

East Haddam Public Schools

Brian S. Reas, Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Educators:

We have crossed the midline of April and are still in this distance-learning mode of operation. I can easily remember the stress that came with the original decision to close for two weeks. How could we not have school for two weeks? Yet, here we are a month later with another month, minimum, ahead of us.

Meals are still being distributed from 11am-1pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. We are very proud to have served 2380 meals this week. We could not do it without the volunteers and the very essential staff members in the cafeteria. We are very fortunate to have these individuals.

Grading and report cards are topics on the minds of many parents in town and all over the country. Superintendents, administrators, and teachers are all problem solving to find the best option for the students. At this time, there are many theories and ideas that need to be worked through before we are ready to make a decision about grading. Below are some contributing factors in our decision making.

1. It is imperative that we do not let the pandemic borne challenges negatively affect our students' report cards or transcripts where it can be avoided.
2. We are extremely impressed with our students' ability to stay engaged in their learning and our reporting needs to foster further engagement.
3. The Connecticut State Department of Education and neighboring districts communicated with admissions offices of colleges and universities locally and around the country asking them how they will be processing transcripts that include the spring of 2020.
4. The responses from Colleges and Universities from around the country indicate admissions staff will process transcripts inclusive of the spring of 2020 with an awareness of the pandemic.

We are discussing how to ensure that students have opportunities for celebrations similar to those experienced in the past. From the smaller awards to the ultimate graduation, we know that these moments are very important to our students and families. While we are still planning to return to school on May 21, consistent with the Governor's order, we have started the process of planning alternates for these celebrations just in case.

The Board of Education and town meetings have all changed to a virtual model. Information on the April Board of Education regular meeting April 21, 2020, is on the website, www.easthaddamschools.org. Within the agenda is a link to watch the meeting on YouTube.

We are adjusting every day to the feedback we receive through your emails, calls and survey responses. We are very aware that your experience as a family is different from house to house, child to child, and in some cases, moment to moment. We have found some creative solutions to a variety of questions and concerns. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of us for assistance or just to let us know how things are going.

Sincerely,



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Superintendent of Schools

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Check us out at: www.easthaddamschools.org

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