



Dwight-Englewood School

# MUSIC LESSON PROGRAM

2022 - 2023



# Dear Dwight-Englewood Parents and Students...

We are pleased to offer the opportunity for students to be able to study with our professional faculty in a familiar and convenient environment.

Please read the information in this booklet carefully. There are details about policy, scheduling, and payment as well as biographical material about the faculty. We hope it will answer most questions you may have about the program. A contract form is enclosed with this mailing.

Jake Lloyd

*Music Lesson Program Coordinator*

John Herrick Littlefield

*Chairman, Department of Performing Arts*



# Welcome

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Welcome to the **Dwight-Englewood School Music Lesson Program**. We are pleased to offer our students a variety of lessons with highly qualified professionals who come from the worlds of classical performance, jazz, the New York theatre scene and well-respected venues around the world. Lessons are provided through an annual, contractual basis.

We are thrilled to welcome back our well-established teachers. Our excellent and diverse piano faculty: **Allen Farnham**, and **Karen Littlefield**. Our exceptional string faculty: **Ella Heifets** (violin, director of the Lower School String Ensemble) and **Robert Burkhart** (cello). The wonderful winds and brass faculty: **Robert DeBellis** (clarinet/sax/flute), **John Littlefield** (flute), **Jared Newlen** (clarinet, saxophone), **Owen Caprell** (trombone), **Sarah Boxmeyer** (French horn), and **Rebecca Steinberg** (trumpet). And our rockin' percussion, guitar and voice faculty: **Kevin Norton** (percussion), **Richard Peare** (guitar), **Joy Hermalyn** (voice), and **Nancy Ringham** (voice).

You will find a list of Faculty Biographies at the back of this booklet.

Above and beyond learning to play and appreciate music, study on an instrument offers many benefits to your child including: cultural awareness, self-esteem and an opportunity to experience the direct and beneficial results of self-discipline. The most successful students tend to be those whose parents are able to be involved in the learning process: encouraging consistent practice at home, being aware of what their child is working on, and keeping in touch with their teacher.

The full year program gives students the added benefits of consistency, participation in the Performance Class, and the opportunity to display their growth at the Spring Recitals. Once teachers reserve lesson times for students, they have to turn away others, so please note that the contract for this program is a full year commitment. Refunds will not be given for withdrawal from the program or missed lessons unless special arrangements have been made, agreed to and approved of in advance due to extraordinary circumstances.

Please read this brochure carefully and be sure you understand all of the policies prior to enrolling in the program.

THANK YOU for your help. If you have questions, please let me know.

All my best,

Jake Lloyd  
lloydj@d-e.org

***Lessons will be taught using in-person and/or remote ("virtual") learning procedures throughout the year as prescribed by the School.***

***After Contracts are received and lessons instructors / schedules are confirmed, families will be notified of logistics and other details if/as appropriate.***

Private Music Lesson Program

# Faculty Biographies



# WOODWIND FACULTY

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*(Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, & Saxophone)*



**ROBERT DeBELLIS**, SAXOPHONE, CLARINET, & FLUTE, has been directing ensembles and teaching woodwinds at The Dwight-Englewood School since the mid-80s. He has been a freelance woodwind performer in New York City for twenty five years. As a jazz artist, he has recorded and performed internationally with artists such as Don Byron, Muhal Richard Abrams, Mongo Santamaria, The New York Composers Orchestra, Phillip Johnston, Kevin Norton, James Emery, Uri Caine, and Brad Jones. During the last several years, he has devoted much of his time to composing and playing in his own group, and has released one recording as a leader, *Parallax*, on Vintone Records. Mr. DeBellis' fluency on all saxophones,

flutes, and clarinets keeps him active in the new music scene, commercial recording, and on Broadway. Recently, Mr. DeBellis has been involved in a varied array of high-profile projects. He has a mastery of Classical, Jazz, Pop, and Broadway playing styles, having studied with many leading performers in all of these genres on each of his instruments. Notable performances include: Symphony Space's Stravinsky Marathon with Don Byron and Marnie Nixon, Jay-Z's return to the stage at Radio City, Brooklyn Summer Salsa Series with Willie Colon, and the inaugural day of the Bethel Woods Jazz Festival with James Emery. Mr. DeBellis has also performed in many Broadway shows and is currently a regular member of the orchestra of "The Lion King" and "How The Grinch Stole Christmas." His woodwinds can be heard on the new "cartoon Class of 3000," featured on the Cartoon Network. He is a graduate of The University of Pennsylvania.



**JOHN LITTLEFIELD**, FLUTE, has been teaching flute for several decades, toured extensively throughout the USA as well as Europe and the former Soviet Union with several chamber ensembles in addition to numerous freelancing orchestras in New York and a brief stint in a Broadway pit. He has released recordings on the Naxos and Justin labels and has a website at [www.JohnHerrickLittlefield.com](http://www.JohnHerrickLittlefield.com)



**JARED NEWLEN**, SAXOPHONE, CLARINET, & FLUTE, is an active woodwind doubler in New York's music scene, performing on flutes, clarinets, and saxophones. He has performed with the Brooklyn Wind Symphony, Litha Symphony, and The Chelsea Symphony among others and has played in nearly 100 musicals, concerts, and shows. His love for traveling gave him opportunities to perform in Western Europe and the United Kingdom. Mr. Newlen earned a Master's of Music in Saxophone Performance from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a B.S. in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Newlen is excited to be part of the teaching team at Dwight-Englewood!

# BRASS FACULTY

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**SARAH BOXMEYER**, FRENCH HORN, is an active musician and teacher based in the New York City area. After winning a position with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, she is now Principal horn of the Miami Symphony, in addition to being a freelance musician. Originally from Philadelphia, Sarah is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and Yale University and enjoys performing in a variety of musical styles; until recently she could be found substituting in the horn section of the New York Pops, Hartford Symphony, Phantom of the Opera, West Side Story, and was a member of the orchestra at King Kong on Broadway. She enjoys traveling and has performed in Europe, South America, and across the United States.



**OWEN CAPRELL**, TROMBONE, is a New York City based bass trombonist, who enjoys a far reaching musical career. Versed in a wide range of styles, you can find Owen in chamber ensembles, orchestras, big bands, new music ensembles, and pit orchestras. During the day you might hear him inspiring up-and-coming musicians in class room and private lesson settings. Owen earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver in 2009. He then attended the University of Utah, earning his Masters of Music in performance in 2011. He has been teaching at Dwight Englewood since 2017, and is also a teaching artist with the beginner band program at PS9. Owen regularly performs with the Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra and The Chelsea Symphony, where he was a guest soloist in 2019. In the beginning

of 2020, Owen joined Subtle Cheetah Brass Quintet just in time for the ensemble's first call-for-scores performance.



**REBECCA STEINBERG**, TRUMPET, has served as faculty at Dwight-Englewood since 2015. In New York City, she is on faculty at Third Street Music School Settlement, and serves as director of the 5th grade band program at PS343. Rebecca performs regularly with staged productions, including the 2019 Off-Broadway run of "The Sorceress" and subbing and appearing on the cast recording of the renowned Yiddish-language production of "Fiddler on the Roof". As a commercial artist, Rebecca currently performs behind singer Kimberley Locke (American Idol) and as lead trumpet of funk band T.O.P. Queens. Other notable performances include: Adele at Radio City Music Hall, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, City Center Encores! Production of Stephen Sondheim's "Roadshow," and Symphony Space's "Wall to Wall" Leonard Bernstein tribute. She most enjoys her work with Calliope Brass, her ensemble that collaborates with creatives ranging from composers to Sesame Street puppeteers. Rebecca won the 2018 Liz Swados Inspiration Grant, an

annual award honoring influential female music educators in New York City, on behalf of the ensemble. Calliope's debut album, Rose Strewn Course, released in July of 2020. Rebecca studied at Manhattan School of Music.

# STRING FACULTY

## VIOLIN/VIOLA



**ELLA HEIFETS, VIOLIN**, earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees after graduating from the Moscow Conservatory in Russia. As a student, Ms. Heifets participated in Isaak Stern's and Itzhak Perelman's Masterclasses. Since coming to the United States in 1993, Ms. Heifets has established herself as a teacher and chamber and orchestra musician. She is a faculty member at Manhattan School of Music and is a violin instructor at Horace Mann School and Dwight-Englewood School. She is also a violin and viola teacher at her own private music studio.

Ms. Heifets' students have won a number of International and American competitions such as International Strings Competition Cremona, Italy, American Protégé International Strings Competition, Golden Strings of America Competition, American Fine Arts Festival, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Manhattan School of Music Concerto Competition. Ms. Heifets was a Juror, Honor's Diploma of Recognition at Cremona International Academy, Prima Artists International Competition, Honor's Diploma of Recognition, American Fine Arts Festival, Honor's Diploma of Recognition. As a violinist, she has been a part of many Broadway productions such as: "*Phantom of the Opera*," "*Shrek*," "*The Boy from Oz*," "*The Color Purple*," "*La Cage Aux Folles*," "*Look of Love*," "*Annie Get Your Gun*," "*Ragtime*," and "*Showboat*."

## CELLO

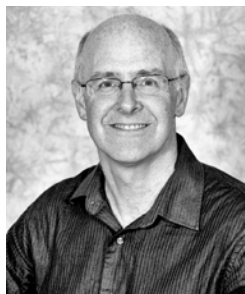


**ROBERT BURKHART, CELLO**, combines a deep commitment to the existing cello repertoire with what the New Yorker magazine calls an "adventurous" spirit in new music. With performance credits at Alice Tully Hall, Bargemusic, Carnegie Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, and The Rose Studio at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Robert has also appeared as a soloist throughout Japan as a member of the New York Symphonic Ensemble, and been featured in recital on WQXR's "Young Artist Showcase." At the center of new music in New York, Robert has performed with the American Modern Ensemble, Argento New Music Project, Fireworks Ensemble, Newspeak, and SONYC. Recent collaborations include Uri Caine, Georg Friedrich Haas, Aaron Jay Kernis, Steve Mackey, Joan Tower, Charles Wourinen, and Chen Yi. He has performed the New

York premiere of John Harbison's *Abu Ghraib* for cello and piano, and was the soloist in Augusta Read Thomas's *Passion Prayers* for cello and chamber ensemble at the New York Times Center. Robert's major teachers include Paul Tobias at The Mannes College of Music and Uri Vardi at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and he has worked with Timothy Eddy, Aldo Parisot, and Janos Starker at festivals and masterclasses. Robert has taught at Juilliard Pre-college, Mannes Prep, Syracuse University, and Music Conservatory of Westchester, and been artist-in-residence at Yale University and the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada. His recent CD "20/21: Music for Cello and Piano from the 20th and 21st Centuries," features pianist Blair McMillen and the premiere of a work for cello and piano by composer Andrew Waggoner. Robert's recording of solo Bach on the American Express commercial "Don't Take Chances. Take Charge" has garnered national attention.

# PIANO FACULTY

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**ALLEN FARNHAM**, CLASSICAL & JAZZ PIANO, has been teaching at Dwight-Englewood since 2001. He received his Bachelor's degree in Classical Piano and Jazz Studies from Oberlin Conservatory and now freelances as a pianist, composer, arranger, producer, and teacher. He has recorded extensively as a sideman and lead performer, as well as having produced over 50 recordings for the California-based record label Concord Records for such illustrious artists as Tito Puente, Monty Alexander, Charlie Byrd, Scott Hamilton, Buddy DeFranco, and Mongo Santamaria. Mr. Farnham's performance credits include work with vocalists such as Susannah McCorkle, Mel Torme, Mark Murphy, and Ernestine Anderson.

Farnham's most recent album *Allen Farnham Meets RIAS Big Band* (Concord 4789) features his original compositions and arrangements for a 17-piece big band performed by the renowned Berlin Radio RIAS Big Band.



**KAREN LITTLEFIELD**, PIANO, began teaching at Dwight-Englewood in 1998. Previously she has been on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, NYU, and the Spence School. She was the acting Piano Department Head of Camp Encore/Coda from 1987 to 2006. Ms. Littlefield has performed as a soloist and as a member of The Herrick Ensemble in the former Soviet Union, Weill Recital Hall, and Alice Tully Hall, among others. She studied chamber music with Lillian Fuchs and Raphael Bronstein and conducting with Claude Monteux. She was also opera accompanist for the NY Grand Opera under Vincent La Selva in the 1970's. Ms. Littlefield holds her Bachelor's Degree in Music and Master's Degree

in Music from the Manhattan School of Music and is featured with her husband, flautist John Littlefield, on the CD *French & Viennese Masterpieces* produced by Juston Records.





# VOICE



**JOY HERMALYN, VOICE**, is a voice teacher, a professional actress/singer and D-E parent. Her past performances and credits include the following: *"Fiddler on the Roof," "Cyrano," "Candide," "A Christmas Carol,"* and Baz Luhrmann's production of Puccini's *"La Boheme."* Off-Broadway: Yeston's *"Death Takes a Holiday,"* numerous Encores! productions at City Center. Favorite regional credits: Mrs. Lovett in *"Sweeney Todd,"* Mama Rose in *"Gypsy,"* Witch in *"Into the Woods,"* Ilona in *"She Loves Me,"* and Abigail Adams in *"1776."* Carnegie Hall: Sister Berthe in *"The Sound of Music," "Kristina,"* by Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulvaeus (ABBA). Ms. Hermalyn has sung leading roles with opera companies in Alaska, New York, Texas, and Utah. On TV, Ms. Hermalyn can be seen in *"Sound of Music Live!"* Starring Carrie Underwood, and *"Sweeney Todd"* with Emma Thompson (Live from Lincoln Center). With degrees from NYU and Mannes College of Music, Ms. Hermalyn teaches at Kean University, while maintaining her own private voice studio.



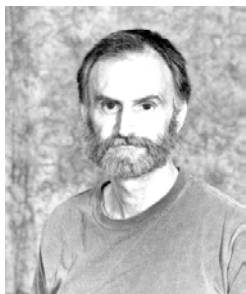
**NANCY RINGHAM, VOICE**, has taken many roles in the Broadway including Eliza in *"My Fair Lady"* opposite Rex Harrison; Polly in *"Three Penny Opera"* opposite Sting; Betty Blake *"The Will Rogers Follies"* opposite Mac Davis, Larry Gatlin, and Mickey Rooney; Christine in *"Follies"* with Judith Ivey, Kelli O'Hara, Blythe Danner, Treat Williams. Tours: Sally in *"Cabaret"* opposite Joel Grey; Ado Annie in *"Oklahoma";* Lina Lamont *"Singin In The Rain"; "My Fair Lady."* Off Broadway features includes: *"Mornings At Seven"* (2021) with John Rubenstein and Tony Roberts; *"Secrets Of A Soccer Mom"; "Fuddy Meers"; "Esther"; "Lenny And The Heartbreakers"; "Trouble In Tahiti."* She has performed in over 30 Regional Theatre Productions,

and countless workshops of new musicals. Nancy has worked with such stars as Kristin Chenoweth, Christopher Reeve, Allison Janney, Dave Chappel, and David Letterman, to name a few. She has done TV, Film, Recordings and dozens of Commercials. She teaches voice out of her own studio, Professional Instruction for the Singing Actor; is on the Theatre Advisory Board at The Bergen Academies where she has been an Artist in Residence; has directed numerous productions at RiverWest Music Theatre, and has done workshops all over the country.



# PERCUSSION FACULTY

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**KEVIN NORTON, PERCUSSION**, began teaching at Dwight-Englewood in 1998. Norton has taught at University of Maryland, William Paterson University, The Thurnauer School of Music, and the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. He has been a featured jazz and new music performer at various jazz and new music festivals throughout the United States and Europe. Live and recorded performances have won critical acclaim in *DownBeat* ("Rising Star" on Vibraphone 2005), *Cadence*, *Jazz Times* and the *Village Voice*. Mr. Norton can be heard on over 80 CDs. Fifteen of those are under his own leadership and can be found on CIMP, Music & Arts, FMR, Barking Hoop and Clean Feed labels. Awards include: Composer in residence at the MacDowell Colony, June 2002 and Commission Music USA (Meet the Composer), April 2005. Mr. Norton received his Bachelor's Degree in Science from Hunter College and Master's Degree in Music from Manhattan School of Music.



# GUITAR & BASS FACULTY

*(Electric and Classical)*



**RICHARD PEARE**, GUITAR, ELECTRIC BASS, began teaching at Dwight-Englewood in 1996. In 1983, he received his Bachelor's of Art from the Mannes College of Music. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Raritan Valley Community College, The College of Staten Island, and has been teaching for over thirty years at his private studio located on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center. Mr. Peare made his Classical Guitar debut at Cami Hall in 1985. In a review of that concert, *The New York Times* referred to Peare as a "real find." He has also released two CD's on the Collective Recordings label: *Guitar Hour* and *Sunday Session*. *Cadence Jazz Magazine* reviewed both albums and called him a "Master musician." Mr.

Peare has performed in classical guitar masterclasses with Eliot Fisk, John Duarte, and Oscar Guillia. He has also performed as a Jazz guitarist with Jimmy Knepper, Chuck Wayne, Bill Crow, Jimmy Halperin, and others. He has appeared on CTV and performs regularly with his own group. His major teachers were Leonid Bolotine and Peter Prisco. In 2010, he established The D-E Guitar Ensemble and is the director.



# Private Music Lessons Program

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Jake Lloyd, Coordinator  
lloydj@d-e.org • (201) 569-9500 x4004

The Private Music Lessons Program offers 45-minute private lessons on all of the orchestral instruments as well as piano, voice, saxophone, classical, electric guitar, and upright and electric bass. The program includes 27 private lessons, one Performance Class and, for those who are adequately prepared, one formal recital during the school year. Lessons are offered to match the needs and skill level of every student from beginner through advanced. Middle and Upper School students are encouraged to inquire about performance opportunities in the various instrumental and choral ensembles offered through the Performing Arts Department academic curriculum.

The fee for the 27 lessons and 1 Performance-class is \$2,770. Payment is handled via automatic billing through the family's SmartTuition account. Questions regarding this process may be directed to the D-E Business Office; Email Alice Praylow at: [praloe@d-e.org](mailto:praloe@d-e.org). Financing arrangements can be made by speaking with Jake Lloyd prior to submitting the application. If the scheduling of lessons, after the contract has been processed but before the first lesson has been given, proves to be impossible, the fee will be refunded in full to the parent. Once the lessons have been scheduled and the student takes the first lesson, the contract is in effect for the full school year and the no refund policy takes effect. (Schedules permitting hour long lessons may be able to be arranged at the parent's request. The annual fee for hour long lessons would be \$3,693. Please contact the Music Lesson Coordinator, Jake Lloyd, to inquire about the feasibility of this if you are interested.)

**GETTING STARTED** - Once a signed contract has been received, the coordinator will instruct the teacher to contact the parent to arrange a mutually agreeable lesson time for the student. Times immediately following dismissal are obviously very limited and also very desirable. Please have alternative options to discuss when you speak with the teacher.

**UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS** may take lessons during free periods within the school day if they can be coordinated with the teacher's schedule and an available studio. Lessons are generally scheduled after the school day if there is no compatible free period during the school day. Upper School Students should be especially careful not to schedule lessons at times that will conflict with any seasonal sports activities that they may wish to participate in.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS** usually take lessons after school hours as they have very few free periods during the school day. They are permitted to take their music lesson during the school day on the rare occasion that they are able to schedule a time during a study hall or free period. Middle School Students should be especially careful not to schedule lessons at times that will conflict with any seasonal sports activities that they may wish to participate in.

**LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS** take private lessons after the school day. Lower School students must be escorted to and from their lessons by a parent or by the private lesson teacher. Please note that escort time on the part of the teacher is a part of the contracted lesson time and thus shortens the amount of time in the studio for the student. Parents should arrange to pick up their children at the conclusion of the lesson. This is a good time for the parent to compare notes with the teachers regarding what has been assigned for the week and to be updated on the progress of the student. Students who are not picked up after their lessons in a timely fashion will be escorted by the teacher to the Explorers After

School Program to wait for their parent or guardian. Parents will be billed for the time spent there. Lower School students may not wait in the Middle/Upper School Library.

**Performance Classes** are a unique opportunity for students to join with other like students, perform for each other, and hear critiques from their peers and other teachers. The on-campus Performance Classes are scheduled on:

- March 13, 14, and 15 from 3:30-5:00pm

Students will attend on **ONE** of those days. Your private lesson teacher will give you specifics at the start of the year as to which day your instrument will meet.

Attendance at Performance Classes is strongly encouraged, but if they are missed, there is no refund or make-up class for that session.

**Recitals** dates are TBD for students who have demonstrated excellent preparation and technique throughout the year of study. Accompanists will be provided by the school when needed for single line instrumentalists and vocalists.

**Absences and rescheduling lessons** – When a parent knows that a student will be absent for a lesson, the teacher must be notified directly. Under all but the most extraordinary circumstances, if the teacher has not been notified of an absence prior to leaving his or her home to teach that lesson, the lesson will be considered as having been given and the student will not receive a make-up lesson. Please note: The Dwight-Englewood attendance office does not notify private music teachers when their students are absent from school. When properly notified, teachers will expect to make up lessons due to illness. Parents should acquire cell phone numbers and other means of reaching the teacher at the beginning of the year when they schedule lesson times with the teacher. When students have an occasional conflict with a lesson time and can notify the teacher more than 24 hours in advance, the teacher will endeavor to schedule that lesson at another time if possible. As the contract simply calls for a total of 27 lessons to be taught during the year, there is some room for flexibility even if one week is missed. Please do not expect teachers to make up lessons for absences due to play dates or birthday parties. Once a teacher schedules a regular lesson time, that teacher has excluded the possibility of taking another student at that time. As all scheduling is done at the beginning of the school year, teachers are not likely to be able to reschedule students in the middle of the year. With the exception of mutually agreeable changes in scheduling between the teacher and students, students are expected to schedule all other activities (sports, tutoring, Senior Focus, etc.) so that they will not interfere with the scheduled private music lesson time. **Failure to be able to reschedule lesson times as necessary to accommodate a student taking on conflicting activities will not constitute justification of a refund for missed lessons or for the expectation that those lessons will be made up.**

Teachers and parents are expected to resolve any issues that may arise. Teachers or parents may contact the coordinator of the program (Jake Lloyd at (201) 569-9500 ext. 3256 or by e-mail: lloydj@d-e.org) at any time if they have questions about the application of this policy.

**Occasionally, parents request lessons with our Music Lesson Faculty to be given while their child is studying the same instrument with another teacher outside of our program. WE CANNOT RECOMMEND THIS PRACTICE.** Our experience has been that having two teachers often results in confusion for the student due to conflicting approaches, especially when the two teachers do not know each other's teaching styles and are not communicating with each other.

# Ensembles

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Ensembles in the Lower School are free of charge. Students are required to have been playing their instrument for one year and must be enrolled currently in private lessons.

## Lower School Strings Ensemble

Ella Heifets, *Director*, heifee@d-e.org,

Dates & Time TBD

## Lower School Band

Jared Newlen, *co-director*, newlej@d-e.org,

Owen Caprell, *co-director*, capreo@d-e.org

Dates & Time TBD

## Lower School Chorus

Kenneth Kacmar, *Director*, kacmak@d-e.org,

Jake Lloyd, *Associate Director/Accompanist*, Lloydj@d-e.org,

Dates & Time TBD

To enroll in the Lower School Strings Ensemble, Band, or Chorus,  
visit [www.d-e.org/StartLS](http://www.d-e.org/StartLS)





## Dwight-Englewood School

315 East Palisade Avenue, Englewood, NJ 07631 • (201) 569-9500  
[www.d-e.org](http://www.d-e.org)