



# TAPintoPlainfield

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By Jennifer Popper

## Swim Program Offers Plainfield School Children Instruction, Safety and Fun

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By TAPINTO PLAINFIELD STAFF

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Learn to Swim program at the Plainfield YMCA with lifeguards Nikki Loncke, Jhalil McClaughlin, and not pictured, Khaleeq McGill *Credits: Plainfield Public Schools*

PLAINFIELD, NJ - Plainfield Public Schools' elementary school children began a swimming program on Monday at the Plainfield YMCA that will provide them with basic swimming instruction and water safety tips.

The program is made possible with funding from a number of different foundations, according to Ravenell Williams, CEO of the Plainfield YMCA. "The funding allows us to implement the *Learn to Swim* program free of cost to all area Plainfield public schools. We are very excited to be able to continue this program and to increase the safety of our children around water. Sometimes swimming lessons are not on our parents' list of things to do with so many other priorities; therefore, being able to provide the program during the school day is the key. We are very fortunate our schools agree and we are thankful to the Plainfield Public Schools for supporting us."

The *Learn to Swim* program runs for eight weeks and will benefit about 250 Plainfield school children in first to third grade.

"This is a great program that will teach our children valuable skills and water safety," said Interim Superintendent Ronald E. Bolandi. "Our schools play a significant role in the lessons we teach our children throughout their lives; safety around water is one of them, and we are very supportive of the *Learn to Swim* program. We thank our local YMCA for making this happen."

The Plainfield YMCA will provide students with instruction by trained, certified swim instructors and lifeguards who will conduct individual swim assessments. The children will enjoy instruction in the four-lane heated pool, in a secure environment.

The school district will provide transportation, teachers and chaperones, and other necessary assistance.

For more information, contact Gloria Montealegre at [gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us](mailto:gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us) or 908-7341-4333.

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