



From the Superintendent:

Well, we are full into the throes of winter and have had to make many early morning or late night weather calls. The ability to pivot to remote teaching and learning has benefited schools greatly.

We are currently screening and interviewing for our open positions:

- Curriculum Supervisor
- Reading Specialist
- Special Education Teacher (SPED) x 2
- Science teacher
- Art Teacher
- Spanish Teacher

If we are fortunate to find SPED teachers before the end of the school year, the start date would be immediate. Also, the start date for the Curriculum Supervisor would be as soon as the selected candidate becomes available.

Communication is one of the areas that we as a district are working to improve with our stakeholders. To that end, we are trying to get email addresses and mobile numbers into our Blackboard Connect system through PowerSchool. Please encourage your families who would like regular updates on school activities to go into PowerSchool and update their information by clicking on 'Forms' on the left menu, and then scrolling down to 'Student Contacts'. There they can check to see that their correct information is in our system, or make changes and additions as needed.

CST Update:

- On February 11th, Eastampton's Special Education Parent Advisory Group hosted a virtual parent training on the Nurtured Heart Approach introducing the book and strategies created by Howard Glasser. <https://childrensuccessfoundation.com/about-nurtured-heart-approach/>. We had a nice turn out. Thank you to all staff who attended and participated!
- The NJDOE is postponing the planned start date for state assessments. This includes the DLM (Dynamic Learning Map) for special needs students identified for this alternative assessment. More information will be forthcoming.
- The first literacy liaison meeting will be held on February 18th with Mrs. Eagles and CST members to discuss literacy interventions, remediation efforts, and strategies to support our at-risk learners.
- Annual Reviews have begun! If possible, we ask special education teachers to please complete their portions of the IEP (Present levels, Needs, Goals/Objectives) one week prior to the actual meeting. Mrs. Wolf will continue to share the updated annual review meeting dates.

Assistant Principal:

Student engagement continues to be a challenge for some of our families in the context of our remote and hybrid models. Certain strategies that we are currently working through have been helpful in bypassing such challenges. One strategy that has worked well includes communication efforts with families through more than one medium. In addition, the use of GoGuardian and other technological systems for communication efforts have worked well to strengthen the student connection to the classroom. Small group learning sessions and office hours have also been helpful in many cases. We continue to be thankful for the efforts of our teachers and support staff as we address these obstacles.