



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

April 16, 2021

Dear ETSD Families,

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

-- Helen Keller

Highlights this week: Schools Update; Lunch; Ionizers; Community Activities, and Friendly reminder about MS Art Contest deadline today.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break week last week. From my office this week, I could hear the ding of baseballs and bats connecting on the diamond behind our Admin building. A sound of spring and summer. And daylight--such a lift to spirits--is lasting longer each evening. It feels like we are emerging from one long winter.

Schools Update

As of today, 78% of our students are in person, our highest percentage of in-person status so far this year. Per our plan, all in-person elementary students returned to school together everyday starting this past Monday, April 12. Continuing per our plan, starting this Monday, April 19, all in-person middle school students will return to school together everyday. A point of light! This means middle school students who have been Cohort B up to now will come to school on Monday, April 19. Parents of in-person middle school students, please check [ETSD Genesis Parent Portal](#) for updated busing information, especially for parents of students who have been Cohort B.

While yesterday's [COVID-19 Activity Level Report](#) shows our Southwest region is still in the Orange/High Risk level, the metrics on which that status is based showed promising decreases for our region. We are in good company in continuing forward with bringing students in five days a week, as other districts in our region are doing the same, including Medford, Medford Lakes, Southampton, Tabernacle, Shamong, Delran, Maple Shade, Burlington Township, Cinnaminson, and more.

Lunch

In Middle School, starting April 19, lunches will occur in the All Purpose Room and other large group areas with social distancing of at least 6 feet, more than is possible when eating in classrooms. These locations will operate with close adult supervision at greatly reduced occupancy. Students will sit per seating charts in assigned seats at designated tables, providing for at least 6 feet of distance in all directions. Recess will continue to take place outside weather permitting. This change was piloted with success this week.



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In Elementary School, lunches will continue to be outside weather permitting, and otherwise in the classrooms. In some instances, the cafeteria and larger group areas will be used like in middle school, to enable social distancing of at least 6 feet in all directions, when that distancing is not possible in classrooms.

Ionizers

All large space ionizers have now been installed in all schools, in addition to the classroom ionizers that have been in use since December. This means every large group space and every classroom in our district has the equivalent of MERV13 filter protection against COVID-19. Ionization is air-purifying technology that eliminates bacteria, mold, and viruses including COVID-19 from the air and surfaces. As a reminder from earlier this year, our district pursued this ionizer plan after consultation with our district's mechanical engineering firm, DaVinci Group LLC, about the best approach for enhancing our air quality. The ionizers are an extra level of permanent improved protection above and beyond our system, which already meets NJDOE requirements.

Community Activities

Great new postings on our [Community Activities](#) webpage! MRC Sports, including the Sports Unity Program, and a science camp. In addition to the flyers on our Community Activities page, here are useful direct links to Marlton Recreation and the Sports Unity Program:

<https://www.marltonreccouncil.org/mrcreg>

<https://www.marltonreccouncil.org/sportsunity>

Friendly reminder about MS Art Contest deadline today

Today is the last day to submit entries for the MS Art Contest "People of the Pines, People of Peace." This contest not only celebrates the past, but also asks middle school students to interpret West Jersey's history and provide an artistic response in an effort to inspire a peaceful culture in our time. Please go to our [Community Activities Page](#) for more detailed information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools