



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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October 8, 2020

Dear East Lyme Public School Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to communicate three important changes in the coming weeks. I hope that you find that these changes enhance your child's learning experience.

Change 1: Wednesday Schedule

Problem: Whole group instruction not meeting the individual needs of students.

Solution: Starting the week of October 12, 2020, students will no longer be ZOOMing for half days on Wednesdays.

- Every student in the district will have to ZOOM in to a class/kiva/advisory meeting for the first thirty minutes of the day only. The 30 minute synchronous meeting with teachers will be to support student planning, self-management strategies as well as to take attendance.
- Teachers will be using the remainder of the morning for individual conferencing, small group instructional opportunities or work completion based on the learning needs of their students.
- Students will be working independently or collaboratively with peers based on the learning outcomes the teacher has identified.
- Instructional tasks will be due in Google Classroom/Seesaw by the end of the day on Wednesday to ensure work completion and engagement accountability.

**Note: Administration and teachers will continue to evaluate the frequency and duration of ZOOM time as part of our instructional model.*

Change 2: Cameras On

Problem: Students are not turning on the camera option in ZOOM when present in class.

Solution: Starting the week of October 12, 2020, teachers will be asking at the start, and throughout their ZOOM class, that all students turn on their video and keep on video when learning in ZOOM. *Please note that we understand that students have individual needs that may impact their ability to turn on their video. I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher to discuss this individual need.* Teachers will determine when it is appropriate to turn off videos as part of the learning experience. The ability for students and staff to see each other without masks and to see facial responses when learning is key to the human connection. As students intellectually develop, it is important that they see their peers faces to build genuine connections peer to peer as part of the learning.

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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Change 3: Device Deployment

Problem: District provided individual student devices delayed.

Solution: I am happy to report that shipments of devices are coming in to the district every few days. Our goal is deploy devices by grade level. Below you will see our **projected** timeline for deployment (*timeline fully depends on shipping remaining consistent*). Legal parents/guardians will be required to pick up devices for your child during the assigned dates and times provided to you by Central Office in the coming weeks. Each grade level will be notified directly when devices are ready for deployment. At this time, the elementary schools do not have any technology in classrooms so we are starting deployment at this level.

Device	Grade Level	Projected Deployment Week
IPAD	PK, K, and 1	October 19-30
DELL Laptop	2 and 3	October 19-30
DELL Laptop	4	October 26-30
DELL Laptop	5, 6, 9 and 10	November 2-November 13
DELL Laptop	7,8,11 and 12	November 16-24

Our mission is to inspire, engage and educate your child in the best way possible. We hold ourselves to this standard every day. It is my hope that these solutions will help exemplify that. I will be in touch in the coming weeks with more changes as we evolve our educational system.

Be well and take care.

Sincerely,

Amy Drowne
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment