



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

Amy Drowne
*Assistant Superintendent of
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*Director of
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*Director of Finance, Marketing,
and Growth Management*

April 24, 2020

Dear Elementary and Middle School Parents and Guardians,

For the Spring Marking Period, East Lyme Public Schools has considered the severe impact of the pandemic on students and families and will take the steps stated below to prioritize ongoing learning while safeguarding against unintended consequences to our students and families.

Our Spring Marking Period policy is in alignment with the guidance from the Connecticut Department of Education on April 7, 2020:

“Given the variability of online teaching and learning models, and issues of access and equity, it is appropriate to view the second half of the 2020 school year as a special case in terms of grading, GPAs, and transcripts. All students and staff are working under challenging conditions and, therefore, we encourage districts to focus priorities on student engagement and learning. We suggest that schools adopt a locally guided Pass/Fail protocol for grading while providing continued educational opportunities.”

Based on the recommendation of the Connecticut Department of Education, for the Spring Grading Marking Period of 2020, East Lyme Public Schools will adopt a policy of universal Pass/Fail with a provision for teachers to provide narrative commendations, just as they can now. Our PK-8 students will be awarded a grade of “Pass” for the second semester (elementary) and third trimester (middle school). “Fail” will only be utilized at the high school level due to credit accrument for graduation. We feel that the continued educational opportunities engagement at the elementary and middle school level is directly related to parental support and guidance during this time, and a grade of “Fail” would not accurately reflect independent student achievement. While the “Pass” grading protocol for PK-8 students may alleviate the associated pressures on students and their families, East Lyme Public Schools will continue to provide meaningful feedback to students to support progress and foster academic growth during this time.

The goal of our continued educational opportunities is to create opportunities for students and teachers to stay connected and continue engaging in learning, while remaining flexible and sensitive to the evolving and uncertain needs of students, staff and families.

East Lyme Public Schools understands the individual needs of our students and parents. Partnering with students and families to engage all learners remains our primary mission. The priority of student learning and cognitive engagement is our ongoing hope through weekly continued educational opportunities.

Please refer to the revised marking period timeframes for both the elementary and middle school below.

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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Revised East Lyme Grading Marking Periods (Effective April 27, 2020)

	Grading Marking Period	Spring Marking Period
Elementary Schools	First Semester: August 28, 2019-January 30, 2020	Second Semester: January 31-June 19, 2020
Middle School	Second Trimester: December 2, 2019-March 13, 2020	Third Trimester: March 16-June 19, 2020

Sincerely,

Amy Drowne
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment