



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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August 20, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The end of the summer is soon upon us, and I wanted to provide key updates pertaining to important aspects of our opening of schools and proposed work and focus for the 2021-2022 school year. We have updated our [‘Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.’](#) This document provides an overview of the mitigation measures that will be in place for the coming year. It also includes the [Governor's Executive Order 13A](#) requiring all staff and students to wear masks in school through September 30, 2021. Masks do not need to be worn by students and staff when outside. We will provide mask breaks (as was done last year) and opportunities to be outside (weather permitting) while engaging students in instruction. Additionally, Plexiglass has not been deemed a necessary mitigation strategy other than in the cafeteria when students have their masks down and are having lunch.

The following four additional mitigation protocols below will be in place for the start of the 21-22 school year:

- At the current time, visitors will be allowed into the school buildings, but total numbers will be closely monitored. Visits should have a specific purpose and be short in duration. Masks are required for any visitor within a school building, and the visitor policy is subject to change at any time.
- Quarantine Requirements: We will continue to follow the ten-day recommendation for quarantining. Students at the middle school and high school level will continue to ZOOM into class if quarantined. All elementary students will engage in asynchronous work if/when quarantining. Remote learning/zooming into classrooms can only be used if we quarantine a student due to COVID requirements. **No other reason will be permitted.**
- Per CSDE, there is no remote learning option (other than for quarantine purposes) for the 21-22 school year. Additionally, there is no option for remote learning on snow days.
- Fall sports will proceed as scheduled following all [CIAC mitigation measures.](#)

As it pertains to our continued diversity, equity, and inclusion work, I wanted to share the following updates with our school community:

- East Lyme Public Schools is not engaging in Critical Race Theory (CRT), as it seems there are still rumors out in our community that we are doing so. We are in the business of ‘showing kids how to think,’ not ‘what to think.’ Additionally, CRT is not part of any aspect of our curriculum.

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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- We will continue to focus on the bigger picture as we want all children and staff to feel a sense of 'belonging' across our schools.
- We are supporting greater understanding and acceptance for all while encouraging opportunities for student discourse, understanding, and learning.
- We will maintain a welcoming learning environment, strive to create an equitable and inclusive environment for all, and provide instruction that fosters cultural awareness and development for all students.
- The equity audit findings that were completed this past school year will be shared in the early fall.

We are excited for the upcoming school year to begin, and we hope your children are ready to return to the classroom! We will make it as normal a year as possible, and together we will provide an excellent experience for all. It's my hope you enjoy the remaining days of the summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone back in our buildings on Monday, August 30, 2021.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

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