

Welcome to #Cantiague Elementary

2017-2018



Dear Families,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year at Cantiague!

Whether you are a new Cantiague family or a returning family, I am confident that the year ahead will be a rewarding experience for everyone. Our commitment to instilling a love of learning; encouraging children to grow academically, socially and emotionally; providing a safe, secure and positive learning environment for each and every child; and maintaining our strong partnership with families are just some of the many reasons why Cantiague is such a wonderful place for children to learn and grow. Cantiague is truly “a place where kids want to be!”

We hope this Opening Day Packet will provide you with general information in order to prepare for the start of a wonderful new school year.

Cantiague is filled with teachers and staff who are passionate educators and dedicated to each student’s success and personal growth. They have spent time here this summer to ensure that their classrooms and learning spaces will be the cheerful, supportive learning environments they want to establish for their students. I am impressed by the dedication of our office staff and custodial team as they prepare for the opening of school. Our kind and caring office team has worked hard to see that everything has been organized for the first day of school. The building and school grounds look beautiful thanks to the hard work of our incredible custodial staff. Our much-appreciated PTA is gearing up to welcome families, provide opportunities for family involvement and offer exciting events and programs for our students. We are ready for the opening of what promises to be a wonderful school year!

As I embark on my second year as Cantiague’s principal, it brings joy to my heart to experience the pride that this community has in our school. Cantiague is indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, compassionate students and promoting high-level learning. As a lead learner at Cantiague, I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education and I look forward to working together.

The time that your children spend with us each day at Cantiague is important. We consider it a great privilege to work with your children and look forward to a wonderful year together. We are honored that you entrust us with your precious children.

Here’s to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Gina Faust

Join us on Twitter [@GinaFaust](#)

Find us on Instagram at [cantiagueelementary](#)

Friend us on Facebook at [Cantiague Principal](#)

Visiting the Classrooms Prior to School

As I am sure that you are aware, our teachers are involved in extensive planning in preparation for the new school year. Therefore, **we ask that you plan school visits to meet the new teacher(s) between 1:30 and 2:15 PM on Monday, August 28th. The school will be open at that time.**

On Tuesday, August 29th, students should come to school using their regular mode of transportation. Walkers should go directly to the lunchroom and bus students will be taken off the bus. There will be staff available to direct students to their classrooms and assist the children on that morning. It will be a great first day of school! I can't wait to see all of the children's smiling faces, hear their great summer stories and welcome them to a new school year!

Play Dates

Play date arrangements will be accommodated beginning Monday, September 11th so that we can ensure a safe and orderly dismissal for the first few days of school. When planning for after school arrangements, please remember that play date notes must be sent with the children in the morning. **Verbal messages or emails will not be accommodated.**

Kindergarten Play Dates

Kindergarten play dates are on a pick-up basis only. Each kindergarten student will be required to have a note regarding the play date. No kindergarten play dates will be permitted to go on the bus.

School Philosophy

The Shared Decision Making Team will continue to support our school philosophy rooted in the following idea: **Cantiague Elementary – Changing the World One Bucket at a Time!** Additionally, our students will continue to take part in a variety of activities to help them understand their roles in becoming students of character; to enable them to learn the skills that are necessary to work and play together peacefully; and to develop skills that help them be upstanding citizens of our community. This is critical to ensure that we are meeting all the expectations laid out by the Dignity for All Act.

Meet the Teacher Night

At **Meet the Teacher Night**, parents have the opportunity to receive an overview of the goals and expectations for the year and the classroom routines. **Meet the Teacher Night** will be on the evening of **Thursday, September 7th** at 6:30 PM for grades K, 1 & 2 and 7:30 PM for grades 3, 4 & 5. There may be some slight changes to the schedule to accommodate any teachers who have to attend their own child's **Meet the Teacher Night**. Please join us for these important presentations as they will help you get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of his/her plan for the year in terms of what the children will be learning and experiencing.

Paperless Communication

We will continue to utilize email as our primary means of communication with our parents. **Accordingly, each parent has been asked to provide the district with an up-to-date email address.** Communication/Notices will be sent home using this email address, so our parents are asked to check email frequently to keep abreast of school events and activities. **If you have not provided an email address to the school, please contact our Main Office staff to have your information included in your child's records.** Additionally, we will continue to use Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Storify and our Video Updates as a source of information for our community about all the awesome things happening in school! Finally, the school website also contains regular updates about all the wonderful activities the children will experience during the year.

Report Cards and Conferences

Report cards are issued **ONLINE** three times a year and conferences are held to review the first two reports. Please make sure that you sign up for conferences during **Meet the Teacher Night**.

Code of Conduct

Our school Code of Conduct appears at the end of this publication as well as on the school website. This Code was developed by our Shared Decision Making Team and represents our expectations for students regarding being kind, responsible, respectful, safe and positive. The Code of Conduct will also include additional information related to the Dignity for All Act to keep all of our community members safe!

Foreign Language (FLES)

The foreign language program includes students in grades one through five. The children will be exposed to Spanish in grades 1-4 and then Italian and French in grade 5. At the end of fifth grade, students will select their language of study for Middle School.

Technology Program

The Jericho schools offer a technology-rich learning environment to prepare our students for the future. The elements of this environment include SMARTBoards, Document Cameras, classroom computers, two computer labs, iPad and Chromebook classroom integration and exposure to other web-based resources. Our elementary schools have been equipped with Dell computers, and we have recently installed new monitors for all computers. Students will be introduced to the operating system as part of their Computer Lab lessons with their classroom teachers. It should also be noted that the school website contains many recommended, safe sites for student use when exploring the internet for information or enjoyment. Finally, our technology program is always evolving, growing, changing and being enhanced as we try and equip our children with the skills they need to be successful!

Library Program

Our school library is online as part of the Nassau BOCES Library Automation and Resource Sharing Service and can be accessed through the Jericho Schools web site at www.jerichoschools.org. Students have the opportunity to attend library classes and choose books on a weekly basis under the guidance and direction of our amazing and inspiring school librarian, Mrs. Castrofilippo.

Pupil Personnel Support Services

As part of our Pupil Personnel Services, Cantiague Elementary School offers the full time services of our school psychologist, Mrs. MaryAnn Colucci, and our part-time special education facilitator, Mrs. Anne Frischer. Mrs. Colucci is available for individual or group counseling and to assist students and parents with challenges throughout the school year. Mrs. Frischer works with our special education students and is available for consultation about special education services. Please do not hesitate to contact them about any questions you may have regarding your child. They can be reached at the school telephone number or via email.

Music Program

All children in grades three, four and five will participate in a chorus program as part of their weekly music classes. In addition, students in grades four and five may choose to play a musical instrument in the band or orchestra. Fifth grade students in the instrumental programs and chorus will delight us at our annual Winter and Spring Concerts. All third and fourth grade students will perform in the spring. Our third grade students gain experience with electronic piano keyboarding and recorders for part of their music classes as an introduction to instrumentation. Students in Grades K – 2 will also have a weekly General Music class each week.

Children's Responsibilities

One of the primary objectives of Elementary School is to help children develop independence as they acquire worthwhile work habits. You can help the school achieve this objective by seeing that your child comes to school prepared for the day. Lunch or lunch money, sneakers on days when they have Physical Education, resources, homework, notebooks, musical instruments, etc., are all part of the day's preparation. **Please do not drop these items off at school.** Additionally, please do not call the office to ask that messages be given to children.

Cultural Arts Program

This Cultural Arts Program will continue at Cantiague. The sessions will take place on Thursdays at Cantiague School from November through February. The program offers a series of workshops for children in grades K through 5. **Transportation home from the program must be provided by parents.** Please watch for further information about this great program!

SCOPE

Supervised after-school child care for students from 2:55 PM-6:00 PM is conducted by SCOPE on days when school is in session. The program is held in our building. If you would like information about the SCOPE after school child-care program, please contact the Main Office.

Arrival of Children

In order to provide for the supervision of all children, we request that **students do not arrive at school earlier than 7:30 AM.** School hours are 8:25 AM - 2:55 PM. Children who arrive at school by car should enter the side of the building by the lunchroom. Please note that the doors are closed at 8:25 AM. Children who arrive to school after 8:25am should enter through the main entrance and go to the Main Office to sign in. **If you would like to park your car and walk your child into the building or your child arrives by walking, please enter through the main entrance. If you park and walk your child to the building, please do not use the side entrance. Cars are driving through that area for morning drop off.**

Early Drop Off

You may drop your child off early at school between 7:30-8:15AM at the side of the building by the lunchroom. Supervision is provided.

Dismissal of Children

Students who are walkers will be the first group dismissed. Parents who are meeting children to walk home should wait in the area just outside the cafeteria doors. Kindergarten and first grade walkers will be escorted to the dismissal area and can be met at the cafeteria doors. All parents are requested to return to their cars and leave the area as soon as their children exit the building.

Students who take the bus will exit through the Main Lobby and the side doors after lining up in either the auditorium or gymnasium. The children will be dismissed by one of our aides.

Requests for Early Dismissal/Releasing Students

Our school strives to provide for the safety and security of our children. Therefore, no child is released from school unless a parent/guardian or a person designated by the parent/guardian comes for the child. A note written by the parent/guardian giving release information, including the time and name of the person who will come for their child should be sent to the teacher in the morning. When the person picking up your child arrives, they must proceed to the Main Office. Your child will be called from the classroom after being signed out. Children will not be released unescorted by the designated adult and are not permitted to go home alone in taxi cabs.

Verbal messages will not be accommodated. Early dismissals should be kept to a minimum in order to provide for continuity of instruction. We recommend that medical, dental and other appointments be made at times other than during school hours so that children do not miss instructional time.

Traffic

Please do not enter the traffic loop in front of the school while buses are parked. If you arrive at school during arrival or dismissal, please park your car and enter the building or wait until the buses have left the loop and then pull next to the curb. Parents can also use the Niagara Drive entrance to school or the walker loop.

Transportation

Our transportation office is under the direction of Mrs. Lori-Ann Savino. For information regarding bus routes, delays of buses, items left on buses or any concerns you may have regarding transportation, please contact her office at 203-3600, Ext. 3465, Ext. 3244, or the operator.

The Jericho Transportation Department continues to instruct bus drivers to deliver any Kindergarten or first grade students back to their home school if they are not met by an adult. These students are easily identified by their bus passes that we ask you to attach to the top handle of their backpacks. **Please note – all students in kindergarten and grade one must be met by an adult when they exit the school bus at the end of the school day or they will be brought back to the school.**

Bus Safety

In order for all students to remain safe while riding buses, they are expected to observe bus safety regulations. These include remaining seated, wearing seatbelts and following the directions of the bus driver. Students who do not follow the rules or directives of the drivers and other staff in authority may be subject to disciplinary action.

Bicycle Riders/Walkers

Bicycles may be ridden to and from school, but not on school grounds. We do not encourage bike riding to school but if a child does so, bicycle racks are near the building by Niagara Drive. Locks should be used to secure bicycles to the rack. Students who ride their bikes or walk to school should be instructed about safety procedures and traffic laws, and should obey all directions given by the crossing guard. Students are required to wear helmets under NYS law. When students ride bicycles, a note should be sent to the teacher and to the building principal, so that your child can be dismissed with the walkers.

School Closing/Delayed Opening – Snow/Emergency

The school district will post information regarding closings on the website as soon as a decision is reached. Delayed openings due to inclement weather will be posted on the website in the same manner as school closings. For example, if the school schedule will be delayed for one hour and the bus would normally stop at 8:00 AM, the bus would come to the stop at 9:00 AM. Dismissal times remain the same.

Visiting the School

Signs are posted in the building reminding all parents and visitors to report to the main office. When visitors arrive, they will be asked to sign in and wear a “Visitor” badge at all times while in the building. The doors of the school are locked after student arrival. No matter what the nature of the visit, everyone must come to the main office to sign-in before going through the school. If it is necessary to speak with your child or pick him/her up during recess, please follow regular release procedures.

Children’s Lunches

The cafeteria will be open starting the first full day of school. A complete meal, including milk, costs \$3. The cost of milk is \$.50 for chocolate, regular and skim. The cost of a bagel/roll/a la carte lunch will be \$1.75. Finally, a bottle of water will cost \$1.25. Children pay for their lunches daily or through our Point-Of-Sale online system. Lunch hours will be shared in an email. Kindergarten youngsters will not be able to purchase hot lunch until Monday, September 18th. The teachers will provide families with more information about this.

Please do not purchase pizza or fast food lunches and bring them to school for your child as we will not accept them – all children will be provided a school lunch if they forgot their lunch at home.

Student Snacks and Celebrations

Our school community recognizes that we must model, foster, and teach children to eat well and be physically active in order to achieve a lifetime of good health and physical fitness. It is our shared

responsibility to properly fuel the minds and bodies of our students. Therefore, please note that all snacks are not equal! Healthy snacks provide necessary nutrition and energy to be productive during the school day.

According to the New York State School Food Service Association, sensible snacks contain 7 grams or less of fat; 2 grams or less of saturated fats; 15 grams or less of sugar; 360 milligrams or less of sodium; and one serving per package. A sensible snack can consist of fruits, vegetables, cheese, applesauce, yogurt, pretzels, healthy snack packs, granola bars, etc. Please avoid sending any of the following as snacks: sugar-based fruit juice, soda, candy, cake, donuts, chips, etc.

Class parents who plan class parties are asked to include healthy snacks and to limit the amount of food being consumed during party times. **Likewise, we also ask that parents remain cognizant of students with allergies and refrain from preparing snacks with the ingredients noted in letters that you may receive from your class. Finally, please do not send in sheet cakes or ice cream cakes for birthday celebrations unless they are pre-cut.**

While we recognize that sweets may be appropriate for special occasions, like birthday parties, when parents plan for Secret Reader or Family Fun Days, we ask that you refrain from bringing food for those activities. Alternatives to food may include pencils, stickers, extra recess, etc.

Our collective challenge is to educate our children about good choices that promote wellness. We appreciate your partnership.

Student Absence

When a child is absent from school, a note or letter is legally required from the parent or guardian indicating the specific reason for absence. The note or letter should accompany the child on the day of return to school. Your cooperation will be very helpful to us in keeping an accurate attendance record.

Homework for Absent Children

Students who are absent can obtain assignments through the district web site or contact the teacher directly with questions. More information will be sent home about how to access assignments online.

Guidelines for Administering Medication in School

The New York State Education Department has established requirements for the administration of prescription drugs by school personnel, as well as over-the-counter medication such as aspirin, acetaminophen, cough syrups, etc. The Jericho Union Free School District is in compliance with these requirements.

1. The school nurse must have a written request from the family physician in which he/she indicates the frequency and dosage of a prescribed medication. In addition, the condition being treated is to be outlined by the physician. (This also applies to non-prescription drugs.)
2. The nurse must also have a written request from the parent/guardian to administer the medication as specified by the physician.
3. Such medication must be in the container prepared by the pharmacist or in the original container in which it was purchased and the label must include the name and strength of the medication.
4. The medication should be delivered directly to the nurse and will be kept in the Health Office.
5. No medications are provided by school.
6. All medications must be taken in the Health Office. Students may not have medication of any kind with them during the school day (i.e., not in pockets, lunch boxes, backpacks, etc.).

These procedures are established and maintained to protect all students. Medication sent to school which does not meet these requirements cannot be administered. Any unused medication should be picked up by parents or it will be discarded if it is not picked up within a reasonable length of time.

Cantiague PTA

One guaranteed way of becoming an active member of the Cantiague community is by joining the PTA. Through meetings and committee work, parents can become better informed and can have a positive impact on our children's education. For parents interested in participating in PTA events and/or contacting any of the committee members, call the chairperson of the committee that interests you or just send a note to the school office marked "PTA Mailbox" and the PTA will respond as soon as possible. Please retain the PTA Handbook which lists all committees and chairs.

SEPTA

The Jericho SEPTA is a district-wide Special Education Parent Teacher Association. Any person who is interested in joining or gaining further information, please call Dr. Castranova's office at 203-3600.

Shared Decision Making Team

The Shared Decision Making Team is a state-mandated program in which each individual school maintains a site-based management team with parents, students, teachers, staff and administrators. This team's purpose is to participate in shared decision making in the hopes of improving educational opportunities and performance as well as promoting collaboration among all participants in the school community. Information regarding agendas and minutes are on the school page of the district web site.

Student Use of Computer Information Resources

The Board of Education provides access to various computer information resources through the District's computer system (DCS). All use of the DCS, including independent use on and off school premises, shall be subject to acceptable student conduct. Further, all such use must be in support of education and/or research and consistent with the goals of the District.

CANTIAGUE SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Here at Cantiague Elementary we work hard to treat everyone with respect no matter how a person looks, dresses, behaves or what they believe. At our school we make sure that there is Dignity for All...

BE RESPECTFUL

1. Care about yourself and others
2. Use kind words everywhere
3. Celebrate our differences

BE POSITIVE & KIND

1. Smile
2. Always include everyone
3. Take pride in your work by doing your personal best

BE SAFE

1. Make good choices
2. Always let an adult know where you are
3. See something, say something

BE RESPONSIBLE

1. Follow the rules
2. Be an "UP"stander, not a bystander
3. Do the right thing

