

# EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## EASTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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Allison LeClair, Ed.D., Superintendent

April 2, 2020

### REMOTE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES INFORMATION

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you know, our school facilities have been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic since March 16, 2020. Over the past three weeks, Easthampton Public Schools have provided a large menu of online resources for families, as well as remote learning activities, including video conferencing, YouTube, email, pre-recorded lessons - just to name a few! Many students have been engaged and are enjoying connected with staff and classmates.

**Beginning Thursday, April 9, 2020**, we will be implementing new facets to our **Remote Learning Plan** to align with the new guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Here are some highlighted shifts in the plan:

1. PK-8 – classes will continue with engagement, enrichment and skill building to reinforce curriculum standards already taught. *In addition, they will begin teaching new standards and new material at a slower pace than would be typical in a classroom setting. Students will receive a participation grade for actively taking part in the instruction and activities.*
2. 9-12 – classes will continue with engagement, enrichment and skill building to reinforce curriculum standards already taught. *In addition, teachers will begin teaching new standards and new material at a slower pace than would be typical in a classroom setting. Students will receive a credit/no credit grade for completing material and assignments and actively taking part in instruction.*

You can expect to hear more specific information related to instruction at your child's school from the building Principal. The Guidance recommends that districts support students to engage in meaningful and productive learning for approximately half the length of a regular school day. Remote learning takes place via a combination of educator directed learning and student self-directed learning. A detailed version of the **Remote Learning Plan** can be found on the district webpage at [www.epsd.us](http://www.epsd.us).

To prepare for this transition, teachers and staff will be participating in professional development and planning sessions next Tuesday and Wednesday. They will not have student responsibilities on those days. We are utilizing a variety of tools – including Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Google Hangouts, and while we have been dipping our toes into several of these formats, we need to take the time to really learn how to use them to their full capacity. Teachers will also be planning

*A great place to learn and grow.*

lessons with grade level and content area colleagues as we move beyond the already taught curriculum.

Special Education teachers, ELL teachers and individual services providers will be reaching out to the parents/guardians of students with specialized learning needs regarding necessary modifications to the remote instruction.

By participating in remote learning, you and your child are agreeing to comply with privacy issues related to this type of instruction. We ask that you do not record sessions, that you and your child refrain from inappropriate or unacceptable behavior, and that you are sensitive to the fact that these lessons are being provided from individual homes, and students are seeing into others homes, all of which can be anxiety producing for some individuals.

This model will carry us through Governor Baker's mandated closure, with an anticipated return in early May. If anything changes, we will again revisit and refine our plan to accommodate this fluid situation.

If you have concerns related to access for your child, and you have not communicated that with building administration yet, please email your child's principal.

Stay well,

Allison LeClair, Ed. D.  
Superintendent