Mark Your Calendar!

9/2 Sneak-A-Peek ~ 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Our building will be open for ALL families to take a self-guided tour on Thursday, September 2nd from 6:30 - 7:30pm to help ease first day jitters. This is an opportunity for students to walk the halls, locate their classroom, and maybe bump into a classmate or two! Some students, for example, may benefit from a practice walk from the bus loop to their classroom location to make the first morning of the year a bit smoother. If you think this would be a beneficial opportunity for your child, we look forward to seeing you then! To avoid crowding in our hallways, we ask that only one parent/guardian accompany their child into the building, and please remember that anyone who enters the building will need to be masked at all times while indoors. Please also note that while the school will be open, classroom spaces will not, as teachers will not be present. Teachers look forward to seeing your child(ren) on the first day (9/9/21), and to meeting you at Back to School Night (9/21/21).

9/2 PTO Sponsored Carnival ~ 6:30 - 8:00 PM
The parents on our PTO’s Executive Board are busy planning a welcome back event for families! The event will take place outdoors on the playground behind Constable School from 6:30 - 8:00pm on Thursday, September 2nd. We hope you’ll join us for some carnival games, tattoos, and free ice pops! To participate in the carnival games, there will be a $5 “door fee,” which gives you access to unlimited games and a free goodie bag. For details, be sure to check out this flyer (PTO Carnival.pdf)! We hope to see you for an evening of fun, family, and community building to celebrate the start of a great year!

9/6 School Closed (Labor Day)

9/7 School Closed (Rosh Hashanah)

9/8 School Closed (Rosh Hashanah)

9/9 First Day of School for Students
This is a full day of school. The school day begins at 8:55 AM, and the late bell rings at 9:05 AM. Dismissal is at 3:30 PM.

9/16 School Closed (Yom Kippur)

9/21 Back To School Night
Our staff looks forward to sharing more about our school at our annual Back-to-School Night. We are putting final details on how this event will look this year, and we look forward to sharing those details in the coming weeks! In the meantime, be on the lookout for a welcome letter from your child’s teacher, and be sure to check email often in the weeks ahead as we’ll look to partner with you to make the first days as smooth as possible for our cubs!

9/28: Early Release (Staff Professional Development)

Welcome Back!

Dear Constable Families,

We hope you have enjoyed the change of pace that summer brings and have found time to refresh and rejuvenate! We have enjoyed some fun in the sun, but are already hard at work preparing for the terrific school year ahead.

This newsletter provides you with some “need to know” information about the beginning of the school year. Please read over it carefully to help ensure that our opening days are as smooth as possible.

In these unique and challenging times, strong communication is essential to everyone’s health, success, and well-being at school. To that end, we will be in touch again soon before the official start of the year. Stay tuned and check email often!

We look forward to an exciting, productive, and enriching year for your child(ren). A strong and collaborative home/school partnership is incredibly important, so please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of us here at Constable to make your child’s school year the best it can be. We thank you, in advance, for partnering with us along the way!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy end to your summer vacation, and on behalf of the entire Constable staff, welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We know it will be a great one! See you on the 9th!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Vildostegui-Cerra,
Mrs. Talbot & CO Staff
Student Placement Information

Accompanying this newsletter is your child’s classroom placement for the 2021-2022 school year. When placing each student, we consider the input of the classroom teacher, specialist teachers, and any input you may have provided us on the optional Parent Input Form provided last spring. Placement is an involved and thoughtful process that takes many weeks to finish. Together, our staff has thoughtfully created balanced classroom communities and we appreciate your confidence in your child’s placement. Stay tuned for a welcome letter from your child’s teacher! Teachers are hard at work preparing for September and are very much looking forward to working and learning alongside you and your child.

Before/After School Program

If you need childcare prior to the start of the school day, or after dismissal, you can enroll your students in our Before and After School Program. In the past, this program was run by our Community Education Department. This year, our District has partnered with Champions, an outside company that specializes in this type of programming. To learn more about the Champions program and/or to register your child, please contact them directly by visiting their website at www.discoverchampions.com.

Other Important Back to School Information

Supply lists can be found on our website (for quick access, click here).

If you would like more information about our school’s policies and procedures, please refer to the parent/student handbook, also on our district’s website (the most updated version will be available by the start of school). Please don’t hesitate to contact our office staff if you have questions regarding information in this letter or in our handbook.

There are many important forms for you to complete for the start of the year. During the first week of school, each student will take home a few forms, but many of the important ones are now electronic in the Genesis system for your convenience. Please plan to spend some time tending to this paperwork, and remember to return all necessary forms (paper and electronic) promptly. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!

Reminder of School Hours

Please note that the school day was 30 minutes shorter last year during hybrid learning, and that this year’s schedule is a return to our regular school hours (pre-pandemic).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>Please note that the school day was 30 minutes shorter last year during hybrid learning, and that this year’s schedule is a return to our regular school hours (pre-pandemic).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Day</td>
<td>8:55 AM - 3:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Release</td>
<td>8:55 AM - 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delayed Opening</td>
<td>10:55 AM - 3:30 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Snack

Please send your child to school with a snack from home each day. We encourage healthy snacks, and ask parents to be mindful of their child’s independence when selecting a snack. Snacks should be quick and easy so that students can maximize their learning time!

Breakfast & Lunch

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved funding to offer all students breakfast and lunch at no cost for the 2021-2022 school year regardless of eligibility status. Qualifying for free or reduced-price meals may provide your family with additional benefits such as P-EBT funding, reduced rates for sports, free college applications, etc. so please be sure to fill out a free & reduced application when applicable. Applications will open on September 1st. Please click here to view a letter from Chartwells Dining Service with more information about food service.

If you would prefer to send lunch from home for your child, you are certainly able to do so! With many new encounters for kindergarteners, we encourage them to bring lunch from home for the first few days of the school year. Of course if this isn’t possible, we will help your kindergartener with the process of buying lunch at school.

Students wishing to eat a free Chartwells provided breakfast can pick one up on their way to class in the morning. All others should eat breakfast at home prior to coming to school.
Parent of a Kindergartener?

Congratulations! Few things are more exciting than a child’s first day of kindergarten. As a former kindergarten teacher and the parent of two young children, I feel your excitement, pride, and anxiety!

Our kindergarten teachers will be in touch with you soon to set up your Hopes and Dreams conference - an opportunity for each family to meet with their child’s teacher prior to the start of the school year. Our teachers will provide you with additional information and will answer any questions you may have at that time as well. They will also share tweaks to our arrival and dismissal process to accommodate these youngsters!

**An important kindergarten-specific detail:** We have mailed stickers with your child’s name and grade level to your home address. Please ensure that your child wears one sticker per day for the first few days, and be sure to place it on a prominent spot on your child’s shirt. The sticker includes a line that says “Dismissal Plan________.” On that line, please write the means by which your child will go home that day. For example, you might write “parent pick-up” or “bus #7.” Your child’s teacher will confirm his/her dismissal plan with you directly, but these stickers will serve as an added layer of support to our staff as we acclimate our youngest students to our school routines.

* *If for any reason you do not receive our mailing or have misplaced the stickers, creating your own is fine! Simply write your child’s name, grade level (kindergarten), and dismissal plan on the replacement that you create.**

Grades K & 1: The school will provide any technology needed during the school day. Please do not send technology to school with your child.

Grades 2 - 5: Students will be expected to bring a fully charged device to school each day to use in class. Please know that you will have the option to borrow a district Chromebook for the year, if needed. If this is the case, please contact Ms. Tyesha Edwards in the main office for information on how to obtain a Chromebook. An annual $35 Chromebook insurance fee will need to be paid prior to receiving the device, though the fee is automatically waived for those receiving free/reduced lunch.

Questions about the Chromebook process? Call Ms. Edwards in the main office.

Have Questions? Need More Information?

**Bus passes** are created by the Department of Transportation and are made available to you via the Genesis Parent Portal.

If you have questions, please contact our district’s Transportation Office directly at: (732) 297-7800

Families who need extended care before or after the school day should be in touch with CHAMPIONS directly.

**Website:**
www.discoverchampions.com

**Customer Support Line:**
1-800-246-2154

**South Brunswick’s Area Manager:**
tpace@discoverchampions.com

Have a question regarding the South Brunswick Food Service Program that isn’t answered on our website?

Contact Chartwells’ Director of Dining Services, Michele Armstrong, at: Michele.Armstrong@sbschools.org
In keeping with our continued efforts to “go green,” important school communications will be sent via School Messenger, and community flyers will appear in our Electronic Friday Folder (EFF). The EFF will be posted on the CO website every Friday, and an email reminder will be sent home on Friday mornings. These emails will be sent to the address(es) you have listed in Genesis Parent Portal under the "Contacts" tab. Please make sure you have checked to receive both "Emergency" as well as "Non-Emergency" communications while you are updating your email addresses in Genesis Parent Portal. District communication and communication from the school will be sent to these emails addresses, so please make sure that they are current. You can update or add email addresses at any time in the Genesis portal.

Emergency notifications (school closings, delayed openings, etc.) from the school district will also be sent to the email addresses listed in Genesis.

We have a fantastic Parent Teacher Organization that partners with us to provide assembly programs, after school clubs, evening family events, and much, much more!

WE NEED YOUR HELP….consider volunteering this year! You can contact the Constable School PTO by e-mail at ConstablePTO@sbschools.org

Mark your calendar for one of our first events of the year!

The PTO’s CARNIVAL will be held on Thursday, September 2nd 6:30 - 8:00 pm

If your child is going to be absent, the school must be notified. The easiest way is to report the absence directly through the Genesis Parent Portal. Alternatively, you may call the main office (you can leave a voicemail before the school day starts) or you can email Constable@sbschools.org to notify our office staff.

State Law requires that a reason for each absence be given (sick, travel, etc.), and mandates a call to each parent who does not call to report their child absent. Please remember to notify us when your child is out!
**Arrival**

Doors open at 8:55 AM. Parents and students are expected to wait outside until 8:55 AM unless students are in the Before School Program. Please do not leave children unattended before 8:55 AM.

The late bell will ring at 9:05 AM. All students are expected to arrive on time so that instruction can begin promptly. Late arrivals must be accompanied to the main office by a parent/guardian to be signed in.

Please familiarize yourself with the following practices:

- **BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM (BSP):** You are required to sign your child into the BSP each day. Please park in the side parking lot and enter the building through the side doors by the gymnasium. Do not use the bus loop or main entrance. As per our security policy, you will need to be “buzzed in.”
- **BUS STUDENTS:** All buses arrive in the bus loop (horseshoe on Constable Road). Students enter the building through the front doors (2nd, 4th & 5th graders to the left of the main entrance, 1st & 3rd graders through the main entrance, and kindergarteners to the right of the main entrance by the pole barn).
- **WALKERS:** Students walking to school are expected to only cross at the locations that have a crossing guard. Help your child time their walk carefully, as students cannot enter the building until 8:55 AM.
- **PARENT DROP-OFF:** Parents driving their children to school must drop them off curb side between the gym driveway and just past the crosswalk (at what is known as the “Waiting Tree”) on the school side of the street only. After your child has exited your vehicle, please move along to allow other parents to drop off their children in the designated “drop and go”/no parking zone. Please be sure to have your child exit on the passenger side while you remain in your vehicle. This helps to ensure a safe and efficient arrival for all. Drop off can begin as soon as a staff member is present, typically around 8:50AM (though students will wait outside the main doors until the bell rings at 8:55AM). Students should enter through the same doors listed above in the “Bus Students” section.

**Dismissal**

**IMPORTANT:** Constable’s main office requires that dismissal changes be sent in writing. When known before the school days starts, please write a detailed note and send it in with your child in the morning. For changes after the school day has started, please email Constable@sbschools.org. For emergencies ONLY, you can call the main office to notify the office staff of a dismissal change. Please do this by 2:00 PM to ensure your message is received and communicated to all parties. Please do not email this information to teachers during the school day. Teachers are instructing students and may not have access to email in time to make note of the change. Dismissal changes reported to our school later than 2:00 PM make the end of the day hectic and can be detrimental to the safety of all of our students during dismissal time. Thank you for your anticipated support!

Dismissal will occur by 3:30 PM. Please familiarize yourself with the following practices:

- **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (ASP):** Students will be dismissed to the ASP, and attendance will be taken before other students are dismissed. When picking up your child, please park in the back, buzz-in, and sign your child out with the ASP staff.
- **BUS STUDENTS:** All students will exit through the bus loop doors to meet their bus, which will be waiting in the designated horseshoe shaped bus loop in front of the building.
- **WALKERS & PARENT PICK-UPS:** Kindergarten students exit using the stairs near the pole barn/side blacktop. First graders will exit from the main entrance. All other students will exit the building and make their way toward the crosswalk on Constable Road. Curbside pick-up works just like arrival as the “drop and go” zone becomes the “pick-up and go” zone. Please obey all posted traffic signs (you may park before and after the posted No Parking signs but not in the drop-off/pick-up zone) and be sure to have your school-provided dismissal sign in your passenger window to help us match students to cars (signs will be sent home with your child on the first day).

*Our dismissal will be safe and efficient if everyone is respectful of our well-established safety procedures.*

**General Notes**

- We encourage consistent dismissal plans for our students, as frequent changes can confuse students and staff alike. Please be sure that your child’s teacher knows your child’s dismissal plan and that any changes are clearly and thoroughly communicated.
- During the school day, all entrances are locked. Visitors must be admitted through the front door and must go to the main office to sign-in and obtain a badge through our visitor management system. You must have a government-issued photo ID to visit the building past the main office.
- Some students are quite scared of dogs. If you bring your dog with you, wait with your pet on the sidewalk across from the school so that students can enter/exit the building calmly and safely.