



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Jeffrey R. Newton
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and Growth Management*

April 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's my hope this letter finds you safe, healthy, and continuing to adjust to the many changes we have all endured. I wanted to share some new updates that have recently come forth:

- The Board of Education met earlier this week through a virtual meeting and set **June 19th** as the graduation date and last day of the 2019-2020 school year. We will continue to engage with seniors regarding graduation plans and modifications as we move through the coming weeks. Their input is crucial as we do our very best to provide them with a safe end of the school year.
- The Governor has announced today that he has revised the school closure date for Connecticut. The closure date has now been extended out until the week of **May 20th**. We will continue to keep our parent community apprised of any additional information that comes forth or date changes.
- We have started discussions with the Board of Finance regarding the 2020-2021 town and district budget. Formal budget presentations have obviously been halted, and the Board of Education will now virtually present a 2020-2021 budget plan to the Board of Finance on May 7th. The Board of Finance will deliberate on both the town department budgets and Board of Education's budget during the week of May 13th. During the week of May 18th, the 2020-2021 budget (both town and BOE) will be posted for the public to submit written comments. The Board of Finance plans to review and read comments and then set the mill rate on May 27th. The Board of Education adopted a 4.98% increase over the current fiscal year. This will need to be modified given the fiscal climate that COVID-19 has caused. Work is being done to reduce the overall percentage over the coming weeks. We will be posting revised documents and information on our website, and I will be sending updates out with specific budget information.
- I want to thank the many parents who completed last week's survey on our continuing educational opportunities for students. Your feedback was very helpful, and the results of the survey are posted on our website at the following link <https://www.eastlymeschools.org/>.
- Reminder that food distribution from ELMS (M/W/F) and tech services and device deployment will be halted next week during April Vacation. We could not be more thankful for the assistance and long hours that our food service personnel and technology staff have been putting in to support our families. They have been truly amazing. Food distribution will start up again on Monday, April 20th.

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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As a district we continue to remain focused on supporting families and students who may still be struggling with the massive adjustment in being at home. Attempting to work and support your children with provided learning tasks is a huge challenge. My thoughts remain with those who have lost jobs and income, and please know that we will continue to do our best to support our families with food, technology, and internet needs upon our return from April vacation. We know it is challenging to remain at home and not be able to spend time with extended family and friends. Please know that it remains important to stay safe, so we can resume the normal life that we are all accustomed to hopefully sooner than later. I ask that you utilize the time you have next week to continue to connect as a family and build upon the bond you have with your children. Many of them remain concerned, and now is the time that they need you as a parent to provide love, nurturing, and as much support as possible.

Please remain safe in all that you do, and I cannot wait until the day comes that we can share in the smiles, laughter, and learning that will once again permeate our school buildings and classrooms.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc