

May 30, 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

2019-2020 EMES Family Newsletter

Dear EMES Families -

It's hard to believe there are only 9 days of school left this year! I am sure with the summer-like temperatures this past week, you're anxious to put this school year behind you and are looking forward to summer break with less screen time and more outdoor time. I know these last few months have not been easy on families and I am so appreciative of the incredible effort you've all put into making remote learning work for your children. Each family situation is unique, and we realize the incredible burden this has been for so many of you. I look forward to the day when we can see each other again in person, and I'm sure you do too!

This newsletter has a lot of end-of-year information in it, including procedures on how to return your chrome books, how to pick up your children's work and other belongings such as the yearbook, sixth-grade graduation, and what report cards will look like in June. Please take the time to read this through so you're up-to-speed on what these last two weeks will look like.

We have finalized classroom placement for 2020-2021. Your child's current teacher will be reaching out to you by the end of the day tomorrow (Monday) with their class placement for next year. Please check your email! We will spend time at the beginning of the year bringing closure to their class of 2019-2020 before moving on to next year's teacher. We'll share more about this before we return in August, but rest assured that we will make sure to say proper in-person goodbyes to their teachers and fellow classmates this year.

A favorite year-end festivity at EMES is Field Day, which takes place the last week of school. We are in the process of planning a Virtual Field Day for students, families, and staff to participate in on Wednesday, June 10th...more to come in the next newsletter!

Our sixth graders are graduating on Thursday, June 11th! The details of this Drive-"Bye" graduation are outlined below. If you would like to cheer the sixth graders on, please join us in your car on Vincent Flats or Cherry Tree Hill at 6pm that evening!

Stay well,
Alicia

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

June 10: Virtual Field Day

June 11th: Last Day for Students

June 11th: Sixth Grade Graduation 6pm

June 15—18: Chrome Book Return; Material,
Yearbook, Belonging Pick-Up

Week of June 22: Final Report Cards Mailed Home



EMES staff participated in a "Drive-by" baby shower for Stephanie Deforge Lefevre last Wednesday. Stephanie and her husband Jason are expecting their baby in June.



Hello EMES Community,

It is with a heavy heart I write to tell you I have accepted a job teaching art in my home town in the Mad River Valley. This is such a bittersweet letter to write. While it is exciting to be able to teach in the community in which I live, I know I am leaving behind an amazing school, staff, and students. I want to thank the communities for welcoming me with open arms. Words can't say how much I have enjoyed my job for the past three years! The love of art, and creative energy in the community is inspiring, and I am forever grateful for all the happy memories I get to take with me. Stay Awesome EMES!

Love, Mrs. Morse



Dear EMES Friends

While we don't know what books won the Red Clover or Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Awards yet, we do know which ones were the most popular at EMES.

Potato Pants by Laurie Keller was the Red Clover book that received the most votes from Kindergarten through 4th grade students at EMES.

Small Spaces by Katherine Arden was the Dorothy Canfield Fisher book that received the most votes from EMES 4th - 6th graders.

I will share the statewide winners when I know.

-Arlyn

EMES Library Books for Summer!

Who: All students returning to EMES next year. You must return your current library books first. You can request to renew 1 book you currently have.

How: [Click here to request books for summer.](#)

When: Families can pick up your Summer books when they come to school to collect your schoolwork &/or return your chromebook the week of June 15th.



Chromebook Return and Belonging Pick Up

During this time of remote learning students will need to have continued access to their school issued computers/devices through the end of the school year. Our official last student day is Thursday, June 11th. In an effort to reduce breakage and help get devices back to school, we are asking families to return their student's school issued computer (or iPad in some circumstances) and power cord directly to the school. We ask that return your child's computer and power cord to EMES between 8:00am - 4:00pm on: Friday, June 12th—Wednesday, June 17th. **Sixth grade graduates will return their Chromebook and school materials on Thursday, June 18th and Friday, June 19th between 8:00am—4:00pm.**

Similar to the Chromebook pick-up in March, we ask that parents come to the front entrance of the building and we will exchange materials through the window in the main office. We also ask that you wear a mask or face covering.

In addition to Chromebooks, iPads, and charge cords, we expect that students/families will also return the following items:

- * Library books and/or classroom books
- * School-owned instruments
- * Other classroom materials and anything else that has been borrowed or loaned during this time, including USB drives

We are in the process of bagging up your child's belongings and schoolwork that was completed prior to March 18th. We will have these ready to give to you along with your copy of the EMES year-book when you return your Chromebook.

We recognize this may be difficult for some families and will make alternate arrangements for families who are not able to return the computer and power cord to the school building. If you anticipate that you will not be able to return your child's device during that time frame, [please complete this form](#).

Closure of EMES Playground and Outside Recreational Areas

From learning that COVID-19 can live on certain surfaces for up to three days, all WCUUSD school playgrounds, tennis courts, and other outdoor recreational areas have been closed at this time and until the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order has been lifted. This is to help reduce community spread of COVID-19. Signs have been posted and we ask the community to refrain from using them for the immediate future.

We know that our students likely miss their friends from school but we want to emphasize that congregating, even outside, is not encouraged. Students and families should not use school grounds at this time and we are hopeful that you are finding other ways for kids to stay connected with peers during this challenging time.

We encourage our EMES families to continue taking advantage of the outdoors near your homes and at a safe social distance if you are otherwise in the community. We appreciate your understanding of our efforts to flatten the curve.

WARNING
THIS AREA IS
CLOSED DUE TO
COVID-19.

PLEASE STAY
HOME UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

End of Year Reporting

Thank you for your continued support during this period of remote learning. We are grateful for you and acknowledge that many of you have unexpectedly become teachers in addition to parents for the first time in your lives. We also recognize that elementary students aren't able to work independently in the same way middle and high school students can, and we want to thank you for all the non-traditional learning opportunities you have provided your children; they are growing and learning in so many ways! We have come to rely on you and our partnership like never before. The relationships we have fostered during this time have made the connection between school and family even stronger.

Teachers and administrators have been working on our end-of-year plans around grading/scoring and reporting. We have created a plan that is based on our best thinking and current instructional practices. This plan was developed in consultation with teachers, principals, other districts, and a review of state education agency materials. We will continue to monitor and review our plan and make adjustments and modifications as necessary over the next few weeks. This work has been an ongoing process as elementary grade-level teams worked together to identify the performance indicators that remained to be taught this spring. We have tried to maintain a balance between providing students with a solid base for next year and ensuring that what we are asking of them is both reasonable and attainable from home.

Feedback has always been the backbone of classroom teaching, and teachers continue to provide feedback and guidance to help students build on their strengths and fill identified gaps. At the end of the academic year in June, students will not receive traditional scores on their report card. They will receive a written narrative report card, similar to progress reports that have been given in the past. This narrative will allow us to highlight their learning since January, by identifying areas of strength and areas for growth as we look ahead to next year.

In the fall, our robust battery of beginning-of-year assessments will give us the information we need about math, reading, writing, and spelling, in order to meet students where they are in their learning and chart the path forward. These assessments will help us bridge the skill gap due to this spring's loss of in school instructional time. We will also be committed to providing students with the support they will need for their social and emotional learning and health.

We realize that families are anxious to know what the start of next year will look like, and we are committed to letting you know as soon as we have that information. We expect that this will be an evolving situation over time, and we recognize that this prolonged period of school closure is impacting your families in a multitude of ways. Thank you for all you are doing to support your students and our school during this unprecedented time in education. We couldn't do this work without you and your continued support.

Sincerely,

WCUUSD Instructional Task Force

East Montpelier Elementary School will honor the Sixth Grade Class of 2020

Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:00pm

This in-person event will take place on Vincent Flats Road in front of EMES

Sixth Grade Celebration Details

- Due to current public health guidance that restricts in-person gatherings, EMES will host an out-door celebration for our graduating class on the evening of June 11th at 6pm.
- Students and their immediate families will line up in their vehicles beyond EMES on Vincent Flats and Dodge Road just before 6pm. At 6pm, when flagged, vehicles will proceed through the bus lane one by one, in order for students to receive their certificates IN PERSON from Mrs. Lyford in front of the EMES entrance in a “Drive-Thru” style (only one car per family please).
- In order for this in-person component to occur, students and families will be required to follow public health and Vermont Agency of Education guidelines:
 - Only the sixth grade student will be able to exit the vehicle, wearing a mask and maintaining 6 feet distance to pick up their certificate from Mrs. Lyford.
 - Family members will be required to remain in vehicles but can take photos from cars and a staff member will also be taking photos to share with you.
 - Once students obtain their certificates, they will get back into their vehicle and proceed down Vincent Flats Road where they will be greeted by EMES staff in decorated vehicles honoring the graduates.
 - Students and families will not be able to gather in-person at EMES. Your understanding and cooperation are essential in order for this special event to safely occur.
- Extended family members can park along Vincent Flats Road and Cherry Tree Hill Road with EMES staff members to honk at and celebrate students as they drive by after receiving their certificates. Extended family members must remain in their cars for everyone’s safety.

Formal Ceremony Details

- As is tradition at EMES, we will be putting together a slideshow for our graduates. Parents, please email three pictures of your children, clearly labeled with their name, to Arlyn Bruccoli @ abruccoli@u32.org by Friday, June 5th in order to have them included in the slideshow. Traditionally, these are a baby photo, an earlier photo and a current photo.
- Mrs. Shedd, Mr. Willard, and other EMES staff will be presenting pre-recorded speeches for our graduating class. An electronic copy of this ceremony, along with the slideshow, will be available for each graduating sixth-grader when they return their chromebooks and pick up their materials on June 18th or 19th at EMES. Given the amount of time it takes to put this video together, it will not be available until the week after the graduation ceremony. Thank you for understanding!

We know that this ceremony will not be the same as we originally planned.

*We also know that this ceremony **WILL** be special and we can't wait to honor our students!*