

# Englewood On The Palisades Charter School

**ANTHONY BARCKETT, M.ED.**  
Director

Tel: (201) 569-9765 • Fax: (201) 568-9576  
Email: [charterschool@netzero.net](mailto:charterschool@netzero.net)

**DR. SHIRL BURNS**  
Principal

August 25, 2020

Dear Parents:

We hope that this letter finds you and your family both healthy and safe.

As directed by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), On July 31, 2020, we submitted our Restart and Recovery Plan to reopen our school using the Hybrid model which consisted of in-person and virtual/remote learning. In writing this plan, one of our tasks was to develop strategies to reopen school safely while our nation was still experiencing a COVID-19 pandemic.

On July 21, 2020, Governor Murphy announced that parents would be permitted to have an option as to how their children would attend school in September, Hybrid: In-person and remote or 100% remote learning.

On August 12, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 175 (EO175) permitting school districts permission to request approval to provide remote-only instruction to start the school year in September if they cannot meet specific guidelines as listed in the Executive Order and the NJDOE "The Road Back" guidelines.

After reflecting on our responsibility to prescribe and define precautions that would protect our students, families, teachers, and staff from potential risk to them and their families; we have found that putting forth our best effort is not enough.

St. Cecilia High School, which has been the home of Englewood on the Palisades Charter School since 1999, opened in 1901 and closed its doors for the purpose of religious education in 1986. Due to the structure and layout of our school building, we feel that with the requirement of social distancing, the size of our classrooms and hallways poses a threat to the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff, and administration, when taking into consideration the number of students and staff that will be in the building on our scheduled in-person days.

Not having control over variables that are so critical to the health and safety of our students and staff amplified our priority of health and safety first. The changing landscape of the pandemic poses risks and challenges that are far too great. We believe that we do not have the option to provide our students with a Hybrid education at this time. We cannot safely reopen EPCS for in-person instruction in September.

After taking all of the above into consideration, EPCS administration with the approval and support of our Board of Trustees, teachers, and staff requested approval to start our school year with full remote instruction for our Kindergarten through 8th-grade students.

With guidance from the NJDOE, and the monitoring of the COVID-19 virus with help from the CDC and the Englewood Health Department, it is our expectation to re-evaluate in-person instruction at the end of our first marking period on December 4th. We are hoping that our full remote learning model is a temporary position that will transition us into the Hybrid model.

Although we have approval from the EPCS Board of Trustees, at this time we are still waiting for approval from the New Jersey Department of Education.

Due to the limited number of days we have before school opens on Wednesday, September 9th, we are going to move forward, hoping that our request will be approved.

The following updates are for your information.

### **Distribution of Chromebooks**

At EPCS, technology has become a central part of our student's educational programs and the use of digital resources is an essential component of their learning experiences. We have worked hard over the summer to transform our virtual learning program to ensure our students are receiving accelerated, grade-level, and remedial, Standard-based instruction through our virtual learning environments.

In an effort to help our students participate in our virtual programs, all students will have access to a Chromebook to fulfill the educational requirements as defined by EPCS. We look forward to seeing you on your distribution day!

### **Distribution Dates**

#### **Tuesday, September 1, 2020**

Time: 8:00am to 10:00am	First Grade
Time: 10:00am to 12:00am	Second Grade
Time: 12:00pm to 2:00pm	Third Grade

#### **Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

Time: 8:00am to 10:00am	Fourth Grade
Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm	Fifth Grade
Time: 12:00pm to 2:00pm	Sixth Grade

**Thursday, September 3, 2020**

Time: 8:00am to 10:00am      Seventh Grade

Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm    Eighth Grade

Time: 12:00pm to 2:00pm      Kindergarten

**Distribution of Meals**

EPCS is committed to providing meals to our students during our Full Remote Learning model.

Our meal distribution will start on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, the first day of school for students.

Meals will be distributed on Monday and Wednesday from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the first door entrance from the parking lot. Meals will only be available when school is in session. Meals are available for all students. Students that are free and reduced; all meals are free. Students that are paid; will have to pay on the day of pickup and/or pay on-line.

**Pick Up Days**

**Monday's** pick up will include breakfast and lunch for Monday and Tuesday.

**Wednesday's** pick up will include breakfast and lunch for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Parents, it is our hope that our EPCS family continues to be safe and healthy as we embark on an exciting, and adventurous school year that is filled with opportunities for academic success.

Sincerely,



Mr. Anthony Barckett  
Director



Dr. Shirl Burns  
Principal