

EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EASTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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Allison LeClair, Ed.D., Superintendent

Logistical Update #7

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Well, the school year has officially begun for Easthampton educators, as professional development began on Wednesday, Aug. 26th. Normally, on our first day back, we would have a convocation in our high school auditorium –bringing everyone together and building community. This year was a little different, but I hope just as welcoming. I was grateful to welcome everyone and make some comments to staff on our first day together. It was wonderful to see all their faces. I feel confident that our educators and staff are dedicated to making remote learning work – and they are diving in to do all the work they need to ensure success.

Staff are officially welcome in buildings, but not required. Staff have been spending time meeting virtually with administration, learning about Google Classroom and Zoom, as well as taking part in several other virtual offerings. They are spending time in departments and grade levels to begin transferring lessons into the Google classroom sphere and updating lessons to ensure they are “remote learning” friendly.

At this week's School Committee meeting, a vote was taken to allow fall sports to begin. This will include volleyball, golf, soccer, and cross country. More information has been sent out to families and has been posted on our Facebook pages. We also discussed the SRO role in our school again. At this time, the committee decided to seek legal advisories on filing a waiver. In addition, they would like to hold focus groups with students in the coming months to hear about their experiences firsthand.

The School Committee meets again next Tuesday, Sept. 1st at 6 p.m. On the agenda I have asked our Special Education Director to discuss what the term “special populations” means and what we have begun planning for this population of students. I will also speak a little about technology and what we have been working on. We will also discuss tents and how we may be able to utilize them as an option for students to get together.

Negotiations with our union employees continues and we are hopeful that we will continue to make progress. Teachers and paraprofessionals will continue in professional development all week long.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Allison LeClair, Superintendent