



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*

May 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Board of Education has presented the revised and adopted 2020-2021 budget to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance will be deliberating on both the revised Town and Board of Education budgets at their next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The [BOF Agenda and Zoom Link](#) will provide access to the meeting if you would like to follow the discussion.

Given ongoing concerns around COVID-19 and the potential for schools to be either closed or partially closed for periods of time next school year, we have heightened and expedited our district long-range technology plan as it pertains to devices for our students. Our goal was to increase device purchases moving to a 1:1 model for students by the 2022-2023 school year. The need for these devices is now 'immediate' as we prepare ourselves to incorporate a blended learning model going into the 2020-2021 school year. This means that academic engagement (including new learning and ongoing instruction) must be available to students whether they are in school or learning from home. The reality is that students could be in school buildings one week, but then the next week be required to continue instruction remotely for periods of time. This expedited technology plan calls for Kindergarten and grade one students to be issued iPads, and for grades two through twelve to be issued laptops.

The Board of Education is working with the Board of Finance to secure funding through the budget process to purchase these devices. This will require the Board of Education borrowing money over a five-year period and paying it back yearly through its current operating budget. [The Presentation to the Board of Finance](#) includes information on the technology plan and allocation of dollars to accomplish this. It is important that we are prepared to move forward into the 2020-2021 school year ready to provide instruction to students remotely. This technology plan and allocation of spending through the budget will help get us there.

On a separate note, please be aware that Friday, May 22, 2020 was originally scheduled to be a professional development day for staff. Given the closure of schools due to COVID-19, May 22nd will now be a regular school day for students. I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing patience as we have navigated these past few weeks and as we move forward to complete the school year on June 19, 2020. We will continue to work together improving remote learning that works best for our teachers, families, and children at home.

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*

Please remain safe in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc