

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

I would like to make you aware that, due to 3 positive cases within 2 weeks, Rice Elementary School has been closed starting today, to re-open Monday, Nov. 30. Learning for Rice students continues remotely throughout this closure. My letter yesterday to Rice staff and families is linked here:

[Notification of Rice ES Closure 11.12.20.pdf](#)

The County Health Department described Evesham to me as a "hot spot" within the county when I consulted with them yesterday. This phrase has been echoing in my mind since then. It brings me back to our community conversations in August via Board meetings, email, phone, and in person (e.g. that hot Saturday in front of the Administration Building). I remember us talking about why schools were being allowed to reopen when restaurants were not yet. Schools reopened because they are more important--more than restaurants, gyms, sports arenas, concert halls, casinos, more than anything else.

Over the past weeks we've watched the COVID red zone spread across America, from the Upper Midwest and Dakotas, approaching the Mid-Atlantic, that first faced it.

The success of our reopening, and through today, Day 44, owes itself to you--amazing staff, amazing families.

Let's stay strong together, masks, distancing, monitoring for symptoms, and together we can keep on keeping our doors open for our 4,305 kids!

Thank you,

Justin Smith

Dr. Justin Smith

Superintendent of Schools