

District Newsletter

Fall 2022

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Welcome to the EPS Newsletter

Periodically throughout the year, this district newsletter will contain important information to help all EPS families and staff as we navigate the challenges and celebrate the successes together. Continue scrolling to access [resources](#), [reminders](#), [updates](#), and [more](#).

Superintendent Update

EPS is ready! Our amazing team of educators has been busy setting up classrooms and offices, sending messages, collecting information, and preparing lessons in anticipation of the return of our wonderful students.

Everyone continues to work in overdrive to make this the best learning experience possible. We are grateful beyond measure that so many of our families have expressed support in their tremendous efforts and have had compassion and understanding for our professionals, knowing that every one of them is trying



their very best for your children. Please take a moment to express your support if you have not. It is a wonderful and well-needed boost as we embark upon another fresh school year! We look forward to nurturing, teaching, challenging, and supporting every learner as we all grow and develop together.

We have welcomed over 50 new staff members! In a time of staffing shortages nationwide, we have been able to continue to add the best of the best to our team. Be sure to look for new faces in every building and in the central office as well.

At our staff gathering on August 30th, we were excited to congratulate and thank all of our staff members who have been faithfully serving the



students of Easton for 25 years as well as those who have been with the Easton Public Schools for 30 or MORE. This year, our 25 year staff members include Karen Daly, Doug DePaulo, Maura Fine, Dan Garzoglio, Kristen Maffeo, and John Visnauskis. Dedicated staff with over 30 years with us include Rita Pastore, Meagan St. Martin, Margi Folan, Russ Meninno, Ken Flanagan, and Laney

Clement-Holbrook who has been with EPS for OVER 50 years!! How many of these educators were you lucky enough to have when you were in school?? (Please don't tell them I asked that!)

Please continue reading for some important updates for this school year, and, as always, please contact your Child(ren)'s school(s) or the administrative team at central office if we can be of assistance to your child(ren) and your family. We are thrilled to start this year with excitement and good health. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Dr. Lisha Cabral

COVID...not gone, and definitely not forgotten

While most of the conditions in place at the height of the pandemic (mandatory masking, social distancing, cohorting, etc. are GONE), we have a few reminders that will help us all keep any outbreaks in our schools at bay:

- We are following the [Operational Guidance for Schools](#) released by the CDC and updated on August 11, 2022.
- All nurses' offices are considered medical facilities and, as such, masking is REQUIRED at all times for anyone entering or in these offices.
- All of the facility safeguards in place last year will continue to assist us in mitigating COVID, the flu, colds, etc. These include: air purifiers, masks for anyone who wishes to wear them, hand sanitizer, frequent disinfection, reminders about proper hygiene such as handwashing and respiratory etiquette, and **STAYING HOME** when ill.
- We will not be sending test kits home, nor will we maintain a dashboard to track the number of cases. We will, of course, continue to internally monitor positive cases and assess for possible outbreaks or other concerns.
- Please contact your school nurse(s) with any specific questions you may have regarding your child(ren).

FREE Resources for your family

- The **FREE Breakfast and Lunch Program** that was expected to end last school year is continuing for **ALL** Easton Public School students (regardless of free or reduced lunch eligibility) through to the end of this school year in June (as of now...). You can read about it in [this newspaper article](#). This funding is available through the state.
 - **IMPORTANT:** We received many concerns last year regarding the amount and options of the food served. Unfortunately, there were many factors during the COVID concerns that prevented more of both including: social distancing and pre-packaged foods which created an inability to purchase extra servings/choices, severe supply chain issues, and a lack of full staffing. Most of this is no longer an



issue for us. **HOWEVER**, we continue to have a **serious staffing shortage** in food service. Until this is rectified, we will continue to have limitations in the food service department. If you know anyone who is interested in working for our excellent food service vendor, Whitson's, please have them contact our Food Service Director, Roberta Tamasanis, at TamasanisR@Whitsons.com.

- Check here to find your child(ren)'s [School Menus](#).

- **FREE Backpacks with School Supplies** are available for 100 students in need. Operation



Got Your Back(Pack) is being provided in collaboration with the Town of Easton's Health and Community Services Department, the Salvation Army, and the American Legion Post 7. If your child is in need of a backpack and supplies, please stop by the Special Services Office located at 50 Oliver Street between the hours of 11-4:30 p.m. to pick up a backpack!

- This is our first year of fully **FREE Kindergarten**. After reducing kindergarten tuition last year, we are now able to invite all Easton residents to enroll with NO tuition. Here is the [School Committee Policy](#) for entering kindergarten. We are now directing our attention to providing Pre-kindergarten for free in the future. More information will follow next year. These are critical steps toward ensuring equal access to a high quality education for EVERY child.

Welcoming Our New Leaders

We are excited to announce the appointments of six staff members to new leadership positions in our district. They are:

Sam Cederbaum - Blanche Ames Elementary School Principal (Parkview Principal until January)
Erin Finn - Blanche Ames Elementary School Assistant Principal (Moreau Hall Lead Admin. until Jan.)
Ryan Gordy - Athletic Director
Dan Mastrogiacono - Oliver Ames Assistant Principal
Melissa Medeiros - Director of Human Resources
Ann Weintrob - Director of Curriculum and English Learners (Center Principal until January)

Please see [this press release](#) for more information about each of these seasoned professionals.



Back to School Transportation Safety

Please see these valuable safety tips provided by the [National Safety Council](#).

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to school:

Walkers »

Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.

- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right, and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.
- Stay alert and avoid [distracted walking](#).



[Bike Riders »](#)

Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child.

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in a single file.
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street.
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding.
- Make sure your child always wears a [properly fitted helmet](#) and bright clothing.

[Bus Riders »](#)

Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them.

- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus.
- Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb.
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other.
- [Get the facts](#) on bus safety from Injury Facts.



[Driving Your Child to School »](#)

- [Stay alert](#) and avoid distracted driving.
- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure.
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street.
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus.

[Teen Drivers »](#)

Car crashes are the No. 1 cause of death for teens. Fortunately, there is something we can do.

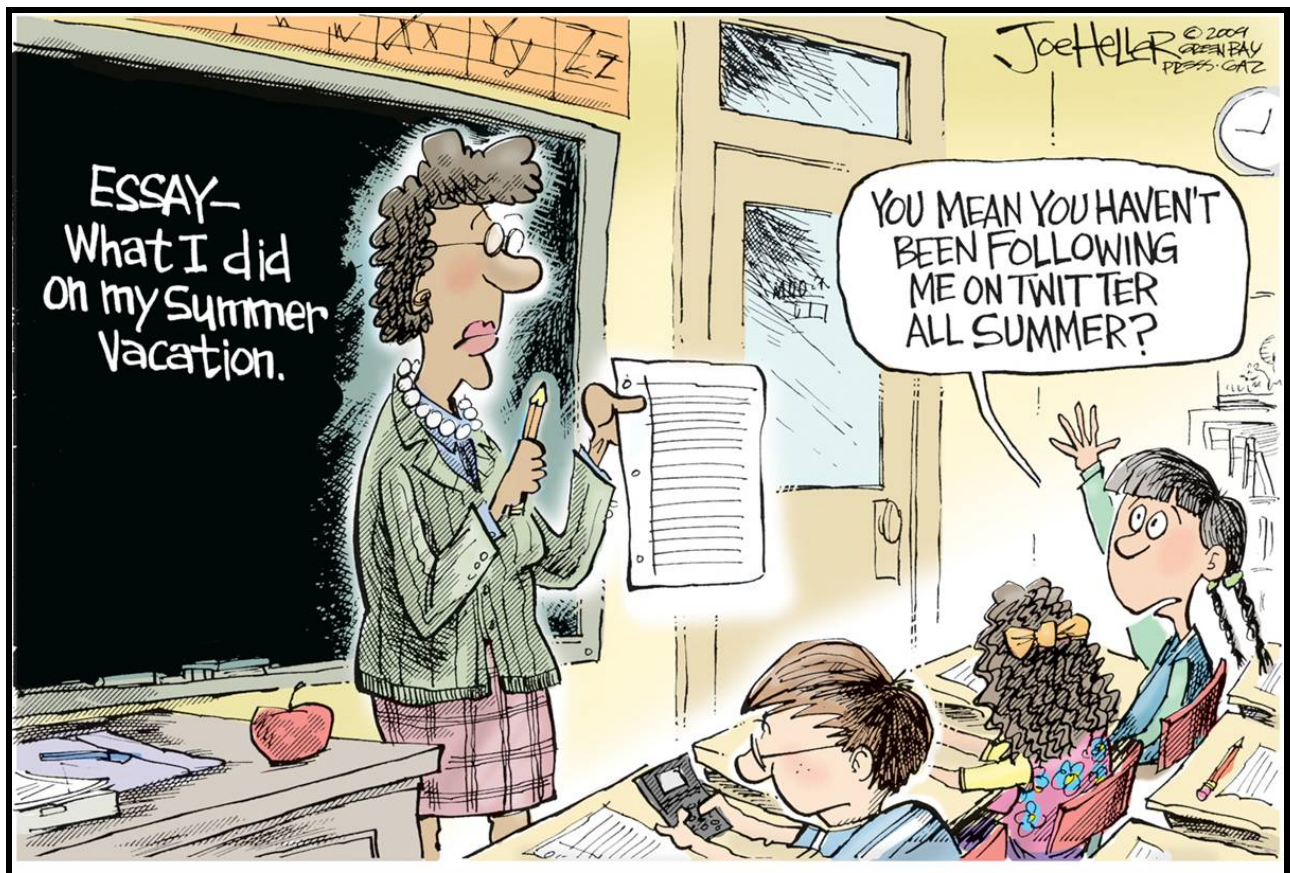
- Teens crash because they are inexperienced; practice with new drivers every week, before and after they get their license.
- Set a good example; drive the way you want your teen to drive.
- Sign the [New Driver Deal](#), an agreement that helps define expectations for parents and teens.

School Council Volunteers Needed

Every school has a School Council to assist with important reviews of school budgets, curriculum and programming, and the School Improvement Plan which is completed annually, among other things. Elections will be held once parent volunteers have been identified. Teacher volunteers will be chosen by the staff. Community members will be appointed by the principal. Please let the school principal know immediately if you are interested in serving on the School Council for your child's school as a parent or if you would like to serve in the role of Community member if you have a connection to a group, business, organization, etc. that has an interest in the Easton Public Schools and/or school aged children. You can find further details in the [Easton Public Schools School Council Assembly Process](#).

EPS School Calendar

Access the 2022-2023 EPS district calendar [on our website](#) under "Community."



<https://quotesgram.com/funny-cartoon-quotes-about-school/>

Blanche Ames and Traffic Information

Please see this [IMPORTANT update on the progress of the Blanche Ames Elementary School](#). It contains information on the TRAFFIC changes that are currently in place. This traffic will affect ALL schools on campus. We ask for your patience as we determine the traffic patterns at some critical points in the project:

- Opening of school on August 31st. This article contains graphics that review the direction of traffic for Parkview Elementary and the Easton Middle School.
- The move of the 3 lower elementary schools to the Ames School in January. While the building is scheduled to be done, the landscape will NOT be completed. This includes parking lots and roadways on the campus. We will need to continually assess the traffic patterns and make regular decisions about any potential changes.
- The completion of the entire project in the spring of 2023. This will open up all parking lots and roadways. It will be necessary for us to make adjustments at this point as well to make full use of the spaces we can access.
- Beginning of school for the 2022-2023 school year. This will be our first attempt after a great deal of planning and correcting to develop a traffic pattern that we hope to keep in place permanently. Again, it make take some initial adjustments to find the best solutions to any challenges we encounter.

