



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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Kimberly Davis
*Director of
Student Services*

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

January 29, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we collectively move into the month of February, I wanted to provide you with a few important updates:

Inclement Weather Days

If we are impacted by inclement weather as predicted early next week and must close schools, it will be another traditional 'snow day' for children with the make-up day occurring on March 15, 2021. Our first 'snow day' of this year was on December 17, 2020, with the make-up day occurring on February 17, 2021. We would then have one remaining built in make-up day (May 28, 2021) within this year's [calendar](#) to utilize if impacted with an additional closure. As noted in my parent letter on December 16, 2020, if the three make-up days are used, we will then reassess the option of turning to remote days if an inclement weather closure is warranted. Utilizing remote days would help avoid adding school days to the end of the year if/when future closures occur.

Full In-Person Learning

We remain focused on eventually bringing our children back to full in-person learning. There are many variables impacting this decision which we grapple with daily. We continue to evaluate the situation and any decisions regarding a return. Safety for our staff and students remains the top priority. As we move into February, please be on the lookout for further information regarding planning and timelines for a potential gradual return of students to full-in person learning.

Cohort Change Requests

There have been increasing requests by parents for cohort changes. Administrators, teachers and counselors have been evaluating all parent requests on a case-by-case basis. As we partner with families during this time around cohort changes, it is imperative to maintain our public health protocols of the hybrid model. Please understand there is a lot of discussion and thought that goes into consideration of approving parental requests and we ask for your patience. Our goal is to process and communicate confirmation of cohort status within 48 hours of receiving requests.

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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21-22 Proposed Budget

On Monday, January 25, 2021, we presented the [2021-2022 Superintendent's Proposed Budget to the Board of Education](#). We plan to have further discussions regarding the budget at the next Board of Education Meeting scheduled for February 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. via ZOOM. If parents or community members would like to submit a public comment regarding the proposed budget plan, the Board of Education will accept written comments to be read at the start of the meeting on February 8, 2021. Please forward to my office via email at jeffrey.newton@elpsk12.org or jaclyn.cerese@elpsk12.org by noon on Monday, February 8, 2021. You can view all 2021-2022 budgetary documents on the [district website](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership as we continue to maneuver through this school year. As stated previously, your patience and understanding through this pandemic has been appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc