

September 20, 2020



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.”

Alicia Lyford, Principal

2020-2021 EMES Family Newsletter

Dear EMES Families -

We've had the most wonderful two weeks with your children! To hear the sounds of students talking with one another, laughing together, and learning alongside each other, just melts my heart. After all the time we spent this summer planning and crossing our fingers that we would all be able to be together again, it's finally happened. From my perspective, your children are thriving, and in most cases it's as if they haven't missed a beat! They're champs when it comes to adhering to our safety guidelines; following our procedures without question or issue. I am so proud of their smooth transition back and hope you're hearing similar things at home!

Much of the first week was spent learning new routines and practicing old ones. We have tried to keep the traditions that we are all familiar with (and work!) like our PBIS all-school behavior expectations, earning woodchips for expected behaviors, celebrating birthdays over announcements, and other classroom-based Responsive Classroom practices, so that not everything is new and different. We've also spent a lot of time learning new practices like using one bathroom per pod/classroom, eating lunch in the classroom, keeping masks on inside or outside when not safely distanced, and washing (and yes, sanitizing!) hands regularly. Now that our routines are established, we're becoming more and more efficient by the day. Our first day arrival and dismissal took over 30 minutes (as many of you remember!), and we're now down to under 15 minutes from start to finish. I'm just so proud of how quickly we're learning this new world of school :).

Now that we've got the routines under our belt, classes will begin our beginning-of-year assessments. In most cases we are starting with math assessments and will move on to our literacy-based assessments. These will help us gauge where your children are at in each area, and will allow for us to make programmatic decisions based on the results. We know that for some students there will be a larger than normal "summer slide," and for others there will be little to no gap at all. I believe with our interventions and supports this year we are well poised to meet the needs of students wherever they are at.

Enjoy the rest of this beautiful Sunday. I am headed to NH with my family to visit my daughter at college and go apple picking!

Best,

Alicia

Upcoming Dates to Note at EMES:

- ⇒ Monday, Oct 12th: In-service—no school
- ⇒ Wednesday, Oct 28th: Picture Retake Day (Picture Day for Remote Students)
- ⇒ Tuesday, Nov 3rd: Voting Day at EMES—This will be a REMOTE DAY for ALL STUDENTS (more to come!)
- ⇒ Wednesday, Nov 11th: Parent/Teacher Conferences—no school
- ⇒ Wednesday, Nov 25—Friday, Nov 27: Thanksgiving break

Base Camp:

As the mornings get colder, it is important that our entry into the building is quick and efficient. In order to help move students inside quickly, completing the Base Camp screening at home every morning for each child will move this along quickly. If students have not been screened yet, they will be asked the kid-friendly version of questions before heading to their class (sometimes there is a brief wait and students needing a screening may need to wait a couple of minutes outdoors before a screener is available inside the lobby). When students complete Base Camp, entry into the school is almost a steady flow that takes only seconds.

Please do your very best to submit the morning screening through Base Camp every morning before school and check out How to use Base Camp Health or call us at school if you have any questions.

Students who have already had the Base Camp screening have a quick temperature check (less than 1 second) and then head on their way to class. Students needing a full screening have about a 1-2 minute screening. It's no problem and we're happy to do it but it helps your child get quickly inside the warm building and to their classroom if this is completed.

Please make every effort to submit before 8:30am

Annual Forms:

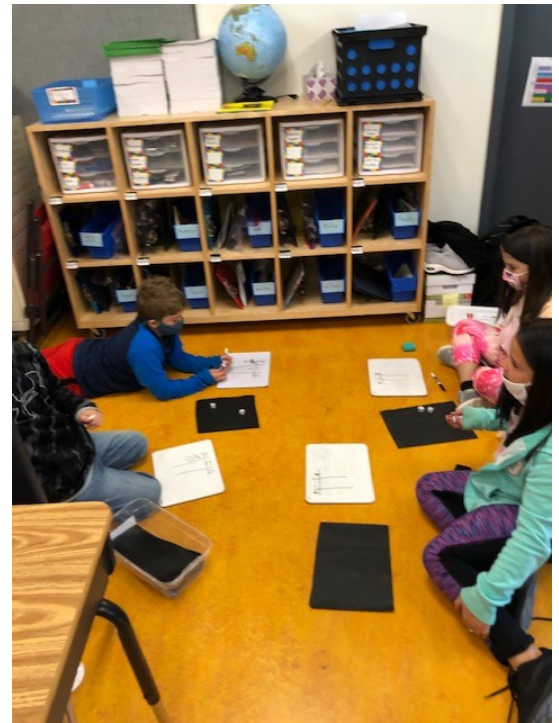
If you have not yet done so, please complete the required Annual Forms and return them to EMES at your earliest convenience. We ask that both in-person and remote EMES students return completed Annual Forms to the front office.

Please contact Jodi Parker if you require another copy of the Annual Forms at jparker@u32.org or (802) 223-7936 ext 301

Attention Kindergarten Parents:

If you have been walking your kindergartener to their classroom in the morning, changes to this practice will happen over the course of this week. We will be transitioning to drop-off in front of the building so that we continue to limit the number of people entering our school building. Thank you for working with your child on this—we know they'll be successful with this transition!







SEPTEMBER 2020

East Montpelier Elementary School

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

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14

15

16

17

18

Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce
Fresh fruit & Veggies
Milk
Sandwich of the day: Turkey & Cheese

21

Chicken Stew
Manghi's roll
Fresh Fruit
Milk
Sandwich of the Day: Egg Salad

22

Corn Dogs
Goldfish
Fresh Fruit and Veggies
Milk
Sandwich of the Day: Ham & Cheese

23

Shepherd's Pie
Fresh Fruit & Veggies
Milk
Sandwich of the Day: Tuna Salad

24

Pizza
Fresh Fruit and Veggies
Milk
Raspberry filled cookies
Sandwich of the day: Chicken Salad

25

Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets
Sunchips
Fresh Fruit and Veggies
Milk
Sandwich of the Day: Turkey & Cheese

28

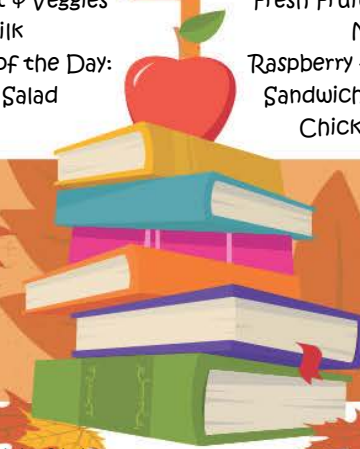
Cheese Tortellini
Meat Sauce
Fresh Fruit & Veggies
Milk
Sandwich of the Day: Egg Salad

29

Chicken Noodle Soup
Manghi's Roll
Fresh Fruit & Veggies
Milk
Sandwich of the Day: Ham & Cheese

30

Breakfast and Lunch are free until December 31 or until funds run out.
We are an equal opportunity institution
Menu subject to change



Travel Information



As you make fall plans with your families for travel or hosting other travelers, please keep travel restriction information in mind. It is important that we follow all the State guidance for safe travel and necessary quarantining.

When does my family/child have to quarantine due to travel?

Students who travel to, or arrive from, out-of-state must follow ACCD and Health Department guidance around quarantine before returning to school. **This includes travel out-of-state at any point during the school year and includes day trips and school vacations.**

These are exceptions to the quarantine requirement:

- **Travelers from select counties do not need to quarantine.** Travelers from certain counties with low rates of active cases do not need to quarantine when they arrive in Vermont.
- **People traveling for essential purposes do not need to quarantine.** *Essential travel includes travel for personal safety, medical care, care of others, parental shared custody, for food, beverage or medicine, or to perform work for businesses that are currently allowed to operate.*
- **People who live near the Vermont border and regularly travel to and from a neighboring state** may make day trips to Vermont for essential work, health care, and other essential needs like groceries or visitation for parental shared custody without quarantining.

Regardless of whether your travel out of state falls under an exception listed above, the VT Department of Health advises that *if one of these exceptions applies to your travel you still should only **travel to Vermont in a personal vehicle**. During your travel, **only stop when necessary**. When you stop, wear a face mask, keep a 6-foot distance from others, and wash your hands often. Stay home and do not travel if you are sick.*

More information around quarantining requirements can be found on the Agency of Commerce and Development website <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>. The information is updated every Friday.

Please go to the Vermont Department of Health website for additional up to date information.
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/traveling-vermont>

Can we travel out of state or by public transportation (plane)? *(Updated 8/12)*

Travel to other states, especially with airline travel that includes stops and layovers, would all **require** families to quarantine within their home for 2 weeks upon return. When planning a vacation or other travel (out of the Northeast and/or by plane) please take into account whether you can afford the time that you will need once you return.

Does my family have to quarantine if we host out of state visitors? *(updated 8/12)*

If you are hosting travelers under quarantine in your home or lodging, you do not also need to quarantine but we would like to encourage families to think deeply and plan carefully for this event.

Factors to consider: Is your family confident in the behaviors of your guests before they come for a visit? Can you realistically provide the type of separation in your home that would be required if the house guests are going to quarantine for 2 weeks in Vermont, possibly including a separate bathroom? Do you have the time and want to spend a significant amount of the visit doing extra housecleaning? Finally, and **most importantly**, are you prepared for the whole family to need to go into isolation for 10 days or more if your guests subsequently develop symptoms of COVID-19, which would then classify your host family as close contacts to a confirmed case, and thus under a whole separate set of regulations and guidelines? (Adapted from information from the VT Department of Health)

If you do choose to host out of state visitors, the Department of Health recommends that you stay at least six feet from the people under quarantine. People under quarantine should wear a mask in common spaces. Bedrooms should not be shared. Hosts should disinfect commonly touched surfaces and check for symptoms for 14 days.