August 10, 2020

Dear ELPS Parents and Guardians,

Superintendent Newton announced on Friday, August 7, 2020 that East Lyme Public Schools will be implementing the Hybrid model to start the school year. A description of this model is noted on page 23 in the Roadmap to Reopening Our Schools Fall 2020, Version 1.0. A key component of this model is cohorting of students. Please see the very important update on cohorting below.

**COHORTING UPDATE:**

*We will be cohorting by household not by alpha as previously noted in the reopening draft plan.* This allows every household to be looked at holistically and ensures an educational experience that provides consistent class size and peer interaction. Though we will be cohorting differently, the commitment of two days onsite and three days off site remains the same. The household cohorting will determine the exact days that your child is on site versus off site.

*Our goal is to have notification to families in regard to your child(ren) assigned cohort by Monday, August 17, 2020 so you can plan accordingly.*

Upon parents hearing about the hybrid model implementation for this fall, several parents have inquired about the Virtual Viking model to be able to determine the best option for your child(ren). Please see below additional clarifying information.

**VIRTUAL VIKING ADDITIONAL DETAILS:**

Parents who choose this model will be opting out of the district instructional hybrid model for one marking period (or potentially longer if we remain hybrid and the state continues this same offering). This model requires parents to provide notification and documentation via an online form that will be sent to all families that have answered “NO” to survey Question 6 on the Final Commitment for Fall. This form will be sent to these parents on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 based on the survey results. Please review the Virtual Viking Model for detailed components and additional clarifying information. I hope that this document assists you as a family to make the best decision for your child.

If you have not responded to the East Lyme Public Schools Final Commitment for Fall Survey, please do so today.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERY PARENT/GUARDIAN COMPLETE THIS SURVEY BY TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, BY 4:00 PM.**

Please know that I understand the impact that this communication may have on families as you attempt to plan for your child(ren)’s schedule in an evolving landscape. We will do everything in our power to communicate with you as quickly as possible when decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Amy Drowne
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.