



## EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 220 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 • (860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

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Director of  
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and Growth Management

August 15, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The start of a new school year is upon us, and I hope that everyone has enjoyed the past two months and all that summer vacation brings. We have been very busy preparing for August 29, 2022 (the first day of school), and we are excited to welcome everyone back for the 2022-2023 school year! Our administration and staff are also diligently preparing for everyone's return, and our school buildings and bus transportation will be ready for day one!

Here are a few important updates to share as we begin our new school year:

- Regarding student breakfast and lunch, thanks to the USDA nationwide waivers for federally funded meal programs, school meals were free to all students for breakfast and lunch through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. These waivers have expired as of June 30, 2022. On August 2, 2022, the State of Connecticut Department of Education released that they will be allocating funds for a transition period (free meals changing back to breakfast/lunch fees for students) to start the 2022-2023 school year. The purpose of these funds is to give families the opportunity to fill out the Free and Reduced applications as we transition back to paying for meals. Meals (breakfast and lunch) will be free to start the school year, and then we will provide families with 30 days' notice of the end date when state funds run out, and we return to pre-pandemic meal status (Free, Reduced, and Full Price Meals). **We anticipate this transition to take place sometime in November. Further details, updates, and information will be forthcoming.**
- CSDE and DPH have provided updated guidance and illness prevention strategies for schools. You can find this information in their [Launching into Healthy Learning](#) document and the [Healthy Learning Operational Strategies](#) document, which were recently shared with school districts. These documents provide strategies and information that are 'recommendations' for school districts. We will encourage these measures, but we will not require them.
- Please be on the lookout for a Central Office quarterly 'District Newsletter,' which will provide updates for the East Lyme Public Schools Community. The first newsletter will be out in September.

*East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.*



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It is our hope that your children are excited and ready to return to the classroom! Collectively we will work together to provide an excellent experience for all. As our Mission Statement says, we will **continue to inspire, engage, and educate our children to the greatest extent possible**. Enjoy the remaining days of summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone back in our buildings on Monday, August 29, 2022.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton  
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc