BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS U.S.News & WORLD REPORT PUBLIC 2026

EASTPORT
Elementary School
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JOHN J. DEKAMS, JR.
Principal

August 21, 2026

Dear Eastport Elementary School Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! Reflecting on my first year as Principal of Eastport Elementary School, I am filled with gratitude for the warmth, support, and dedication of this extraordinary school community. As I step into my second year in this role, I am more inspired than ever to partner with you in fostering an environment where every student can thrive.

To our returning families and those new to Eastport Elementary, I hope your summer provided time to relax and reconnect with loved ones. We are ready to hit the ground running with strong academic programs, vibrant community initiatives, and a renewed commitment to student success. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces, and getting to know our new ones, in the days ahead.

Our first day of school for all students is **Tuesday, September 1, 2026**. I also look forward to meeting many of you during our Open House on **Thursday, September 24th, 2026**. A detailed schedule will be shared as we get closer to that date.

To stay informed throughout the school year, I encourage you to visit our Eastport Elementary website regularly for updates, teacher announcements, and important information. You'll also find our Student/Parent Handbook online, which outlines school procedures and expectations, including those related to the use of personal electronic devices.

Teacher assignments are now available through the Infinite Campus Portal.

We are excited to welcome our newest students during our Third Grade Orientation on **Monday, August 24th**. Families are invited to visit at their assigned time for a guided tour and a chance to drop off school supplies in the classroom. In addition, new for this year, there will be a brief parent/guardian presentation for all in attendance. We will use this time to share important information about a typical school day at Eastport. During the parent/guardian presentation, all students are welcomed to join our Eastport PTO on the playground our Playground and Popsicles event! The schedule for the afternoon is as followings:

- Classroom Visits: 1:00-1:30
- Parent/Guardian Presentation: 1:30-2:15 (Eastport Cafeteria)
- Playground & Popsicles Event: 1:30-2:15 (Eastport Playground)

Here are a few key reminders to help you prepare for the start of school:

- **School Hours:** 8:45 am – 3:15 pm

- **Transportation:** Bus schedules will be emailed soon. For questions, please contact our transportation coordinator at 631.801.3009.

- **Drop-Off:** Please enter campus via Tuttle Avenue, not Montauk Highway. Drop-off is between 8:35 am and 8:45 am in the loop behind the gym.

- **Dismissal:** Begins at 3:10 pm. Students taking the bus will depart at 3:15 pm. If you're picking up your child, please arrive by 3:10 pm and bring proper ID. Pick-up takes place at the doors along Tuttle Avenue.

- **Early Dismissal:** If you need to pick your child up before 2:35 pm, please send a note and park in the visitor lot (not the bus loop).

- **Absences/Tardiness:** Call 631.801.3186 before 10:00 am to report absences. Students arriving late must be signed in by an adult at the main entrance.

At Eastport Elementary, every child is valued and supported. Our dedicated team of educators works hard to make learning exciting, engaging, and meaningful. We believe in nurturing a love of learning and helping students grow into curious, confident, and capable learners. We are committed to building strong relationships with all students and look forward to creating a warm, safe, and inspiring learning environment for all.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. You can reach me directly at **631.801.3173**.

Sincerely,

Mr. John DeKams
Principal
Eastport Elementary School