



From the Superintendent

Ambrose F. Duckett, III

Welcome back! As anticipated following the winter break, the number of cases and contact-traced students and staff has increased. We are asking our families to please keep your children home if they are not feeling well. Please allow staff 24-48 hours to prepare virtual instruction or assignments for any student who is out. Our team has worked with the Department of Health to keep students in school safely. To that end, I know many families are frustrated by having to quarantine your children multiple times during the last two years. We are frustrated, as well, and have implemented measures to keep students safely in school. The buses and lunches present obstacles for social distancing that result in a good number of otherwise healthy students having to quarantine. Many of you have shared with us the challenges that this creates for your families, and we have passed these concerns directly on to the DOH. Several ECS staff members have children, as well, who have been forced to quarantine because of close contacts. We appreciate the understanding and grace that we receive as our team attempts to process the information from the CDC and DOH, while continuing to run a school.

Finally, many parents have reached out about opting for remote instruction. When Executive Order 275 expired, our ability to switch to remote learning and count it as a school day expired as well. In short, for our days to count toward the State mandated 180 days of instruction, we need to be in the building. The Department of Health and State are only allowing districts to pivot to remote learning in situations where numbers of classes and staff members out make in-person instruction prohibitive. It is my sincere hope that we are close to the end of the constant disruption to the education of our students.

Over the break, our custodians took special care and cleaned and sanitized every area of the building. Our team does a fine job sanitizing throughout the week, but with students and staff not in the building, it provided them additional time to focus on areas that get high amounts of traffic. In addition, our building and grounds team installed a bottle filling station in the cafeteria. We have additional units that have yet to arrive. This will enable students to refill their water bottles throughout the day.

Calling all substitute teachers! If you have sixty college credits, a clear criminal background check, and would like to work in a school setting, our district would love to talk to you. The last twenty-two months have put a strain on our staff and administration. Ten years ago, our list of substitutes was well over twenty. That number has decreased significantly, in part due to the pandemic. Substitute teaching offers a flexible schedule, a chance to work alongside of our wonderful staff, and an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students. Our rate is \$100 per day. The schedule is very flexible. If you would like to hear more about this wonderful opportunity call Mrs. Ulyett at 609-267-9172 ext. 112 or email her at vulyett@etsdnj.us.

Office of Curriculum

Linda Fulleylove

It's already mid-January and spring will be here before we know it. We wanted to communicate the testing dates for our upcoming state-required assessments. Make-ups will be administered the week after scheduled dates.

Assessment	Subject(s)	Grades	Testing Dates
NJ Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA)	ELA and Math	3,4,5,6,7,8	May 16-19, 2022
NJ Student Learning Assessment - Science (NJSLA-S)	Science	5 and 8	May 23-24, 2022

On Jan. 14th we have a scheduled half-day for students and staff. During the afternoon our staff will participate in professional development activities to enhance their curriculum and instruction. This dedicated time to focus on the needs of their students leads to improvements in student learning outcomes. It also allows for collaboration between colleagues which is essential to school improvement. Thank you to our ECS families for everything you are doing to support our teachers and staff.

Notes from the Nurse's Office

Catherine Alderman and Mary Ostaszewski

The Nursing Office is aware of the recently updated Covid-19 related guidance from the NJ Department of Health. We are working on applying the guidance to Eastampton Community School. Please keep students home from school if they have signs and symptoms of illness. Please reinforce the importance of wearing a face mask consistently and correctly, up over the nose. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Our Read-A-Thon Winner and His Friends Rode to School on a Fire Truck!

