



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
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Kimberly Davis
Director of
Student Services

Maryanna Stevens, CPA
Director of Finance, Marketing,
and Growth Management

February 25, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At this past Monday night's Board of Education Meeting, we shared our plans to return our middle school students to full in-person learning. We also began discussions about the return of high school students which is now in planning. COVID metrics (declining case numbers) and support from the health professionals we work with are allowing us to begin returning our children to school, while eliminating the hybrid model of instruction for all. In collaboration with Ledge Light Health District along with our Medical Advisor, and an ongoing trend of declining COVID cases across our region, we are now phasing in **both elementary and middle school students through March. Again, a high school student return to full in-person learning along with return dates are still in the works and will be announced soon.**

In planning for this return, it is essential that we provide our administration and staff time to plan for the reentry of children to full onsite learning. Additionally, there are many logistical requirements and building adjustments that need to occur prior to all students returning. The Governor announced this week that teacher and staff vaccinations will be available beginning March 1, 2021. This vaccine schedule adjustment supports our forward progress in safely reopening our school buildings, while also allowing for an expedited yet safe return. Additionally, administration still needs to address multiple mitigation requirements and potential PPE needs across buildings. We remain focused on safety for all through this process.

The updated schedule for elementary and middle school students below outlines the timeline for each grade level's return to their respective building. As Cohorts A and B are dissolved, each classroom will now reform to create a cohort of their own:

Grade Level	Start Date
Grades K, 1	March 1, 2021
Grade 2, 5, 6	March 15, 2021
Grades 3, 4, 7, 8	March 29, 2021
Five Day Return Date	April 5, 2021
Grades 9-12	TBD

The phased in approach maintains the M/T/Th/F schedule while allowing for one remote day each week (Wednesday). **As noted in the chart above a 5-day week for all elementary and middle school students begins on April 5, 2021.** Due to the vaccine rollout for educators in March, we have moved back the original 5-day timeline from May 3, 2021 to Monday, April 5, 2021.

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



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
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

Kimberly Davis
*Director of
Student Services*

Maryanna Stevens, CPA
*Director of Finance, Marketing,
and Growth Management*

Additional Important Information:

- We will be asking all middle school parents to complete a **survey by noon on Friday February 26, 2021**, to help us gather information regarding reopening in full. This information will allow us to make informed decisions regarding a safe return of students. Middle School parents should be on the lookout for the **survey link**, which will be sent today. A high school survey is in the works and will be shared with parents at a later date.
- The Virtual learning option for students will remain in place for the rest of this school year. We continue to encourage advanced notice of any change between onsite and virtual. Any virtual student is welcome and encouraged to return to full in-person learning at any time.

We appreciate your support, patience, and understanding as we move through this transitional process. Returning our children to full in-person learning has been our goal all year long and doing so safely for all is at the forefront of all decisions that we continue to make.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent

JN:jc