



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

Dec. 4, 2020

Dear ETSD Families,

This week's update highlights: School Reopening Status, January and February Shortened Day Schedule, and Snow Days Student Voice Survey.

Every day of learning is something to celebrate.

Day 57 today. While the actual day of Thanksgiving this year maybe wasn't quite what it has been in the past, each day, any day, can be one of giving thanks. Thanks for our teachers, working hard to provide the best possible learning opportunities for our students. Thanks for our support staff, assisting in myriad ways with that effort. Thanks for our nurses, our secretaries, our drivers, our custodians and maintenance staff, our administrators, child study team members, and many more roles...every role. Thanks for our families, who by making safe choices are helping our schools stay open, for example by following the health and safety reminders emailed by our principals and nurses.

To reiterate from prior Friday Updates, safety is always first. Each day brings new data, locally and in larger contexts, that we monitor and analyze. I am in daily communication with the county health department and superintendents from our region as we all work to make the best decisions. Every day, we balance the importance of in-person learning with the importance of health and safety.

School Reopening Status

DeMasi Elementary School and Rice Elementary School are reopening on Monday, Dec. 7 as scheduled. The closure of DeMasi Middle School and Marlton Middle School is being extended by one week, so both MS are now scheduled to reopen on Monday, Dec. 14.

Positive cases of MS students and staff during the closure have shown that reopening on Dec. 7 may lead to either school closing again, in part due to the projected number of quarantines via close contacts that would ensue, which is a factor of the MS schedule. We will continue to monitor the data and provide a MS status update next week. Thank you to our families for your understanding. Additionally, Marlton Elementary School is on track to reopen on Monday, Dec. 14.

January and February shortened day schedule

Our district is developing a shortened day schedule to be implemented for January and February, to eliminate eating lunch at school during months when it is difficult to eat outside. More information will be shared this month.



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Snow Days Student Voice Survey

I've had a change of heart and mind regarding our district's plan to use full remote learning on snow days. Our kids may be very distracted and unhappy having to sit at screens instead of getting to go outside, and the snow could be mostly gone by the time the day ends. I would be the Grinch...

Thank you to anyone who reached out to me to ask if I could please rethink the plan to use remote learning on snow days. This snow day question is a great opportunity for Student Voice. Below is a voluntary survey now available in Genesis Parent Module for our students to complete by anytime Wednesday, Dec. 9. Please feel free to complete it with kids, as kind of a Family Voice Survey:

"Students of all grades, your voices matter and are important. Please answer the question below to help our district make the best snow day plan. If it snows enough that we can't come into school on a certain day, please pick which choice below is your favorite for what we should do..."

- Choice 1 = The day is a snow day like in the past...it is a day off from school, and an extra school day will need to be added to the end of the school year in June.
- Choice 2 = The day is not a snow day...it is a day of school, a full remote learning day for all students, and no extra day will need to be added at the end of the school year in June. For Cohort R students, the day will be like any Cohort R day. For Cohort A students, the day will be like a Cohort B day. For Cohort B students, the day will be like a Cohort A day. For Cohort AB students, the day will be like any Cohort AB day, except remotely.
- Choice 3 = We use Choice 1 for the first 3 snow days (if needed), then beyond that, Choice 2."

Thank you,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools