

# EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Neighborhood News

### *Spring 2019 Edition*

PUBLISHED BY THE  
**EASTAMPTON  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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### **Curriculum Corner**

Eastampton students have just completed the last round of MAP - *Measurement of Academic Progress* - benchmark testing. Our students have taken the MAP benchmark in Fall, Winter, and Spring, which has shown great growth throughout each grade level. This has been used for a variety of purposes. Supplemental services have been scheduled using scores of each benchmark as one indicator. Data has also helped drive instruction within the classroom. Teachers have been able to have real time standards-based data to help individualize teaching and learning.

We plan to utilize MAP again next school year in order to continue tailoring instruction and learning to our students' needs. A brief recap of this year's MAP growth will be presented at the June 18th Board Meeting. MAP scores will also be sent home with each student's report card on the last day of school.

### Notes From Our Superintendent

As the 2018-2019 school year comes to a close and summer is on the horizon, I wanted to express my deepest gratitude to all of the stakeholders of Eastampton Township School District for helping make this a successful year. I started my tenure in Eastampton twelve years ago in July and I can firmly say, this is a great place to work, with very knowledgeable and supportive families. I have had the awesome experience of watching many of our eighth grade students mature and grow over the years to become productive citizens. I still get excited walking into kindergarten rooms as the children beam with pride when they show me what they are learning. I will always remember taking many "pies in the face" from my kindergarten friends. I marvel at how at the beginning of the year, our fourth grade students struggled to open their lockers, but now are asking their teachers and administration how they can help improve experiences for the students who follow.

The "community" in our name is more than rhetoric; it embodies the way we educate our students, through our community. Successful schools have engaged families. Successful schools have families who volunteer. Successful schools have families who come to conferences, field trips, concerts, and sporting events. We are a successful school because we are a community.

As we prepare for the 2019-2020 school year, please partner with our school in an effort to combat summer loss of learning so that your children - our students - are ready for the rigors of a new school year. Require your child to read each day. Require your child to get some physical activity each day away from phones, television, or computers.

How many hours of screen time does your child engage in each day? The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends.

For children younger than 18 months, avoid use of screen media other than video-chatting. Parents of children 18 to 24 months of age who want to introduce digital media should choose high-quality programming, and watch it with their children to help them understand what they're seeing.

For children ages 2 to 5 years, limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs. Parents should co-view media with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them.

For children ages 6 and older, place consistent limits on the time spent using media, and the types of media, and make sure media does not take the place of adequate sleep, physical activity, and other behaviors essential to health.

Designate media-free times together, such as dinner or driving, as well as media-free locations at home, such as bedrooms.

Have ongoing communication about online citizenship and safety, including treating others with respect online and offline.

Please follow this link for information on creating a family plan for screen time.  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx>

Have a safe and happy summer!

### Child Study Team Update

*Extended School Year (ESY) for Students with Special Needs*

The Child Study Team and Special Education Department are looking forward to another exciting season of Extended School Year programming. To help qualifying students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) maintain their academic and skill levels, the Extended School Year (ESY) program will provide a four-week summer session. Classes are held Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. ESY is designed to provide opportunities for academic, emotional, behavioral, and social growth for students with special needs. Our focus is geared towards developing new goals and achievements while preventing regression from an extended break in services. Eastampton will run ESY from July 1st to July 25th. Teachers, case managers, and related service providers have been working closely and collaboratively to ensure a positive learning experience will be offered to our students in grades K-8. All participants are encouraged to bring a healthy snack and water bottle each day. We want our students hydrated and healthy to enjoy all the learning that will take place at ECS this summer! If you have any questions regarding the ESY program, please reach out to CST Supervisor, Kelly Eagles at 609-267-9172 ext 151.

## Farewell to Our Retirees

The Board of Education recognized the distinguished careers of three of our employees as they embark on a new chapter of their lives. We wish all the best to John Johnson, Vanessa Stevenson, and Susan Kenney who were part of our district for 17 years, 30 years, and 31 years respectively. The PTA was also on hand to show their gratitude and appreciation.



## Teacher Reflections

BY SUSAN KENNEY



I remember how nervous I was the summer of 1988 driving to my interview at the Eastampton Elementary School for a maternity leave position. I had taught pre-kindergarten and kindergarten at a private school for four years and this was going to be my first “real” elementary teaching job! How exciting! The interview went well and I was offered Maryann McDonald’s maternity leave position. Prior to that actually happening, I stepped into the role of a half day kindergarten teacher which was a last minute opening the end of September! So I never took over for Maryann McDonald as originally planned. Due to the increase in enrollment, a fourth half day kindergarten class was added the following year and I was thrilled to now be a full-time teacher in the district!

It seems like only yesterday I was making caps for the little kindergarteners for their graduation, spending many hours practicing for the class plays and science fairs put on for the parents every year, having scooter races in the hall during Activity Day, and the numerous Field Days with Jerry Dunn at “the old school.”

Moving to the Eastampton Community School brought more memories and more friendships. Parents came to help decorate our classrooms when the “new” school opened late in September. In the past, I didn’t see the students after leaving 3<sup>rd</sup> grade until attending their 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation each year. In our current building, I enjoy seeing and speaking to previous students of mine in the halls as they grow and mature.

My career in Eastampton has been rewarding and fulfilling. I have enjoyed helping mold novice teachers into professional educators as both a Cooperating Teacher and a Mentor. Through my work with the PTA and Pride activities, I helped facilitate the bond between the community and the staff for the good of the children.

I have taught kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, but have spent the majority of my years in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Most rewarding of all has been watching my little first graders evolve into wonderful readers. First grade is the grade with the most changes academically from September until June and I have been fortunate to see this growth in my students year after year. Through my 31 years in Eastampton, I have developed many longtime friendships with colleagues, parents, and former students. I have even had the pleasure of teaching Mariya and Logan, children of two of my former Kindergarten students! I will miss my Eastampton family immensely as I move on to the next chapter of my life. Thank you so much for the memories...

## Teacher Reflections

BY VANESSA STEVENSON

In September of 1985, I began my career at Eastampton Middle School as a 5th grade teacher. I vividly remember how excited I was driving up what is now Student Drive and entering what would be my home for the next 30 years. I have so many cherished memories. When I started at Eastampton Middle School, it was truly a middle school. I joined a staff of amazing educators, wonderful students, and a supportive administration. One thing that stands out in my memory is how much the design and layout of the building has changed and grown. In 1985, the building was considered an “Open Classroom”. There were no walls, only dividers. One would think that such a layout would make the school a noisy place, but believe it or not, it actually worked. It fostered a collaborative atmosphere among the staff and students in the POD. When studying Native Americans, we used the POD area to prepare fried green tomatoes and build Native American habitats. I also remember watching a television in the POD the day the Challenger Space Shuttle was launched. All watched in amazement as that fated shuttle exploded in front of our very eyes. While history changed all around us, our school transformed as well. Watching us become what we are today – Eastampton Community School – has been quite an amazing journey.

While the building has certainly changed throughout the past three decades, the one constant has always been putting my students first. Watching their excitement learning a new concept, challenging them to push themselves to reach their potential, and meeting up with them as successful adults has made me so very proud. I have taught students who have now gone on to being teachers, coaches, nurses, doctors, scientists and have met the challenges that life has placed in front of them. It is these success stories that I will carry in my heart.

The past 30 years have brought many changes to our school. Many faces have come and gone, and I am thankful for all of them. It has been a true honor to have spent my career in Eastampton. It has been a place where the administration has supported any idea that I have wanted to try, from Battle of the Books and Student Council Community Basketball to the famous Maniac Magee parties. It has been a place where I have made amazing friends, raised my family, and hopefully, inspired my students. It is a wonderful place that will always be in my heart. While retiring has been a difficult decision, it is now time to see what is next. Thank you to the Eastampton community, the amazing teachers, the wonderful administration and the Board of Education for the memories. Fondly, Vanessa Stevenson



## Message from Our PTA

STEPHANIE MCHUGH, ECS PTA PRESIDENT



The PTA would like to thank everyone who helped make this year such a success! Designer Bag Bingo was the largest fundraiser ever for the PTA, which enabled us to fund, among other things, field trip busing, new database software for the younger grades, scholarships for ECS and RV graduates, Breakfast With Santa, classroom support for teachers, Family Fun Events, and our first annual ECS Color Fun Run! We could not have done all of this without parent support and communication and help from the administration and Eastampton Recreation Committee. We have more ideas for next year, but we can’t do it without YOU! Parent participation is the lifeblood of any PTA, and we welcome any ideas and help you can give, from chairing a committee to helping out for an hour. Thank you again to all who made this year successful, and we look forward to working with all of you (and new volunteers!) next year.

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