



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

June 5, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Recent events in our lives have made it challenging for our children to understand or make sense of what is occurring in our country, state and all around us especially if they see or hear about these events on the news or through social media. I have corresponded with our staff regarding recent events, as have our administrators, and we have crafted and are endorsing the following equity statement on behalf of the district that I want to share.

East Lyme Public Schools is dedicated to doing our part to support equity for all children. We support courageous students in learning and staff in teaching with an equity mindset. As an educational organization we will continue to support all students and families, no matter their ethnicity or cultural background. We know we still have much work to do as we stand beside other school districts confronting the issues around racism and inequity in this country. Toward this end, we commit to listen, understand and support all cultural beliefs on behalf of our East Lyme students and families.

It is important that continued focus and work around this significant matter will not be derailed. We have an obligation to our students, staff and community to continue to promote equity and open our minds around ethnicity. We thank you for the efforts that you are making at home to support your children through the challenging discussions that you are having.

I wanted to share the following link to a [newsletter](#) provided by Dr. Miguel Cardona, Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut. Dr. Cardona speaks about the current events that we have all been dealing with. Included in the newsletter are direct links and supports that you may find useful in the days and weeks ahead.

I wish you all the best during this challenging time and please remain healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc