



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

June 4, 2021

Dear ETSD Families,

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

-- Helen Keller

Highlights this week: Open Letter to Gov. Murphy Regarding Masks and More; Masks Optional Outdoors in Extreme Heat on School Grounds Based on Current Mandate; 2021-22 ETSD Calendar; Community Activities; Juneteenth Book Donation Participation Opportunity.

Open Letter to Gov. Murphy Regarding Masks and More

We superintendents of the nine Lenape Region districts (including ETSD) are writing an open letter to Governor Murphy requesting, among other items, an immediate re-evaluation of the mandates regarding students and staff wearing masks at school. I will share our letter with you on Monday. I have received letters from parents on this topic.

Masks Optional Outdoors in Extreme Heat on School Grounds Based on Current Mandate

I would like to expand on information regarding masks that I included in the May 14 Update for ETSD Families. Governor Murphy's [Executive Order 241](#) issued on May 17 lifted the outdoor mask mandate but not for schools: "The order notes that outdoor public spaces do not include child care centers, other child care facilities, youth summer camps, and public, private, and parochial preschool program premises, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools. Current recommendations and requirements regarding masking in those settings will remain in effect." The current requirements for NJ schools are still governed by the [NJ Department of Education guidance](#) for our Reopening Plan, which requires masks except for certain circumstances including:

- When the individual is exposed to extreme heat outdoors
- When the individual is eating or drinking
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity
- During gym and music classes when individuals are in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet apart



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As temperatures increase, a clear definition of extreme heat becomes more important. Similar to other districts, ETSD defines extreme heat as an outside temperature or heat index above 79 degrees ([National Weather Service Heat Index](#)). At or above that level, masks do not need to be worn outdoors on our school grounds, though people may continue to if they choose. Regarding the level of activity indoors, our PE teachers are proactive in monitoring student health during exercise and will enable removal of masks as appropriate as has been our practice throughout this school year. Our instrumental music teachers also will continue with current practices that allow for removal of masks based on the guidelines above.

[2021-22 ETSD Calendar](#)

As this year winds up, I wanted to re-share this link to our calendar for the coming 2021-22 school year. For some folks, this may be about the time you print a copy of the calendar to hang on the fridge. All expectations are that this coming year will necessitate fewer calendar changes than this current year did.

Community Activities

New [Basketball camp](#) posting on our Community Activities webpage!

Juneteenth Book Donation Participation Opportunity

Any families wishing to participate in our Township's [Juneteenth](#) celebration by representing our schools at the main stage when the hundreds of books are officially donated to our district, please email me to let me know. We are glad for any families interested in participating! This [DEON Book Drive](#) press release provides information including the donation link. Continued thanks to everyone who has donated and to DEON for making this Drive happen.

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools