mrs. Blackwell, Mrs. DeSandre, Ms. Fischer

Grade 2: Ms. Antunes, Mrs. Matakonis, Mrs. McDonough, Mrs. Olsson

Grade 3: Ms. Heyer, Mrs. Levinson, Mrs. Walker, TBD

Grade 4: Mrs. Chulamanis, Mrs. Greco, Mrs. Klimowicz, TBD

Grade 5: Mr. Angelus, Mrs. Plebani, Mrs. Schmalz, Mrs. Weed

Specialists

Instructional Support: Mrs. Sara Shadell & Mrs. Maryann Stearle

Resource Center: Mrs. Kristen Hopkins, Mrs. Joy Reinknecht
Ms. Amanda Toto, Ms. Blair Eiseman

Art: Mrs. Kristin Mallon

Music: Mrs. Lisa Garwood, Mr. Matthew Piszko & Mrs. Katherine Stanek

Physical Education: Mrs. Christina O'Brien & Mrs. Sheree Berk

Library: Mrs. Chitra Ravichandran

World Language: Mrs. Sonia Valenti

Nurse: Mrs. Dawn Guidice

Child Study Team: Mrs. Donna Starker, Mrs. Kaitlyn Mann, Ms. Dushyanthi Naveendra

School Counselor: Mrs. Christine Doles

Speech: Mrs. Lisa Jorgenson

UPCOMING EVENTS – Mark your calendars!

Kindergarten Prep – August 21st –25th, 9–12pm, (registration required)

Kindergarten Bus Safety – August 24th, 8:30am

New Student School Tour (Grades 1-5 only) – August 23rd, 6:00pm

Kindergarten Hopes and Dreams – (further information will be coming)

Kindergarten Open House – (date and time to be announced)

First Day of School – September 7th - FULL DAY of School

Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm, XRDN – September 11th