

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

I would like to make you aware that DeMasi Middle School, DeMasi Elementary School, and Marlton Middle School will be closed starting tomorrow, to re-open Monday, Dec. 7. Learning for DMS, DES, and MMS students continues remotely throughout this closure. My letters sent earlier today to DMS/DES staff and families and MMS staff and families are linked here:

[Notification of DeMasi Schools Closure 11.22.20.pdf](#)

[Notification of Marlton Middle School Closure 11.22.20.pdf](#)

Four of our district's eight schools--Beeler, Jaggard, Marlton Elementary, and Van Zant--remain open for in-person learning at this time because the school data show it is safe to do so. These schools represent 1,952 students, a student population larger than that of many districts in our county and across the state. Given the importance of keeping schools open for our children, we are analyzing what is best for each school, individually and daily.

Safety is always first as we balance the importance of in-person learning with the importance of health and safety, in part through daily communication with our county health department officials, who continue to be helpful for us, as I know they are for school districts county-wide. Another increasing challenge to staying open is staffing needs. Rising numbers of staff close contacts means more quarantines, thus more difficulty adequately staffing our buildings.

Most of all, thank you everyone, staff and families, for everything you are doing, masks, social distancing, staying home and keeping your child home if showing symptoms, and practicing caution. Our ability for all our schools, not just four, to be open on Dec. 7 depends on all of our commitment to appropriate safety measures. And we can do it!

Thank you,

Justin Smith

Dr. Justin Smith

Superintendent of Schools