

Good afternoon,

In the week's update, we share important information about:

- Cold weather precautions
- Budget Information
- Instructional Schedule
- Home Visits
- Travel Restrictions

COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

The forecast, beginning tonight, is for significantly colder temperatures and severe windchills. This is projected to last at least through the beginning of next week. Please double check that your children are wearing their winter clothing to school. I know it can be challenging to convince students, especially in middle and high school, to wear winter coats and gloves.

Thank you for your assistance with this. If your child is in need of a winter coat or gloves/mittens, please contact your school nurse for assistance.

INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULE

This is a reminder that we have returned to 4 days-per-week of in-person learning as of January 25. All students who attend in person are expected to be in school for 4 days (except for illness, quarantine, etc...). If you intend to have your child return to in-person learning, we need for you to contact the school office at least 3 days in advance, as we require up to 3 days to arrange for their return.

I also need to ask all parents to have a backup plan for childcare in the event that school needs to move to remote learning with little notice, if your child becomes ill, or if they are required to quarantine. So far, we have done well in terms of staffing levels, with only the high school having experienced a staffing shortage resulting in remote learning back in the fall. That said, the possibility remains that we could have enough staff absent - or the absence of certain staff, such as nursing - that could result in the need to move to remote learning with little notice.

HOME VISITS

In an ongoing effort to keep our students engaged and to keep up with the academic work, we have been offering home visits. Teachers, guidance counselors, and social workers may be reaching out to students and their families to schedule a home visit. Please take advantage of the opportunity to help add to the systems of support for your child to stay engaged with school and learning. If you have questions or would like to request a home visit, please contact your building administrator or Don Casella, LICSW at 860-623-3361 ext 7209.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

The Governor continues to have travel restrictions in place. Please review those restrictions prior to traveling outside of Connecticut, except for work. The travel restrictions require people to quarantine after returning to Connecticut. This includes students. The East Windsor schools continue to require the full 14-day quarantine. This is because the CDC continues to share that the incubation period of COVID 19 is 14 days. This decision was made in conjunction with the local health district and out of an abundance of caution for the health of students and staff.

BUDGET UPDATE

Last week, I provided information about the Superintendent's Budget. A copy of that Update can be found here: <https://www.eastwindsork12.org/about-us/news/covid-19-updates/>

On Feb 2, 2021, a Public Hearing is scheduled at which the First Selectman and I will present our budgets to the community. The Zoom information can be found on the Town website at <https://www.eastwindsor-ct.gov/>

Immediately following the Public Hearing, the Board of Education will conduct their first budget workshop. Budget workshops provide an opportunity for each department head – each school principal and then heads of curriculum, facilities, health, technology, special education – to outline what went into the development of each budget. Log in information will be located on our website, under Board of Education, Agendas.

One important part of the school budget includes revenue, or income, to the schools, most often in the form of federal or state grants. Each grant is specific to how it can be used. Some provide assistance to districts with high numbers of low-income students, others are to improve teacher skills and the quality of core instruction. Some are intended to support English language learners, and other grants are focused entirely on technology and digital literacy. When we build our budget and look at how to use these grants, our overwhelming goal is to make sure we're benefiting our students.

There are more revenue sources to consider when we're creating a budget, but we wanted to share some information about grants as they can be targeted to some of our schools' most specific and pressing needs. Next week, I will continue to provide more information about how the BOE budget is created and the programs that we support through the budget recommendations.

Take care,

Christine