



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

March 26, 2021

Dear ETSD Families,

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

-- Helen Keller

Highlights this week: In-Person Learning, Full Day, Every Day; Travel Quarantine Reminder; Budget; Women’s History Month program

In-Person Learning, Full Day, Every Day

Parents of all Cohort A and Cohort B students, you will receive communication soon from our schools regarding the transition to in-person learning every day, as we move to two Cohorts: our full in-person cohort (Cohort AB) and our remote cohort (Cohort R). Parents continue to have the choice for in-person or remote learning. Cohort R is still Cohort R.

- By April 12, all elementary school in-person students will attend five full days a week.
- By April 19, all middle school in-person students will attend five full days a week.
- All Remote Learning Wednesdays after Spring Break are now in-person days (A or B days), as shown here in our [2020-21 ETSD Calendar revised March 2021](#) approved at last evening’s Board meeting.

All our classrooms use and will continue to use the maximum spacing practicable, always a minimum of 3 feet, per the most recent [NJ Dept. of Health Guidance 3.23.21.pdf](#). Typically between 4-5 feet is needed for our remaining classrooms at elementary level, and between 3-5 feet is needed at middle level. All other safety measures (masks, temperature checks, cleaning, ionizers, ventilation, and more) are continuing to be used as they have been all year. With this increase in in-person attendance, aisle seats on buses will be used, with masks on and windows open, like all year. Families can also drive. Let’s all keep doing our part, wearing masks and social distancing outside of school, as this is truly a collective effort. Please continue to keep your children home if they are sick or symptomatic.

The NJ [COVID-19 Activity Level Report](#) released yesterday shows our Southwest region as Orange (high risk). The NJ Dept. of Health recommendation at that level is 3 feet of distancing or more for elementary, and 6 feet of distancing or more for middle school. *If our region is still Orange/High Risk in the April 15 Activity Level Report, we may delay the April 19 return of all middle school in-person students to five full days a week.* Our revised calendar continues to show A and B days in case of this possibility. The April 12 elementary school return will proceed as scheduled by April 12, per Dept. of Health recommendation.



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This most recent NJDOH guidance confirms our path to five full days of in-person learning for everyone who wants it. We are making this shift now because we have been doing in-person school all year, and know it works and can be done safely. This shift supports health by, among other things, reducing the mental and social-emotional toll on our students. In April, it will be 13 months--longer than I would have ever thought imaginable when the pandemic started--since we were last able to provide full in-person learning for everyone who wants it. I would like to thank all our staff for their continued hard work throughout this year, and to our families as well, for your invaluable support of that work as well.

Travel Quarantine Reminder

Students quarantining after Spring Break due to travel will attend school remotely. Any students traveling beyond our region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) should quarantine upon return. [Are there travel restrictions to or from New Jersey? | FAQ \(nj.gov\)](#)

Budget

Thank you to everyone who wrote, called, emailed, tweeted, and more on March 24 as part of SOS Legislative Advocacy Day. SOS stands for Support Our Students, a group representing the over 130 districts whose state funding is decreasing. Your voices help. Our budget this coming year is lower than it was in 2018-19, but local school taxes continue to increase, to offset the state aid reductions. As a result, as the percentage of our budget funded by the state decreases each year, the percentage of our budget funded by local tax levy continues to increase. This means that, even as our budget is being reduced, that reduction is not enabling relief for our Evesham residents and taxpayers. Thoughts of our families and local businesses hurt financially by the pandemic have been on our minds as we have worked to provide as much support, in-person and remotely, as we can.

Women's History Month program

On the heels of last month's Black History Month program with members of the Still family speaking with Congressman Kim, I am sharing this Women's History Month opportunity, also facilitated by Congressman Kim, namely a virtual celebration of Mount Laurel, NJ native Alice Paul, the suffragist and women's civil rights leader who spent more than seven decades fighting for equality, on Monday, March 29 at 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM. To think she lived right around the corner!



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The event, featuring a presentation from the Alice Paul Institute on Alice's life and legacy, will include State Assemblywoman Carol Murphy of Mount Laurel and Allison Titman, the Executive Director of the Alice Paul Institute, as guest speakers. This program is open to all, and recommended for Grades 6 -12. Parents can register their children at:

<https://kim.house.gov/WomensHistoryMonth>

For more information:

<https://kim.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-kim-hold-women-s-history-month-town-hall>

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools