

August 12, 2020

East Windsor Update

UPDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR

The updated school calendar was voted on last evening at the BOE meeting.

The first day with students will be Sept 3 for grades 1-12 and Sept 10 for grades PK and K.

Students at the end of the alphabet (Group B) will start Sept 3 and 4 and students at the beginning of the alphabet (Group A) will start Sept 8.

The new calendar will be added to the EWPS website

THANKS FOR THE COMMUNICATION

Thank all of you for the great questions this week! I will continue to provide more specifics in this newsletter. This entire process is moving, we continue to receive updates from Connecticut State Department of Education and our health district and the plan is continuing to develop.

I also encourage you to continue sharing your questions with the building administrators or me. That is the only way we know what you are worried about and can provide you with accurate information.

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INFORMATION UPDATE NEEDED!!!!

As of Aug 10, we have had 455 parents respond to the question about sending their children, 177 of those students will be “opting out” of in person instruction. That means we have responses from approximately 45% of our students and of those who responded, 39% are not planning to come into school physically.

We had 84 from BBES; 57 from EWMS and 37 from EWHS opt out so far.

It is critical for all families to complete the online for which asks which format you will choose for the start of school.

We also need for families to update their phone number and email address in case we need to contact them.

Families also need to provide emergency contacts in case they are unavailable. It is especially important this year.

SO WHAT DOES INSTRUCTION LOOK LIKE?

As of today (you’ll see this phrase a lot), the plan is for teachers generally to deliver “typical” instruction to students Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. I say typical because obviously it’s not the exact same, but teachers would deliver new lessons on those 4 days—the lessons won’t be repeated for each group. When group A is in person, group B will access the class remotely. They will log on for the primary instruction—lecture, model, mini-lesson, read aloud etc.... Whether teachers require students to stay on for the whole class period will depend on what the lesson involves. Some of this information will be part of the ongoing updates once we get into the professional development days and teachers can do more specific work on their planning.

The students who opt out or miss class will be expected to watch the recording of critical parts of the instruction if they are not able to log in live. I do not anticipate entire class periods being recorded daily.

The role of online resources will be shared in more detail—however, we are looking at continuing to use SeeSaw at the elementary school. The middle school and high schools will continue to use the Portal as one resource. All of this will require some patience from all of the staff and families, as well as quite bit of trial and error. No one has re-entered school after a multiple month closure in a world wide pandemic and tried to learn or teach in a hybrid model so this is a new world for staff and families alike!

Health Information

We received some information from the Connecticut Department of Public Health regarding processes when a staff or student is sick which I have attached to this update.

However, the update from DPH does not provide the information most of us are waiting for—which is when we might be required to close classrooms or even the whole school. I have reached out to see if we can get additional information from the state; otherwise we will continue working with our medical advisor and health district to further develop those guidelines. They will be shared with you when they are available.

Sports at East Windsor High School

We are planning a fall sports season in line with CIAC recommendations. Below is our information as of today but please keep watching the Parent Updates and the website in case there are changes.

Our athletes need to access FamilyID at the link below to sign up.

<https://www.familyid.com/programs/east-windsor-high-school-fall-2020>

Start dates: as of today:

Volleyball: August 27th

Cross Country: August 27th

Soccer: August 27th

Football: August 17th

Girls Swim: August 27th

WHAT'S THE ALPHABET!??

Short answers is—we're not sure yet! We're hoping to get the majority of families to answer the opt out question and then we'll look at the enrollment.

We are not splitting each class—we are using the alphabet district wide so we can keep families together but also reduce numbers. Some of your child's classes may be of different sizes, especially at the high school level but they will all be smaller using the hybrid model.

Keep in mind—we are assuming that ALL of our students will be in person at some point so we're just using one dividing point across the district as we start school.

BACKPACK AND POWERPACK PROGRAMS

The East Windsor Social Service Department is asking families to sign up if they are interested in receiving Power Packs at the elementary school or Backpacks for any student. The information is includ-

ed as an attachment with this update and is also on the Parent Portal and the East Windsor town Facebook page.



211 CHILD CARE

We realize that the hybrid model of school is causing challenges for some families for childcare. We are investigating some possible options through FRC but please access www.211childcare.org to search for childcare options in our area.

HOW LONG WILL THE HYBRID LAST?

I will be watching the health indices for our state and immediate area and remain in consultation with the North Central Health District. After a few weeks of using our hybrid model, I will begin to consider moving to in person instruction on a more traditional schedule, keeping the health and safety of staff and students as the primary focus.

Our individual data will be the primary driver of when (or if) we are able to change models. Any need for closure would be done in conjunction with the health district and Department of Education should that need arise.

REMINDER ABOUT MASKS

Please be reminded that all students and staff are required to wear masks on the bus and coming into school buildings. We have extra disposable masks if your child requires one during the day.

Masks must cover the mouth and nose completely and go under the chin. They may not be open under the chin, such as a bandana tied around the head but not secured under the chin.

Gaiters are allowable as they are not open under the chin.

If you believe your child cannot wear a mask due to medical issues, you need to contact your school nurse as soon as possible so we can schedule a meeting to discuss your child's individual needs and a plan moving forward.

Transportation

The bus company and I are meeting to review the cleaning protocols as well as process for loading and unloading students.

Families will be provided the bus runs before school starts—on our website and in the Journal Inquirer.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF

Our staff is going to receive training on many topics when they return to school. Some of those include but aren't limited to:

- Signs and symptoms of illness
- New procedures for taking students to lunch, rest room breaks, masks breaks etc...
- Hand washing and sanitizing expectations
- How to support students with the social emotional challenges of returning to school
- Ways to address the lost instructional time and curriculum changes

Our staff will be preparing to help your students transition into school

Thank you so much for all of the wonderful questions and feedback regarding our plan. I know there are more and more questions so please keep sending them!!

I wish you all a healthy and happy week ahead.

Christine

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



YOUR LOGO
HERE