



## 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*

July 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is my hope that your summer is progressing well and you and your family have been able to spend some quality time together. I wanted to update everyone regarding our district's continued work around the reopening of schools in late August. To date, the following is occurring or will be occurring in the near future:

- The East Lyme Public Schools Reopening Plan is under construction and will be completed for submission to the State Department of Education on July 24, 2020. We have over 160 individuals across the district working on this plan through five committees (Instructional Pathways, Communications, Social and Emotional Learning, Operations and Logistics). We plan to share the document with the full ELPS community in early August. Plans could be modified and adjusted accordingly due to new or additional state requirements that may come forth in the coming weeks. We plan to adapt as necessary and ask for everyone's continued patience as we navigate what is now the 'new normal'.
- We are planning for three models of potential schooling for the fall: Students on-site, hybrid (students working in buildings some days and from home others), and fully remote (all students working from home via live lessons due to high COVID transmissions across the state and region). We are planning on all students on-site to start the year.
- We are in the process of adjusting the 2020-2021 School District Calendar and received notice from the state that three student days can be waived from the mandated 180 requirement during a normal school year. It is essential that we provide additional professional development days for our staff at the beginning of the year given the adjustments to work practices. Our faculty begins their school year on August 24, 2020. We will be working with the Board of Education and recommending the student start date be pushed from **August 26, 2020 to August 31, 2020. We will communicate the final student start date to all parents as soon as the 2020-2021 calendar is reviewed again and re-approved by the East Lyme Board of Education.**
- We will be surveying parents soon to gain additional feedback on the usage of busing for student transportation. We will also be asking parents about your thoughts regarding the return of your child(ren) to school.

*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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Safety is paramount in all that we are doing to prepare for the reopening of schools. Our reopening plan is addressing all components as we follow state requirements and guidelines and adhere to ongoing changes that continue to come forth. I encourage you to utilize the newly established parent email [elpsreopen@elpsk12.org](mailto:elpsreopen@elpsk12.org) to ask questions or share thoughts regarding the reopening of schools. Your feedback is important to us. We will be sending out a parent update every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. beginning next week through the remainder of the summer to assist in keeping our families informed and to respond to questions that come forth.

Again, we appreciate everyone's ongoing patience as we work through and prepare for the reopening of schools.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton  
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc