



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 220 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 • (860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

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April 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Let me first start by saying thank you to all of you as you have achieved the task of not only parenting but engaging your child(ren) as learners during an unprecedented time. I am sure you have shown courage, vulnerability and truth over the last few weeks. It is imperative that we continue to honor where we and our families are during this time and continue to do what is right in the eyes of our children and families.

At East Lyme Public Schools, our hope is that the continued educational opportunities are allowing your child(ren) to engage in being a learner and connect with our learning community. At the core of teaching is the motivational foundation for learning and for preparing students for a lifetime of further, intrinsically motivated, learning. Our continued educational opportunities call for multiple means of engagement because students differ markedly in the ways in which they can be engaged or motivated to learn. Our hope is that our authentic continued educational opportunities create a source of engagement, but clearly what is “authentic” is culturally and developmentally sensitive. What is authentic to one student seems foreign and off-putting to others. In reality, no one means of engagement will be optimal for all students; providing multiple options for engagement is essential. For this reason, your feedback in the Continued Educational Opportunities Parent Survey was important in guiding engagement to date and in the coming weeks*.

Based on your parent survey results, the following evolutions will occur based on your knowledge, reflection and feedback:

- **Effective April 6, 2020:** East Lyme Public Schools website will be updated with Coronavirus updates and resources for students and families. This will become the central hub for updated information as well as the Infinite Campus portal for all targeted parent/guardian communication.
- **Effective April 9, 2020:** Teachers will begin incorporating “new learning” into continued educational opportunities so we support a hybrid of learning which focuses on skill mastery as well as building new knowledge. Teachers may choose to prerecord videos for students and post in either Seesaw or Google Classroom.
- **Effective April 10, 2020:** All Elementary (PK-4) students will be using Seesaw as an online platform for communicating and sharing evidence of continued educational opportunities. Parents will be given access to this platform, as well as students, so we can streamline communication into one place rather than over multiple emails. Teachers will communicate all access protocols when releasing educational opportunities on April 9, 2020.
- **Effective April 10, 2020:** All Middle School (5-8) students will be using Google Classroom as an online platform for communicating and sharing evidence of continued educational opportunities. Note: Those teachers that already were using Google Classroom, will continue to do so. Parents will be given ‘Guardian ONLY’ access to this platform so that we can streamline communication into one place rather than over multiple emails. Teachers will communicate all access protocols when releasing educational opportunities on April 9, 2020.

*All survey results will be posted on the [East Lyme Public Schools](https://www.eastlymeschools.org/) website on April 8, 2020.

Please know that these “changes” come about with the focus being on flexibility, respect and safety of all of our students, families and educators. May we continue to show our respect for you and your family during this time.

In order to provide further guidance to you, please refer to [Continued Educational Opportunities Rev. 4/6/20](#).

“Each time we face our fear, we gain strength, courage, and confidence in the doing” -Theodore Roosevelt

East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.



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May we grow strong, confident and courageous together.

With much respect to you and your family,

Sincerely,

Amy Drowne
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment