



## EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 220 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 • (860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

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Director of  
Student Services

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

May 5, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Today the Governor announced the closing of Connecticut schools through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In a recent statement he said *“I know how important it is for so many students and teachers to finish out the school year, and I was holding out hope – particularly for high school seniors – that we’d at least be able to complete the final few weeks, but given the current circumstances and to protect everyone’s safety, it has become clear that it’s just not possible.”* East Lyme Public Schools has been preparing for a full closure of this nature, and we will continue to support our students, families, and staff through the remainder of this school year.

I'd like to reference the following important items that everyone should be aware of:

- East Lyme High School graduation and celebrating our seniors is a 'must happen occurrence'! High school administration and staff have been working with the senior class and student representatives on various plans and scenarios regarding a ceremony. Once these plans have been discussed, reviewed and approved through the health department, these plans will be shared accordingly.
- Schools across the state are required to continue providing meals to children under the school lunch and breakfast programs for consumption at home. This will occur through June at our middle school every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00-10:00 a.m.
- The Governor is consulting with state and local education officials regarding summer school programming (extended school year services and summer camps/programs). We hope to have guidance on this matter toward the end of this month. As soon as the state provides that guidance, we will inform our staff and parent community.
- The CIAC has provided guidance on spring sports. Given that in-school classes are cancelled for the remainder of the academic year there will not be a 2020 CIAC spring sports season.

*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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The cancellation of in-school classes remains a challenge for us all. We understand the difficulty that this message brings with six full weeks of the school year remaining. Your ongoing patience, support and continued work with your children at home remains appreciated, valued and important. We will continue to work together over the coming weeks to maintain student engagement, learning and social/emotional support. We will also keep you posted with any new developments or further information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton  
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc