

EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EASTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

50 Payson Avenue, 2nd Floor

Easthampton, MA 01027

(413) 529-1500 TEL

(413) 529-1567 FAX

e-mail: superintendent@epsd.us

website: www.epsd.us



Allison LeClair, Ed.D., Superintendent

April 9, 2020 Announcements

April School Vacation:

The School Committee voted on April 8, 2020 to suspend April vacation for two reasons:

1. Our students and staff are getting acclimated to a routine, and we want to keep that momentum going forward.
2. By agreeing to this, we eliminated 4 days at the end of the school year and the new last day of school is June 18th.

Schedule: No school on Monday, April 20 (Patriot's Day), regular session remaining 4 days April 21-24, 2020.

Zoom:

The media has recently raised some concerns about the use of Zoom, particularly in the school setting, so I wanted to take a moment to provide some information.

Initially, after the school closure, some of our teachers utilized a free version of Zoom to reach students. This was one of the platforms we had available. When we began to really examine our Remote Learning Plan and considered some of the limitations of the free version, as well as the limitations of other platforms we decided that we would purchase the education license for Zoom. **The Education license has the appropriate security settings setup by default. This is different than the Free or professional versions that is getting the media attention.**

This education version, allows us to set more controls on the platform, and enforce them, which means a safer experience for our teachers and our students, with many more options beyond that of Teams, Skype, Hangouts, etc. Beyond our IT Department setting parameters on our Zoom access, teachers are spending today learning all the nuances associated with Zoom meetings. This training will allow them to appropriately manage their class with a clear understanding of the controls they have in their settings.

We feel that these steps will allow us to safely use this tool and reduce any inappropriate behavior, but as always, we will closely monitor the platform for potential issues and act accordingly.

User Fees/Bus Fees/Preschool Fees

We recognize that you may have paid fees to the District that cover services for your students for this school year that are not occurring as a result of the emergency closure of schools due to the global pandemic. Examples include bus fees, athletic user fees and preschool fees. Once we are certain of the number of days of the school year we will not be in session, we can prorate the amount paid based on the number of days in session. We will credit your refund to next year's fees unless your child is a senior with no younger siblings enrolled in Easthampton Public Schools. In those cases, we will issue and send a refund check to you.

We should know more after the proposed May 4th date and will be in touch with more details then.

Scholarships

Just a reminder that the Guidance Department has information on several scholarships. Seniors should be reaching out to the counseling staff via email.

Allison LeClair, Ed.D.
Superintendent

A great place to learn and grow.