



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

February 12, 2021

Dear ETSD Families,

Highlights this week: Approval of Public Safety Grants Initiative by Our Town Council, Return to Full Day Schedule on March 1, Make-Up Snow Days, and Black History Month share.

Approval of Public Safety Grants Initiative by Our Town Council

Many, many thanks to our Township Leadership--Mayor Veasy and our Town Council--for approving this initiative at this week's Town Council meeting. Tremendous point of light! Today's press release linked below provides an overview:

<https://evesham-nj.org/government/news/351-evesham-twp-to-use-percentage-of-new-pilot-revenues-to-provide-public-safety-grants-for-the-evesham-township-school-district-and-evesham-fire-district-no-1>

Return to Full Day Schedule on March 1

We remain on track to resume our full day schedule on Monday, March 1. Supporting this plan is this week's positive news that COVID rates are continuing to decrease throughout our region. Our Southwest region's current activity level has fallen to the moderate level, per the most recent COVID-19 Activity Level Report linked below. The last time our region was at that level was the Nov. 7, 2020 Activity Level Report, three months ago. A point of light! Weather conditions that enable eating outside are an important consideration, and we will be following the forecast in the time ahead.

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_19_Report_Week_2021_5.pdf

Make-Up Snow Days

Our plan is to make up our 3 snow days per the sequence on our Board-approved calendar linked below. The last three days of school are now Monday, June 21, Tuesday, June 22, and Wednesday, June 23, all early dismissal days: June 21 and 22 as A days, and June 23 as a B day, since 2 of the 3 snow days were A days. June 15, 16, and 18 are no longer early dismissal days. I received emails from parents asking if our district could explore making up the 3 snow days during Spring Break. Our entire administrative team discussed this idea, the pros and cons, and gathered input from the Evesham Township Education Association. We all agreed that making up the days per our calendar is the best approach. Families and staff have used the make-up day sequence for their planning and could be negatively impacted by such a change. Spring Break will be an important opportunity to recharge and be ready for the remaining weeks of the school. Our district appreciates and considers all ideas, and I would like to thank those parents for their suggestion.

https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_20708016/File/Calendars/Year%20at%20a%20Glance/2020-2021%20ETSD%20Calendar%20updated%20Nov.%202020.pdf



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Black History Month share

For this month and this winter, I would like to share a poem, "Those Winter Sundays," by Robert Hayden, the first African American appointed as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, and who conducted extensive study of Black history for the Federal Writers' Project in his native Detroit. This poem gets me every time.

"Those Winter Sundays"

Sundays too my father got up early
and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,
then with cracked hands that ached
from labor in the weekday weather made
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,
and slowly I would rise and dress,
fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,
who had driven out the cold
and polished my good shoes as well.
What did I know, what did I know
of love's austere and lonely offices?

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools