



Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

www.evesham.k12.nj.us · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

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

March 19, 2021

Dear ETSD Families,

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

-- Helen Keller

Highlights this week: Return to Five Full Days of In-Person Learning per Week; Remote Learning Wednesdays Ending After Spring Break; 2020-21 Revised ETSD Calendar; Meals Pick Up Over Spring Break; Travel Quarantine Reminder; Community Activities update; Support Our Students Legislative Day March 24; and World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 Reminder.

Point of Light! Our Return to Five Full Days of In-Person Learning per Week

Starting April 12, all elementary school in-person students will be able to attend five days a week.

Starting April 19, all middle school in-person students will be able to attend five days a week.

All Remote Learning Wednesdays after Spring Break are now in-person days (A or B days).

Parents continue to have the choice for in-person or remote learning. Cohort R is still Cohort R.

Schools will communicate with families in these remaining classes after our Board meeting next week to confirm that parents agree for their Cohort A and Cohort B students to become Cohort AB, in-person every day. I will speak about these changes at the March 25 Board meeting as well.

All our schools have made great progress in bringing students in for more days without going below 6 feet, but due to variables such as class size, the # of all remote students, room size and room shape, this less than 6 option is needed in order for us to continue that work. As a result, our revised ETSD School Reopening Plan will be on the March 25 Board of Education meeting agenda to be shared on our website this afternoon. The revision is that, instead of reading "at least 6 feet of distance," the plan now reads, "at least 6 feet of distance or to the maximum extent practicable."

This change will be implemented safely. It supports health and safety by, among other things, reducing the mental health and social-emotional toll on our students. The CDC announced today it is changing its guidance to include 3 feet of social distancing in schools

(<https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/19/health/cdc-physical-distancing/index.html>). Typically between 4-5 feet is needed for remaining classrooms at elementary level and between 3-5 feet is needed at middle level. With this increase in in-person attendance, aisle seats on buses will be safely used, with masks on and windows open, like all year. Families can also drive.



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All safety measures continue to be used, such as mask wearing, daily temperature checks, sanitization/cleaning, ventilation, ionizers, and more. A friendly reminder as well to please keep your child home if your child is sick or symptomatic. Even with vaccinations increasing, let's all keep practicing the tried and true safety measures that work. We got this!

Remote Learning Wednesdays Ending after Spring Break

Our last Remote Learning Wednesday will be Wednesday, March 24, as scheduled. All Remote Learning Wednesdays after Spring Break are now in-person days (A or B days). This change is reflected in the revised 2020-21 school calendar on the March 25 Board meeting agenda to be shared on our website this afternoon.

2020-21 Revised ETSD Calendar

This calendar on the March 25 Board meeting agenda to be shared this afternoon shows the 3 make-up days (due to our 3 "no school" snow days) on June 21, 22, and 23, per the calendar's make-up days sequence in place since last summer. The last day of school is Wednesday, June 23.

Meals Pick Up Over Spring Break

Our district is extending meals ordering throughout Spring Break, via the same approach used all year and throughout Winter Break. Please note that this does not include a la carte purchases. Parents would need to order from MyPaymentsPlus (linked on our homepage) from Tuesday, March 30 at 8 AM to Thursday, April 1 at 6 PM. Meals ordered between March 30 and April 1 must be picked up at Marlton Middle School from 12 pm to 2 pm on Wednesday, April 7 (no delivery that week). This opportunity is supported by the US Department of Agriculture at no cost to our district.

Travel Quarantine Reminder

Just a friendly reminder for us all as Spring Break approaches, please be mindful of this list. Any of us New Jerseyans (students and staff) returning from any U.S. state or territory beyond our region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) should quarantine upon return.

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>

Community Activities update

Fantastic Evesham Township Spring and Summer Programs are the most recent addition to our Community Activities webpage: https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community_activities.



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Support Our Students Legislative Day March 24

The Support Our Student Coalition, the advocacy group for districts like ours whose state funding is being cut over seven years, is conducting a state-wide blitz of phone calls and electronic letters to legislators on March 24. The volume of phone calls and electronic messages is critical in making an impression. Please consider calling/emailing legislators on March 24 to advocate for increased state funding and/or delaying the timeline for state funding reductions to our district and others. The voices of parents and community members, much more than voices of superintendents, capture attention.

- [Sample Email for NJSOS Legislative Day March 24, 2021](#)
- Sample content of your call/email: "Our state's exceptional public schools, literally first in the nation, are a point of pride and build strong communities. As a state, we have made the choice to invest in our children, in our future and theirs. I support my community and our public schools and expect – demand - the same support from our elected officials. The future of every New Jersey child cannot and should not wait. We look forward to your immediate action regarding this."
- Contacting legislators: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/Selectmun.asp>
 - Choose Evesham District 8 from the dropdown menu
- Contacting Governor Murphy's Office: [Contact the Governor](#)
 - Main Address: Office of Governor PO Box 001, Trenton, NJ, 08625
 - Phone Number: 1-609-292-6000
- Contacting Senate President Sweeney's Office: SenSweeney@njleg.org
 - Office Address: 935 Kings Highway, Suite 400, West Deptford, NJ 08086
 - Phone Number: (856) 251-9801 (West Deptford)
- Assembly Speaker Coughlin's Office: AsmCoughlin@njleg.org
 - Office Address: 569 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, NJ 07095
 - Phone Number: (732) 855-7441

World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 Reminder

World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) this Sunday has been recognized around the world since 2012 as a means of raising awareness about the disorder. This wonderful day of awareness celebrates the lives of people with Down Syndrome and the roles they play in our communities. In honor of the day, people around the world are sharing photos and videos of their mismatched socks. Down Syndrome Awareness Day is celebrated on March 21 because the date (3/21) symbolizes the 3 copies of the 21st chromosome, the genetic anomaly which leads to Down Syndrome. Wearing mismatched socks on Down Syndrome Awareness Day is symbolic of the chromosomes themselves, which are shaped similarly to socks. The Evesham Veterans and Disability Advisory Board is celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness Day by posting information



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about Down Syndrome on the Evesham Township Facebook page. The Board is encouraging individuals, families, friends, community groups, and businesses to post pictures of themselves wearing mismatched socks on Facebook or Instagram with #DownSyndromeAwareness and #EveshamSupportsDownSyndromeDay. What a great opportunity to recognize our neighbors, friends, and loved ones with Down Syndrome here in Evesham and beyond!

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools