



Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053
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Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent
Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

November 25, 2020

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

I would like to make you aware that the closure of Rice has been extended by one week, to re-open Monday, Dec. 7. Learning for Rice students continues remotely. My letter sent today to Rice staff and families is linked here:

[Rice Closure extended, to re-open Dec. 7](#)

If the COVID transmission risk increases in our region, our region could become classified by the NJ Health Department as "very high risk" on our state's Activity Level Index. The guidance provided to school officials calls for, at that classification level, a district-wide transition to full remote learning. Activity Level reports are accessible via

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>

Given the importance of keeping schools open for our children, we continue to make decisions on a school-by-school basis, analyzing what is best for each school, individually and daily, as each community is impacted at different rates and at different times. Safety is always first as we balance the importance of in-person learning with the importance of health and safety.

With Thanksgiving tomorrow, I'd like to take this opportunity to re-share information from my update this past Friday, namely that Evesham Township, in conjunction with Marlton Rotary and the Evesham Veterans and Disabilities Committee, is offering free turkeys and pantry items for the Thanksgiving holiday. If you are interested, please RSVP by calling 856-988-4425 or emailing Covid19help@evesham-nj.gov. Please provide your name, address, telephone number. All information is kept confidential. Families can pick up the items from the [Gibson House](#), 535 E. Main St. 8 am- 4 pm, or arrangements will be made for deliveries. Today is the last day that orders are being taken. This help from our Township is greatly appreciated.

This Thanksgiving, I am thankful for all that our staff are doing to keep things as whole as possible for our students--in-person and remote learning, caring and support, that help our kids keep moving forward. Our children and our staff continue to be incredibly resilient through all changes and challenges.

At the end of the day, a scene plays out on the grounds of our schools. Buses line up for students to board. Staff supervise and assist. Parents and grandparents walk hand in hand with their children and grandchildren, colorful backpacks everywhere. The sun shines. This scene looks similar, except for masks, distancing, and a bit more, as any school day, any year.



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I have never been more thankful for this “ordinary” scene, for children’s laughter at recess, for the excitement of students in class, in person and remote, over what they are learning, and getting to tell about it to a classroom visitor like me. For me, through this pandemic, the “ordinary” has come to seem more what it was all along: extraordinary.

Thank you staff for your dedication to doing the best we can for and by our students. Thank you families for supporting the work of our teachers and staff.

Best wishes to you all for a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving,

Dr. Justin Smith

Superintendent of Schools