August 22, 2021

EMES Mission Statement

"The purpose of our school is to teach all children to become competent, caring citizens and life-long learners through a challenging and relevant curriculum."

2021-2022 EMES Family Newsletter

Alicia Lyford, Principal

Dear EMES Families -

I would like to officially welcome you to the start of the 2021-2022 school year! Our teachers spent time last week collaborating together, meeting new colleagues, and reviewing practices and procedures to start our year with students. We will continue to work together over the next three days and are so excited to welcome your children back on Thursday! If you haven't heard from your child's classroom teacher yet, you should within the next day or so. Similar to last year, we are checking in with all families prior to starting our year together.

I want to begin by introducing some new faces to EMES as well as share some changes in roles to our staffing. In our Learning Center, Amadeus Dorfman and Shannon MacKinnon join us as our two new special educators, replacing Ted and Ashley. Amadeus grew up in Central VT and is a recent graduate of UVM. Shannon comes to us from Cape Cod and recently relocated to Central VT with her partner who is working at Norwich. Dina Lehrer joins our para-educators, working with students across the grades. Dina is a long-time school nurse and para-educator. Susie Deforge will be replacing Jane Badger in our front office, library, and Pre-K classroom. Carrie Fitz joins Christine Christiano and Beth Parker as our third interventionist this year, replacing Kathy Christy. Kim Brown will be moving back to Pre-K this year to work with Heather Clark-Warner and our little ones, replacing Kathe Stone. We are still looking for a replacement for Kim, who most recently served in the role of Behavior Interventionist in our primary grades. Please join me in welcoming our new staff!

I want to thank you for your patience as we try to navigate these somewhat familiar and somewhat new waters of beginning a school year in a pandemic. As you heard from Acting Superintendent, Jen Miller-Arsenault, and Covid Coordinator, Maria Melekos on Friday, we are finally ready to share what the year will look like in WCUUSD and at EMES, based on the most current guidance. On page 2 of this newsletter, I will share some important highlights around our practices; what looks the same, and what will look different at EMES this year. As we experienced last year, things will likely change some as time goes on. In a few days, I will also send you our 2021-2022 family handbook, which will share all the details of our practices and procedures this year. Thank you for supporting us all in having another amazing school year, despite the obstacles and barriers we are all facing. Your children were total rock stars last year, and I just know they'll thrive again this year at EMES.

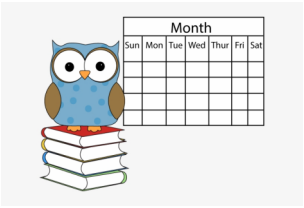
Enjoy these last few days with your kiddos before the new school year begins! We can't wait to see them on Thursday!

Best,
Alicia, EMES Principal

Practice/Procedure	2021-2022 Updates
Masks	Similar to last year, ALL EMES staff and students will wear masks in the school building and on school buses. Students and staff can remove their masks when outside the building.
Distancing and Podding	Similar to last year, in addition to wearing masks, EMES will focus on teaching boundaries/personal space and good hand washing practices as effective mitigation strategies. We will also adhere to guidelines around >6' distancing when eating. EMES naturally Pods our students much of the school day, as students typically spend the majority of their day with their classmates. As we did last year, there will be mixing of students for learning opportunities such as interventions, buddies, and services. Students will not be podded for recess this year and will be mixed with others while outdoors at this time.
What to do when sick	Similar to last year, students and staff should stay home when feeling ill until they are symptom-free for 24 hours. If a child or adult begins to feel ill while at school, they will need to go home as soon as possible.
Arrival	Our arrival procedures will look very similar to last year. K-6 students will arrive between 8:40—8:45 and will enter through the front doors. Hands will be sanitized (no temperatures taken), breakfast will be served in the front lobby, and students will walk down to their classroom. Pre-K students will use the doors closest to the Pre-K classroom. With a few exceptions in Pre-K and Kindergarten, parents will not be able to bring their children into the school building at this time.
Unified Arts	Unlike last year, students will have ALL of their UArts classes each week...Art, Music, PE, and Library. They will also have regularly scheduled Guidance and Health classes. Our library, art room, music room, and gym will be open for classes, though students will continue to have PE outdoors as much as possible.
Lunch	Similar to last year, students will eat outside with their classmates unless the weather does not allow for it. In that case, students will eat in their own classrooms. The cafeteria will remain closed for mixed-classroom eating at this time. A change for this year is that students will get their lunch in the kitchen rather than having it delivered to their classrooms.
Recess	Unlike last year, students will NOT be podded for recess at this time. Students will be grouped K-3 and 4-6 for recess.
Dismissal	Our dismissal procedures will look the same as they did last year. Parents will pick their students up in the front loop and will remain in their car while we bring your student to you. A complete dismissal guide can be found in the family handbook.
Guests, Visitors, Volunteers, and Field Trips	While Washington County is in the "high" transmission rate zone, we will not have guests in our building. Our hope is to welcome outside guests back this year, but at this time it is just not safe to do so. We are hoping to bring some field trips back this year in a Covid-safe manner, including our All School Hike. More on this soon!
Individual Classroom Bathrooms	Similar to last year, each classroom will be assigned a bathroom to use for the year. Students will not have access to all bathrooms in the building—we have found this practice to work well for many reasons!
Water Fountains	These will continue to be turned off this year. Students should bring a water bottle to school and can fill their water up in our sinks.
Outside Food	Unlike last year, parents are able to send in healthy snacks for classroom celebrations, etc. As in the past, please work with your child's classroom teacher around this and adhere to our nutrition guidelines.

Upcoming Dates to Note:
(*we recently learned that Lifetouch needs to reschedule our Picture Days—stay tuned for new dates!)*

⇒ **Monday, August 23rd: 5:00—6:00** Virtual Community Forum to discuss ESSER Funds and Moving Forward Plan (see WCUUSD website for more details)
⇒ **Thursday, August 26th**: First day of school!
⇒ **Saturday, August 28th:** Covid vaccine clinic at U-32 2:00—8:00pm
⇒ **Monday, September 6th**: Labor Day – no school
⇒ **Saturday, September 18th:** Covid vaccine clinic at Berlin Elementary School 2:00—8:00pm
⇒ **Saturday, October 9th:** Covid vaccine clinic at U-32 2:00—8:00 pm
⇒ **Wednesday, November 3rd:** 12:30 early release Wednesday
⇒ **Thursday, November 11th:** Parent/Teacher conferences—no school for students



Vermont Youth Theater, at EMES

Wednesdays
4:00-5:15
Merlyn and Wart, the Young King
Level: Beginner/Intermediate, ages 8-13
Sept 15 – Dec 4

Fridays
4:00-5:15
Merlyn's Wizard School
Level: Beginner/Intermediate, ages 9-13
Sept 17 – Dec 4

Details online at vermontyouththeater.com or please email fineartsbarn@gmail.com

Instructor: Mary List-Wheeler

Greetings East Montpelier Soccer Families!

Registration is officially OPEN for the 2021 Soccer season at EMES! We are holding a season for our **Pre-**Kindergarteners to 6th graders to start shortly after school begins.

To help us plan our season best, please go ahead and register your player at your earliest convenience. We are in search of coaches for our 3/4 Girls team and will require many volunteers for our **Pre-**K-2 group as well. You do NOT need to have soccer skills to be a great coach! If you aren't sure but love working with the kids and helping out please reach out to me at kcbean8@gmail.com or 802-595-3884.

Please visit here for more information and the link for registration. Have a wonderful rest of the summer! https://www.eastmontpelierrecreation.org/soccer/registration-and-general-information

Seeking Student (Grades 8-12) Soccer Referees for EMES Games!

Each year we rely on student referees for our EMES home soccer games. Referees earn $10 per game, must be in grades 8-12, some familiarity with the game of soccer recommended, and referee training will be provided. Games consist of two 20 or 25 minute halves (depending on grade level) and referees can choose the games that fit their schedules. If you have a player with an older sibling or know of someone else who might be interested, please contact Micah Howe at micah.j.howe@gmail.com.

EMES and WCUUSD Celebrate Arlyn Bruccoli, UVM Outstanding Teacher!

Last Friday morning, all WCUUSD staff gathered together via Zoom for our annual welcome back celebration. As part of this, I was honored to present our very own Arlyn Bruccoli with the UVM Outstanding Teacher Award. Each year, WCUUSD recognizes one elementary and one middle/high school teacher for this special recognition. It was with pride that I presented this award to Ms. Arlyn Friday morning. Arlyn will join others from across the state later this fall to be recognized again. Below is the speech I shared on Friday morning:

For the past eleven years, Arlyn has served as our Librarian and Technology Integrationist with amazing success. She is a compassionate educator and amazing colleague. She is committed to building strong connections with students and enhancing the community of EMES. With her many hats, Arlyn works tirelessly to ensure the success of all students and staff. She is an example of the type of educator that the children of Vermont deserve.

Under her guidance and through her creative programming, the library is an inclusive and welcoming hub of our school community. Arlyn is thoughtful about creating a diverse library collection that allows students opportunities to explore different perspectives and ideas, find characters who they connect with, and research topics that are important to them. She always goes above and beyond to help students engage with books. She has brought weekly Book Lunch talks (aka BLTs) where children meet over lunch to talk about books. Arlyn also coordinates and hosts an after school Golden Dome Book Club (formerly known as DCF award). These events are hugely popular and well attended by students. Last year, when the library closed due to Covid, Arlyn worked tirelessly to bring books to classrooms for "book picks" and to create exciting lessons around her read-alouds. With her supportive nature and creative ideas, Arlyn is growing readers and thinkers who want to be in the library. Each June you can find Arlyn buried among hundreds of book bags as she encourages students to continue their reading through the Summer Book Bag program.

As a tech integrationist, Arlyn has created a vibrant robotics program; teaching both students and staff how to use and integrate a wide range of technology in the classroom. Our school now has a highly technologically literate population and students are learning to use 21st Century skills in appropriate ways. In addition to integrating technology in the classroom, Arlyn has led our EMES Tech Club, growing students to be leaders in technology and providing them with opportunities to showcase their learning through annual Technology Nights. With help from colleagues, Arlyn spearheaded the EMES Makerspace which brings low and no tech hands-on learning opportunities to our students. Arlyn never shies away from trying something new and is a great model for our students and staff about how to be adventurous and creative with our learning.

As a colleague, Arlyn is an incredible collaborator. She designs units and co-teaches with classroom teachers weekly. She leads her team of Unified Arts in professional development and supports her colleagues around rolling out SBAC each spring. In addition, she is masterful at creating adult learning opportunities that support teachers across our district and across our state. She creates differentiated training materials that meet a variety of adult needs and her work around Infinite Campus Canvas are testament to this. Arlyn is selfless with her time, often putting aside her own long list of things to do to teach a teacher how to use a tool, navigate a website, fix a jammed printer, plan a lesson, or give students extra TLC and SEL support. One teacher stated, “As a learner, I can say that I have benefited from working with Arlyn. With Arlyn’s support and guidance, I have learned skills and accessed technologies I did not know existed. I have become a stronger teacher, a better collaborator and my students have benefited from this knowledge. Arlyn has continued to support me as I attempt to learn and improve my use of technology at various grade levels.”

Arlyn Bruccoli is highly deserving of the UVM Outstanding Teacher Award. Her skills, knowledge, compassion and dedication are outstanding. She is a teacher of teachers with a heart of gold when it comes to making decisions to best meet the needs of all students and supporting teachers in their quest for excellence. Whether it’s engaging students in a read aloud, sharing new books via booktalks, building robotics, coding, integrating curriculum, teaching social justice issues, fixing broken down computers, printers, phones, etc., Aryln does it all.