



From the Superintendent

Ambrose F. Duckett, III

On Monday, February 7, Governor Murphy announced the end of Executive Order 251 which mandated mask wearing for staff and students. His decision was made in consultation with the Department of Health and is based on the continued decline and anticipated decline in transmission rates. Just yesterday, I met with the Department of Education and superintendents throughout Burlington County to discuss the end of Executive Order 251, and the overwhelming consensus is that districts will move to “mask optional” beginning on Monday, March 7, 2022. As Eastampton has done in the past, we will follow the recommendations by the Governor and the Department of Health and transition to “mask optional” on March 7, 2022. This date is subject to change if the local numbers increase significantly and/or we’re directed by the DOH. I have been in close contact with Board of Education President Kerry Douglas as we navigate the questions around this latest announcement.

Currently, we have been informed that the DOE and DOH are working on changing the guidance for the following:

1. Contact tracing
2. Quarantining
3. Social distancing guidelines
4. Masks on buses (will remain in effect until the Federal mandate has been lifted)

Please continue to check our website for updates.

As previously stated, the Board of Education (BOE) has made revising our *Mission* and *Vision* statements a BOE goal for the 2021-2022 year. Earlier this school year, our Parent Advisory Group (PAG) met and began this year-long process. PAG agreed to combine the two statements into one. This effort will require the help of our stakeholders. To that end, BOE members Kerry Douglas, Florencia Norton, and I were joined by the team of parents to embark on this process. The team has developed a survey for our students and stakeholders to complete. The children will have an opportunity to complete this survey in class. If you prefer to complete this survey with your child, you may do so before Monday, February 14, 2022. After this date we will ask teachers to facilitate students completing this survey. It is our hope that we can present a new *Mission/Vision* statement to the BOE before the end of the 2021-2022 school year. For any stakeholder who is interested in participating in this process, please join us at our next PAG meeting on March 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Office of Curriculum

Linda Fulleylove

Testing dates for the state-required NJSLA assessments have been established – please see below. 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

Report cards for the 2nd marking period will be available on PowerSchool on February 9th at 3:00 pm. K-5th grade students will receive report cards in an envelope for parent/guardian signature. Please sign on the appropriate line and have your child return the envelope to their classroom teacher.

On Friday, February 18th, Eastampton Community School will be closed for students. The staff will be participating in a full-day in-service. This much needed time will be provided for teachers to collaborate with their colleagues and receive training for best instructional practices.

Lastly, in accordance with state policy, school districts are required to compile survey data regarding the **Safe Return Plan** for this school year. Responses can be submitted through February 24th. To access the survey please click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/LKu9ZChbYyR9pPzd8>