

East Haddam Public Schools

Brian S. Reas, Superintendent of Schools

| 860-873-5090 |

brian.reas@easthaddamschools.org

June 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Educators,

This week I have been contemplating if a statement from the superintendent was needed in light of the global unrest that has accelerated this week with the protests, violence and the pandemic. There are so many perspectives, feelings, and complexities to all of the turmoil that I am not sure where to start.

After much pondering, here is where I landed. Last year, when we were talking with students about what was important in the strategic plan, our students from elementary to middle school to high school inserted a word and concept into the plan. The word was *Empathy*. One high school student, when asked what was most important to learn, responded (paraphrased) *"I don't care if everyone agrees with everyone, I just think we should learn to understand how the other person sees it"*. In the midst of the global turmoil, I think this is the best wisdom that I can pass on to parents as they talk to their children.

If your conversation with your child gets more complex than you were planning, do not hesitate to reach out to us. There are many resources and people available here to help you, even if the first person you talk to can't help, they can direct you to others.

I hope this letter in the first week of June finds you well and you are able to take a deep breath or two this weekend.

Sincerely,



Brian S. Reas
Superintendent of Schools

1 Plains Road, P.O. Box 401, Moodus, CT 06469

Fax: 860-873-5092

Check us out at: www.easthaddamschools.org

Connect with us @easthaddamsd

