



Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

www.evesham.k12.nj.us · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

April 29, 2022

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: School Safety and Social Media Misinformation; Event Reminders from my Superintendent's Comments at the April Board meeting; Autism Awareness Color Run & Sensory Walk, April 30, 12 pm - 3 pm; Cherokee's Spring Performance of "Mary Poppins"; Friendly reminders from prior Updates.

School Safety and Social Media Misinformation

The safety of our students is paramount. We take their health, safety, and welfare very seriously. Presently there are many inaccurate and misleading statements on social media regarding an alleged incident that occurred on school property. Please note that we follow our protocols in investigating student matters and notifying the Evesham Township Police Department as appropriate. Chief Miller and I maintain close communications regarding student safety. Please remember just because something is said on social media does not make it true. Also as a reminder and follow-up from last night's Board Meeting, the Board is not able to publicly comment on individual student matters due to privacy laws. If anyone ever has any individual concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Event Reminders from my Superintendent's Comments at the April Board meeting

Schools are reflections of communities. This truth was on spectacular display in the DeMasi cafeteria this past Monday at the DeMasi Multicultural Night celebration. Finding common ground in the differences that enrich us, celebrating and supporting each other for those differences, respecting each other for who we are, makes a great community, makes great schools. I thank all of the families and staff who were involved in organizing and showcasing the songs, dances, displays, cuisines, and much more. That is who we are as a district community at our best.

Another example of our community at its best is the upcoming [All-In Disabilities Awareness Night 5.9.22](#) on May 9 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Marlton Field House on Main St. This district event is a collaboration with our Evesham Township Police Department. Our goal is to promote awareness and foster an inclusive environment, supporting all individuals to meet their potential as valued members of our community.

Shortly following on Friday, May 13 is our District [Movie Night](#) at Savich Field, showing *Encanto*. This Movie Night is co-sponsored by the Evesham Education Foundation and all our PTAs and PTO. Gates open at 6:30 pm. The movie starts at dusk. Food and beverages will be available at the field for purchase. All proceeds will go directly to our PTAs. Again, this is who we are as a district community at our best.



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And another, our district is glad to be supporting the [Ukrainian Relief Drive, April 25-May 21](#), going on now through May 21, organized by an ETSD family, the Lukianovichs. Everyone is encouraged to drop off supplies at our schools up through Friday, May 20. Each school has a collection bin in the main office area. These supplies will go to the Ukrainian American Relief Committee and be transported to Ukraine. [Supplies Needed by Ukrainian American Relief Committee](#) include medical supplies, hygiene items, baby formula, linens, and more. The drive will culminate on Saturday, May 21, when items can be dropped at the Marlton Middle School parking lot from 9 am to 11:30 am. The goal is to fill a truck. At 12 pm that day, the truck will start its drive to the Ukrainian American Sports Center in Horsham, PA, accompanied by anyone who signs up to ride along. Sign ups for the “Ukraine-train” caravan are via this flyer: [Ukraine-Train Motorcycle Ride](#).

[Autism Awareness Color Run & Sensory Walk, April 30, 12 pm - 3 pm](#)

Come join this wonderful event at Rice Elementary School as part of Autism Awareness Month. The course features a couple laps around the school field with a number of Color Blast stations. The second route offers a sensory-friendly sidewalk path for all ages and abilities. Rain date is Sunday May 1, 2022. The registration link is in the flyer linked above. Many thanks to our Township for their support with this event!

NJ Senate Committee Testimony

Evesham Township School District parent Kelly Wilk testified at the NJ Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on April 21. Many thanks, Ms. Wilk! Her testimony is linked below, along with the prior testimonies from Board President Lea Ryan, Board Vice President Aneesh Kanthan, and me.

Our messages: to increase funding to the 182 school districts like ours that are losing it, and to provide funding in all districts to support full day kindergarten. Since 2018-19, our district’s state funding has decreased 46%, with more cuts coming, totaling nearly \$8 million. This drop is negatively disproportionate to the change in our student population, which has dropped 19% from its peak.

[ETSD Parent Testimony at NJ Budget Hearing, 4.21.22](#)

[ETSD Board President & Vice President Testimony at NJ Budget Hearing 3.29.22](#)

[ETSD Superintendent Testimony at NJ Budget Hearing 3.29.22](#)

Cherokee's Spring Performance of “Mary Poppins”

Cherokee High School’s drama students are presenting “Mary Poppins” on May 20, 21, 27, and 28 at Cherokee’s Performing Arts Center. All performances begin at 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at <https://www.cherokeedrama.org/>. Come see this incredible cast, crew, and production!



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Friendly reminders from prior Updates

- [Community Activities - Evesham Township School District](#)
- April 25 - May 21 - [Ukrainian Relief Drive, April 25-May 21](#)
- April 30 - [Autism Awareness Color Run & Sensory Walk, April 30, 12 pm - 3 pm](#)
- May 9 - [All-In Disabilities Awareness Night 5.9.22](#), 5:30 - 7:30 pm,
- May 16 - 20 - District Art Show, 9 am to 7 pm, Evesham Twp Municipal Building
- June 6 - [EEF Golf Classic Fundraiser June 6, 2022](#) at Little Mill Country Club
- June 24 - 8th Grade Graduation at the Cherokee football field, 5:30 pm DMS, 7:30 pm MMS
- July - ETPD [Junior Police Academy](#)

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools