



From the Superintendent

Ambrose F. Duckett, III

As the holiday season approaches, I try to center my thoughts on being thankful for the many blessings of family, work, and friends. Over the last year and nine months, the world has changed. What I hope that would not change is our appreciation for each other. Teaching preparatory programs did not equip educators to teach throughout a pandemic, but our teachers quickly readied themselves and have done a marvelous job adjusting. Our nurses quickly learned how to contact trace and have worked tirelessly to keep students in school safely. Our custodians have worked the last twenty-one months with very few days off. The secretaries have worked alongside the administration in communicating the latest news and notes. We wouldn't be able to accomplish any of these efforts without the caring and conscientious Officer Horne, the PTA, our aides, and substitutes who often go unheralded for their work. It certainly takes a village to make our system work effectively.

One group that I have saved for last is the Eastampton Board of Education. Eastampton's seven member board is consistent in their approach to their roles by frequently asking me, "What is in the best interest of our students?" Our board members are not paid, but dedicate themselves to their roles as if they were. The December 21, 2021 board meeting will be the last for Board President, Susan Taylor; Board Vice President, Glenn Forney; and Board Member, Deanna McGinnis. They have each served the Eastampton Community for many, many years with distinction! I am thankful for the support they have shown me professionally and personally as I navigate leading our wonderful school community. Please join me in thanking them for their time on the board, as they will be missed. I would also like to welcome our three new board members: Dr. Florencia Norton, Edward Hill, and Walter Maluchnik. They will officially join the Eastampton Board of Education on January 4, 2021 at our annual reorganization meeting.

Yesterday, December 7, 2021, we hosted our first concert in two years. This was led by our talented band director, Mrs. Jackie Smith, and equally talented chorus teacher, Miss Kayleigh Whitmore. I was able to see firsthand the time and effort put into the planning and preparation for last night's performance. Wow! The talent of our students paired with the masterful direction of our teachers made for beautiful performances.

Finally, I would like to wish each of you peace and rest over the break. Your children have worked extremely hard getting back into the routine and rigors of in-person learning. They deserve some time of rest, and I hope that we all come back in January refreshed and ready for the challenges of 2022!

Office of Curriculum

Linda Fulleylove

Several of our middle school classes are on a trimester rotation this year. This includes GTT, Technology, Spanish, and Advisory. The first trimester ended December 7th, and grades for these subjects will be visible to parents through PowerSchool on Friday, December 10th at 3:00.

WIN (What I Need) period is also on a trimester schedule. In our continual effort to optimize instructional time, students have been informed that beginning this 2nd trimester, WIN will

count as a graded subject. This adjustment was made after receiving important feedback from staff. The expectations and grading criteria are as follows:

Expectations for WIN:

Grading Criteria:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Arrives on time | A – Consistently meets or exceeds expectations |
| 2. Is prepared (has materials) | B – Inconsistently meets expectations |
| 3. Stays on task | C – Does not meet expectations |
| 4. Follows classroom expectations | |

If you have any questions, please contact the Curriculum Office. Wishing everyone a happy holiday season with friends and family.

CST Update

Kelly Eagles

As the holidays approach, we look forward to fun, food, and festivities. However, for families of children with special needs, the change in routine with added lights, sounds, smells, and visitors can sometimes be disruptive and stressful. As a department, we are working closely with our families and students to minimize their stress and put the fun back in the festivities. Here are a few reminders to help families navigate the season ahead:

- **Find calm where and when you can.** Carving out a few minutes each day to give your child undivided and full attention to tune into their needs and play something quiet can go a long way.
- **Set a schedule.** Children with special needs thrive on routine. If possible, preparing a schedule in advance (written or with pictures) will help soften the transition and alleviate the stressor of the unknown
- **Watch for sensory overload.** The holidays are full of stimulation which can be overwhelming for sensitive children. Prepare ahead with noise canceling earphones if attending an especially loud event like a concert, show, or movie.
- **Ask for help.** We are here and willing to help support your family any way we can. With a team therapist at your service, feel free to reach out to any member of our team with concerns.
- **Find a special needs friendly event catered to students with special needs.** Recently we were informed that Speech and Language Associates of Mt. Laurel is offering a "Meet the Grinch" and sign language activity at their clinic on December 11th from 3-5pm. For more information you can access their website at speechandlanguageassociates.com.

Most importantly, take care of yourself, ask for help, minimize where you can, and we hope the joy will follow!

Dean of Students

Ray A. Robinson, Jr.

Hello All,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday!

With all that we are encountering in our daily lives, please rest assured that we are doing our best to keep the educational process rolling here at ECS!!

Our staff appreciates your continued support as we forge forward with what is to be considered our "new normal". There are a few dress code items that I'd like to solicit your support about which is the reason that I'm writing you today.

The first item I'd like to touch base on are the **hoodies in school**. While we have no problem with students wearing the hoodies to school, they cannot wear the hood while in school.

Collectively, we have reminded students to remove their hood if we see them wearing it in school and they have complied. I wanted to share this in an effort to partner with the ECS Community so that we reflect the same messaging about the topic with our students. No hoods or hats are allowed to be worn during the day.

The next related item is **ripped jeans**. I understand these jeans are popular and "what's now" and we're okay with that. However, **the skin above the knee** should not be exposed when wearing these jeans. That said, if there are rips in the jeans above the knee, students are to wear tights underneath the jeans to not expose their skin.

Lastly, I thank you for supporting us in our messaging to students about the limited use of cell phones during instructional time. Please continue to tell your student(s) that cell phones should NOT be out during instructional time unless the teacher has given permission. During breakfast and lunch is okay, but we want to make sure that students are limiting their distractions to ensure that they maximize their learning.

With that, continue to have a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Best Regards.

Notes from the Nurse's Office

Cathy Alderman and Mary Ostaszewski

Thank you, Eastampton Community, for your patience, understanding, and cooperation with recent COVID-19 cases and quarantine requirements. Note that our region was recently elevated to HIGH risk level. So per DOH guidance, the quarantine length for unvaccinated individuals is currently 14 days. Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine following exposure. (They should monitor their health and get tested.)

When we are contact tracing, knowing an individual's COVID vaccination status helps us to quickly determine who is required to quarantine and who can remain in school. Therefore, while it is not required if your student is fully vaccinated (two doses), we would appreciate it if you submit documentation of vaccination to the Nurse's Office.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions.

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Learning Is Fun!





