



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

January 7, 2021

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

_____ . In 2020, this space typically read “*Every day of learning is something to celebrate.*” As a new year brings new opportunities, if you have any suggestions for a new phrase for future updates, please feel free to let me know. Points of light lift spirits. Yesterday was a dark day, as we set a new record for COVID deaths nationwide and saw our Capitol in chaos, and our democratic process threatened. A point of light: vaccination for our nurses, working so valiantly all year, is underway, and vaccinations for our staff should hopefully be available soon.

The most important message of this update: Our district’s full remote status is extended through next week. Next week’s schedule will be like this week’s schedule. Our anticipated date for resuming in-person learning with the five-hour shortened day schedule is now Tuesday, January 19. Our district has seen more positive cases and close contacts this week among students, staff, and families than any week this year. A purpose of using full remote status initially just for this week was to allow time to review outcomes of Winter Break, with its potential for increased social contacts, in the hope that only one week of full remote status would be needed. Ripple effects of these cases possibly leading to others will still be emerging through Monday, January 11, which is a contributing factor to making it premature to return on that date. This decision affects many families. I am very sorry for the hardships it causes.

Steps we can take are empowering points of light. Steps like:

- Practicing social distancing, limiting close contact, wearing masks, washing hands, and monitoring for symptoms. These safety measures among students, staff, families, and communities play a huge positive role in any school district’s ability to offer in-person learning.
- Joining COVID Alert NJ to reduce the spread of COVID-19 via <https://covid19.nj.gov/app>. The app is easy to download and use.
- Avoiding non-essential travel. NJ’s travel restrictions increased over Winter Break: “New Jersey strongly discourages all non-essential interstate travel at this time...The advisory is no longer specific to certain states. Because of the rising number of case counts across all states, there is an increased risk of spread of COVID-19 upon return from any travel.” <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>
- Pre-registering for COVID vaccination via NJ’s COVID vaccine scheduling system <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/>

Another point of light is our staff--our teachers for their work supporting students during this full remote period, as well as all our staff for assisting that effort.



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Together, points of light become constellations that lead to a brighter tomorrow. And the future, beyond this immediate period right now, does look brighter.

Thank you for all you contribute to our team effort of district, schools, and families, working together to support our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools