



Evesham Township School District

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

www.evesham.k12.nj.us · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

August 19, 2022

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: Superintendent Comments from August 2022 Board meeting; Annual Curriculum Revised; Full Day Kindergarten Ballot Initiative; ETSD now hiring!; Calling all potential crossing guards!; Opportunities and Resources.

Superintendent Comments from August 2022 Board meeting

Roughly 3 weeks from today is the First Day of School for the 2022-23 school year! We are so excited for that first day, which is like our true New Year's Day, and having all our students back.

A few highlights from summer...I would like to thank all the staff who worked this summer to provide summer programming and to prepare for the coming year. 846 students participated in our summer programs, an all-time high, besting the previous record of 682 students, which was set last summer. Many, many staff contribute to making these summer educational supports possible, and I'd like to thank each and every staff member who gave their time and talent in this way, in particular our administrators who supervise and set up the programs, starting with our Curriculum department, through our Special Services department with Extended School Year, to our principals as the programs are spread throughout our buildings.

A further summer highlight is the work of our Personnel department and other staff in what has amounted to, simply put, the busiest summer of personnel changes ever. In a typical year, we see about 140 hirings combined. This summer, we have already processed 125: 102 non-certificated and 23 certificated. Less than 2 months into the year, we've already at where we typically are after 12 months. And that work continues daily.

Updates on a few current topics...my weekly Update tomorrow will include a link to the draft curricula on our website that were revised this summer as we make them available to parents per our yearly past practice. These are the finalized drafts for [Computer Science & Design Thinking](#), [Social Studies](#), [Comprehensive Health & PE](#), and [Visual & Performing Arts](#)

My Update tomorrow will also include information about our full day kindergarten ballot initiative, which is our #1 district goal for 2022-25, and how to get involved for anyone interested in helping. As a bit of background for our need for this all-important ballot initiative, I wanted to share that the NJ Dept of Education recently released their 2022 [Taxpayer Guide to Education Spending](#), which allows the public to compare their local district's spending to other



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districts' spending across different categories. Over the past 2 years, I've used Taxpayer Guide info in communications with staff and families as we've navigated titanic state aid reductions. We are currently in Year 5 of those seven straight years of those reductions. It can be seen in looking at the metrics in that guide, that as a district we've gone from being fiscally efficient to fiscally even more efficient over the course of these years of state aid reductions, and that is reflected in our rankings in those various indicators. They show where we rank compared to the other 73 K-8 districts across the state. What I just want to highlight here since it connects back to the ballot initiative for full day K, is that we ranked 58th in cost per pupil (1 = budgets most per pupil, 73 = budgets least per pupil) out of 73 K-8 districts statewide, which basically means that we spend less than the average per pupil out of K-8 districts in the state, about \$2,500 less (state average cost per pupil in all K-8 districts: \$19,060. Cost per pupil in ETSD: \$16,640. [relevant article](#)). We are limited, if we wanted to narrow that gap, by a 2% local tax levy cap every year. All districts have that 2% cap. So, when it comes to being able to provide free full day K for everyone, a ballot initiative allows us to achieve something that other districts already have more money for because they are spending more per pupil. And that is one of many reasons why the ballot question is so sorely needed.

Two last mentions, Evesham Township's 2nd Annual Backpack & School Supply Drive is going on now to support our students with supplies for the upcoming year and it ends this Saturday (tomorrow). Donations can be dropped off at the Municipal Building thru Saturday. Many thanks to everyone who is donating and to the Township of Evesham and Hands Uniting Generations (HUGS) for organizing this effort and support, which Chief Miller is very integral to. Since I mentioned Chief Miller, I want to say congratulations to the Evesham Police Department. On Monday evening here in this very room, they held a swearing in ceremony for 23 officers, the largest number in the history of the department. It was a wonderful event, and we were so glad to be able to provide space and some support for that evening. We wish our new class of officers all the best and thank them for their service.

Lastly, but not leastly, our district would like to give a huge shout out and congratulations to the Marlton Under 10 boys baseball team who won the national Cal Ripken World Series in Indiana, going undefeated, and becoming the #1 ten year old team in the country! We will definitely be inviting them to our September Board meeting to be recognized. We wanted to wait until everyone was back from summer.

That concludes my superintendent's comments. Thank you Mrs. Ryan.



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Annual Curriculum Revised

Please use the link below to access any of the draft revised curricula. This summer the following four areas were updated: Computer Science & Design Thinking, Social Studies, Comprehensive Health & PE, and Visual & Performing Arts. Thank you to all our staff who worked on these revisions. These revised curricula will be recommended for approval at our September board meeting. Curriculum revisions in each subject area are made per yearly past practice through a collaborative process involving teachers and administrators, with input from parents and board members. All curriculum guides are in alignment with the NJ Student Learning Standards. In the area of Comprehensive Health & PE (CHPE), the state requires that all students participate in a comprehensive health and physical education program that emphasizes the natural interdisciplinary connection among wellness, health and physical education. The primary focus of the standards is on the development of knowledge and skills that influence lifelong healthy behaviors within the content of self, family, school and the local and global communities. CHPE is the one area in public schools, as indicated in N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7, that allows for, "Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school a signed statement that any part of instruction in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with the conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course." The district annually sends home each September a parent letter outlining these rights, along with an overview of the health program and steps to review or opt out of particular lessons around specific units of study. [Click here for a CHPE FAQ.](#) In case of questions or for more information, please contact your school principal.

https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/departments/curriculum_instruction/curriculum_areas

Full Day Kindergarten Ballot Initiative

If you are interested in helping with our [District Goal #1, FDK for All](#), please email my secretary Cindy Esposito anytime at espositoc@evesham.k12.nj.us to let us know. Help will be needed especially starting in Spring 2023 thru November 2023 to "get the word out" around town, once the wording of the ballot question is finalized. Our district will draft the ballot question itself during this coming fall and winter, as we develop our 2023-24 budget, since this ballot question may also be needed for other items in addition to FDK, given our district's mission to support our students by maintaining our excellent educational programming despite the state aid reductions past, present, and projected.



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ETSD now hiring! For more info and to apply:

<https://www.applitrack.com/evesham/onlineapp/default.aspx?all=1>

Available positions: Teaching positions; ECC counselors; substitute teachers; computer technician; Teddy Bear Academy assistant teachers, bus drivers, bus aides, lunch aides, and paraprofessionals. Any questions, please contact our Personnel Office at 856-983-1800 or our Director of Personnel Rich Dantine at dantinner@evesham.k12.nj.us Joining our district is a great way to make a difference!

Calling all potential crossing guards!

Looking to give back to our community? To help our fantastic township kids get to and from school safely? Evesham Police is seeking applicants for the position of Crossing Guard. Interested applicants should contact the Evesham Township Department of Human Resources, located at 984 Tuckerton Rd., Marlton. Application available in the HR Office or via this link: <https://evesham-nj.org/government/forms/human-resources/415-employment-application/file> Any questions, please contact Lieutenant Dan Burdette at Burdetted@eveshampd.org or 856-983-1116.

Free/Reduced Lunch Application Packet 2022-23 now available

Any interested families, please complete ETSD's Free/Reduced Lunch application available now on the Food Services webpage on our district website, or via direct link here: [Free & Reduced Lunch Application Packet 2022-23](#). *The US Department of Agriculture program that provided free meals for all students during the pandemic will end with the start of the 2022-23 school year.* Paper copies of this packet are available in our schools' main offices. We strongly encourage families who may be eligible to review and complete this packet as soon as possible and before the start of the school year. In case of questions, please contact our Business Administrator John Recchinti at 856-983-1800, ext. 5040 or via email at recchintij@evesham.k12.nj.us.

Opportunities and Resources

- [Community Activities - Evesham Township School District](#)
- August 27 - [Camp Firefly. Sat. Aug 27. free support for bereaved children](#)
- Family Resource: [NJ Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund](#)



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Justin Smith

Superintendent of Schools