

**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
CICELY L. TYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Assistant Principal

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August 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the entire staff, we are both honored and excited to welcome you and your child (ren) to the 2015-2016 instructional year at CTES, where our school-wide theme continues to promote “Possibilities not Problems”. We hope that you have enjoyed a wonderful summer, as we have been working hard to plan and prepare extraordinary/engaging student-centered programs and curricula activities for our students. Such efforts are facilitated as to ensure that your child (ren) receives the best possible education during the 2015-2016 school year and beyond. Please note that we will be hosting our annual open house for parents/guardians in September (a specific date will be forthcoming).

We eagerly anticipate working with students from years past, as well as welcoming many new faces to our instructional family. Furthermore, we look forward to working with our current staff once again this school year, while welcoming a number of new staff members as well.

Please refer to the information below so as to become acquainted with some of the important elements of expectations concerning Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School:

- A) Parents/Guardians are expected to review all packet information with their children as to ensure that everyone is clear on building level expectations. Additionally all documents requiring signatures must be forwarded to home-based teachers the first day of school, no exceptions! **(The emergency contact document is of great importance.)**
- B) We strongly encourage all parents/guardians to join and participate in our school’s PTO, as well as various school-based programs that are facilitated throughout the year. Such participation assists us in ensuring that we are educating your child (ren) at the highest possible standards (further information regarding both PTO and school-based programs will be distributed throughout the school year).
- C) In an effort to instill school-wide pride and unity, our PTO and school staff expect that ALL Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School students will come to school on Mondays through Thursdays wearing school uniforms. Uniforms consist of a white blouse or shirt to be worn with a navy blue skirt or pants. Please note that even on gym days, students are expected to wear the school uniform (i.e. blue sweatpants/shorts and a white shirt). Fridays are considered “dress down” days; however, please be sure that your child (ren) comes to school wearing attire deemed suitable for an educational setting. Please support us in this venture, as we fully expect 100% participation from all Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School students.
- D) **The first day of school for students will commence on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. This will be a full day for students, beginning at 8:35 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m.**

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- E) School hours are as follows:
1. The students' academic day runs from 8:35 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
 2. Teachers report to the school by 8:20 a.m.
 3. **Students are to report to school by 8:35 a.m. Please do not send students to school prior to 8:25 a.m. as teachers will not be available to monitor them.**
 4. Teacher/Student transition time is at 8:35 a.m.
 5. All 1st period classes begin at 8:55 a.m. sharp.
 6. (During the first week of school, in order to accommodate parents of students in prekindergarten and kindergarten, the aforesaid classes will remain with teachers in the gymnasium or outside for an additional five (5) minutes.)
- F) The Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School Breakfast Program will take place on a daily basis beginning on the first day of school. This program will work to ensure that all students are able to receive a wholesome meal to begin their school day. Breakfast will be available each morning. Beginning at approximately 8:35 a.m., all students will have the opportunity to eat breakfast in their designated classrooms until 8:55 a.m.
- G) School lunch will be served each and every school day throughout the instructional year. Once you have received the lunch application(s), please be sure to complete it and return the application to our main office immediately. Your child (ren)'s status for lunch (either paying full price, reduced price, or free) will be determined by the District Business Office. If your child is going to bring his/her lunch to school, you are still required to complete and submit a lunch application. Please note that parents/guardians must complete new lunch forms each year. **Finally, please note that sweets, cakes, cupcakes, etc. are prohibited and administrative approval must be given prior to any classroom parties taking place.**

The latter will only take place on designated Fridays as to avoid ongoing interruptions in the instructional schedule. Additionally, microwave services are unavailable in our school. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated to ensure that all students are provided with nutritional meals on a daily basis.

As we transition to another innovative school year, let us be aware of the political climate in our country relative to public school education, as well as safety issues that permeate throughout our country. There are some who suggest that public schools are not capable and/or willing to properly educate and/or keep our students safe in the 21st century, and have created agendas that support said belief systems. In order to counter such rhetoric and prevent sensationalism amongst community members, I will continue to serve as the leader of Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School in the best manner possible, always showing my due diligences to students and parents/guardians.

Equally as important, I fully expect all of our students to contribute to a positive school climate in establishing and maintaining a tradition of excellence at Cicely L. Tyson Elementary School. Through our educational goals and high standards of quality we envision a student body of leaders who value themselves, their classmates, and their community. Once again this year I humbly accept the task of serving as your instructional leader!

Peace & Greetings,

Passion Moss-Hasan
Principal

“Rising to a Standard of Excellence”