



# Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

[www.evesham.k12.nj.us](http://www.evesham.k12.nj.us) · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent  
Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

February 4, 2022

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Highlights: Black History Month; Proactive notification for whenever the state mask mandate ends; 2021-22 and 2022-23 Calendars; Cool Essay Contest Open to all 5th and 6th Graders; Vacc Clinic Opportunity Feb. 9 at Lenape HS; Community Input Meeting for Residents Who Experience Disabilities, Feb. 15; Friendly reminders from prior Updates.

## **Black History Month**

Our district stands in solidarity with the over 17 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) recently targeted with bomb threats and active shooter threats. These despicable acts are intended to sow fear and disrupt education, which is a means of increased opportunity. That this assault coincides with [Black History Month](#), and a national conversation about the possibility of our first black female Supreme Court Justice, further underlines the importance of this month as recognition of the contributions of African Americans to our country. In fact, today, February 4, there is a virtual panel discussion (linked below) via the Smithsonian Institute about the complicated history of HBCUs.

[A Seat at the Table: The Triumphs and Challenges of Black Education, Friday, February 4, 2022, 7 - 9pm - Heritage and History Month Events | Smithsonian Institution](#)

## **Proactive notification for whenever the state mask mandate ends**

Due to the current state mask mandate in all NJ schools, districts are not permitted to go mask optional at this time. The recent 30 day emergency extension by Gov. Murphy due to end Feb. 10 may be extended again. At the same time, next week, next month, eventually, it may revert to districts to determine their own path (masks optional or required). Whenever the mask mandate ends, if the decision is up to local districts, ETSD will go mask optional as a district for all students and staff, based on individual choice, and continue to assess and evaluate based on data as part of ongoing consideration of all aspects of what we do. Masks would still be welcome and encouraged. But it would be difficult for our district, any district, to enforce masking, when our Governor, NJ Department



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of Health, and NJ Department of Education were not requiring it. Reasons on the “masks optional” arm of the scale start to outweigh those on the other. Among them, wearing masks impedes communication, making it harder to hear, be heard, to see, and be seen. Seeing, hearing, being heard, being seen, these are critical components to the healthy and wholesome development of children. Our earliest lessons as infants are learned through facial expressions. A parent smiling at and nuzzling a baby, the baby mimicking the smile back...it is difficult to overstate the importance of that connection in our core. How does learning go when faces are cut in half? Empathy? Understanding and human connection? All are needed for overall health and survival. After so long, and ever longer, it becomes more and more difficult to deny that choice.

Our 2021-22 [ETSD Safe Return Plan](#) is to follow state guidance regarding masks, and at some point the state mask mandate will end. I share this now for the benefit of clarity and advanced notice.

## 2021-22 and 2022-23 Calendars

Our [2021-22 ETSD Calendar](#) has been adjusted due to the snow make up days accrued thus far. Please note, June 7, already a day of no school for students due to teacher in-service, is now our next available snow make up day, if needed. The intent with this change is to avoid having to make up school days during Spring Break.

Our [2022-23 ETSD District Calendar DRAFT](#), slated for its second reading at our February Board meeting, has been adjusted so the first school day after Winter Break is now Monday, January 2 and so Juneteenth is now observed on June 19. These adjustments mean the last day of school is now Friday, June 16. Snow make-up days if needed would extend school into the week of June 19.

## Cool Essay Contest Open to all 5th and 6th Graders

[Courts, Community, & Rule of Law\\_press release\\_011822 \(2\).pdf](#)

[Courts, Community & Rule of Law\\_Essay Fact Sheet.pdf](#)

## Vacc Clinic Opportunity Feb. 9 at Lenape HS

Vaccine/Booster event for ages 12+ on Feb. 9th from 3-7 pm at Lenape High School. 1st and 2nd Pfizer/Moderna doses also available. Walk-ins welcome. No cost. More details: [Vacc Clinic 2.9.22 Flier](#)



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## **Community Input Meeting for Residents Who Experience Disabilities, Feb. 15**

Township residents who experience disabilities are invited to share information about their experiences in Evesham during an upcoming Evesham Township Community Input Meeting on Feb. 15 at 1 pm. The meeting is also open to family members of those who experience disabilities and other residents who want to contribute to this important conversation. The in-person portion of the meeting is in the Evesham Township Municipal Building. To attend virtually, use this Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_b7wXq8nSRH2bAFQ6jbhGOW](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b7wXq8nSRH2bAFQ6jbhGOW)

Learn more via this [Community Input Meetings](#) flier or our township website:

<https://evesham-nj.org/government/news/531-evesham-to-host-community-input-meetings-for-residents-who-experience-disabilities-on-jan-31-and-feb-15>

## **Friendly reminders from prior Updates**

- TODAY: [Free Dental Services for Ages 13 & Under, 2.4.22](#)
- COVID testing at the Blue Barn, 1004 Tuckerton Rd., Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 8 am - 2 pm, and Sun, 12 pm - 6 pm. [Burl Co COVID Testing Sites.pdf](#)
- YMCA Summer Camp new addition:  
[https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community\\_activities](https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community_activities)
- [Weather-Related Information for ETSD Parents, 2021-22](#)
- Feb. 25–Evesham Education Fundraiser <https://eveshameducationfoundation.org>
- March 24–“All In” Disabilities Awareness Night

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith  
Superintendent of Schools