



EAST HAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS


East Hampton, Connecticut

Superintendent's Update

Week of October 23, 2017



The vision of the East Hampton Public Schools: Preparing and inspiring our students to be innovative, responsible, contributing members of an ever-changing global society.

Teaching is hard because it matters. 

~Unkonwn

This week in our Schools

- **Monday, October 23 – Meet the Candidates at the High School T-Bell, 6:00-7:15 PM.** Don't miss the opportunity to hear our Center School Grade 5 students ask the Board of Education candidates questions about their hopes for our schools! Be an informed voter at the polls on November 7! Get to know the candidates for the East Hampton Board of Education: **Amanda Amtmanis (D); Lori Caldwell (D); Jeffrey Carlson (D); Christopher Goff (D); Lois Villa (D); Marc Lambert (R); and Mary Ann Dostaler (C).** **Childcare will be provided!**
- **Wednesday, October 25 – TWO HOUR DELAYED START – East Hampton High School ONLY.** The high school will have a two-hour delayed opening to allow teachers and staff members time to complete the NEASC Self-Study. **Please note: Buses will run at the regular time.** Students will be given the option of driving themselves to school two hours later or having parents drop them off two hours later. For those students who cannot get a ride to school later, there will be supervision in the library or the cafeteria.



Thursday, October 26 – Superintendent's Advisory Council at 94 Main Street, 9:00 AM. All parents and community members are welcome to attend any and all meetings. The October 26 meeting will feature the following: (1) a conversation on the State Budget and its impact on our school budget, (2) considerations for the 2018-19 school budget process given the lack of a state budget, (3) safety initiatives in our schools, and (4) our project to develop a district-wide "Profile of the Graduate."



Thursday, October 26 – "Manis for a Cure" at East Hampton High School Cafeteria, 3:30-8:00 PM. October is breast cancer awareness month and the High School is once again hosting "Manis for a Cure." Everyone in the community is invited to join the effort by donating \$5.00 for pink manicures. There will also be baked goods available for purchase starting at just \$1.00. All proceeds will benefit the Breast Health Initiative. **Last year's efforts raised over \$1,000.00!**



Friday, October 27 – Coffee and Chat with the Superintendent at 94 Main Street, 7:30-9:00 AM. Come in for Coffee! Stay for a quick chat, too!



- **Friday, October 27 – East Hampton High School Homecoming Fall Ball (Semi-Formal) in the EHHS Cafeteria, 8:00-10:00 PM.** Tickets are on sale Monday, October 23 through Thursday, October 26 and are \$5.00 each. No tickets are sold at the door.

















- **Saturday, October 28 – National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at the East Hampton Town Hall, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.** Make your house safer by turning in your unused or expired prescription medication for disposal.
- **Saturday, October 28 – CHEETAH-Palooza at the Memorial School, 11:00AM-2:00 PM.** Don't miss the fun! The event is a chance to raise funds for the John Fidler Scholarship as well as funds for technology at Memorial School. There are games, crafts, face painting, and raffles.
- **Saturday, October 28 – National Chocolate Day.** It's one of our most important recognition days!





October / November Calendar

Get your event on this calendar!
Send additional events and dates to
psmith@easthamptonct.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	<p>MEET THE CANDIDATES</p> <p>Board of Education High School T-Bell 6:00-7:15 PM</p>		<p>Delayed Start for High School TWO HOUR DELAY for NEASC</p> <p>Grade 6 & 7 Band/Choir to Coast Guard Academy</p>	<p></p> <p>Superintendent's Advisory Council 94 Main St. 9:00-10:15 AM</p> <p>Grade 5 to Pequot Museum</p> <p></p> <p>"Manis for a Cure!" EHHS 3:30-8:00 PM</p>	<p></p> <p>Coffee & Chat With the Superintendent 94 Main St. 7:30-9:00 AM</p> <p>High School Semi-Formal Homecoming FALL BALL 8:00-10:00 PM</p>	<p>Cheetah Palooza! Memorial School 11:00 AM-2:00 PM</p> <p>Drug Take Back Day Town Hall 10:00 AM-2:00 PM</p> <p>National Chocolate Day!</p>
29	30	31	November 1	2	3	4
		<p>National MIX IT UP at LUNCH DAY</p> <p></p> <p>Grade 6 Halloween Dance</p>	<p></p> <p>All 2018-19 Budget Requests due to Building Principals</p> <p>Elementary PTO Memorial School 6:00 PM</p> <p>Project Graduation High School Library 6:00 PM</p>	<p></p> <p>Teacher of the Year Reception LEARN/Old Lyme 4:00 PM</p> <p>Kristen Keska and area teachers honored.</p>	<p></p> <p>Coffee & Chat With the Superintendent 94 Main St. 7:30-9:00 AM</p> <p>FLU SHOTS For Teachers & Staff After School @ High school & Memorial</p> <p>High School Drama Club "The Children's Hour" EHHS Auditorium 7:30 PM</p>	<p></p> <p>High School Drama Club "The Children's Hour" EHHS Auditorium 7:30 PM</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p></p> <p>Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday!</p>	<p>Board of Education Meeting - EHHS T-Bell, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Appointment of HS Principal</p> <p></p> <p>Budget Requests welcome by Public</p>	<p>No School Election Day & Professional Development</p> <p></p>	<p>Middle School PTO Middle School Library 6:00 PM</p>	<p></p> <p>East Hampton High School Veterans Day Breakfast and Assembly</p>	<p>No School Veterans Day Observance</p> <p></p>	<p>Veterans Day Official</p> <p></p> <p>Turkey Plunge for East Hampton Food Bank 9:00 AM-Sears Park</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		<p>Project Graduation Butter Braid Delivery</p>	<p>Half Day for Middle School Parent Conferences</p> <p></p> <p>Teacher of the Year Recognition Bushnell Theater 5:00 PM</p> <p>Kristen Keska and state teachers honored.</p>	<p>Half Day for Middle School Parent Conferences</p> <p></p> <p>High School Fall Concert EHHS Auditorium 7:00 PM</p>		<p></p> <p>East Hampton High School presents All Around the World Fest 1:00-5:00 PM Students \$5.00 No fee for parents who accompany children</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p>Board of Education Meeting - EHHS T-Bell, 6:30 PM</p> <p>NEW MEMBERS First Meeting!</p>		<p></p> <p>Coffee & Chat With the Superintendent 94 Main St. 7:30-9:00 AM</p> <p>Half Day Thanksgiving Recess</p>	<p>No School Thanksgiving</p> <p></p>	No School	

Notes

■ **Even though it feels like summer now... ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ , sign up for Remind!**

This is just a reminder to teachers, staff, and parents that for school cancellations or delays, the Superintendent of Schools will be sending out text messages using **Remind**. This is the fastest way to get information about school closings and other notifications. *Remind* is a one-way text messaging and email system. With *Remind*, all personal information remains completely confidential. If you would like text message reminders about East Hampton Public Schools events directly from the Superintendent of Schools (including snow cancellations) please join either one of two ways:

1. Visit <https://www.remind.com/join/easthampto> and simply enter your mobile phone number.
2. Text “@easthampto” to 81010.
3. You can opt-out of messages at any time by replying, ‘unsubscribe@eastmapto’.

Or, to receive messages via email, send a (blank) email to easthampto@mail.remind.com. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.



Please note that this APP will only be used by the Superintendent of Schools and information is not shared with any other party.



■ **East Hampton Board of Education Highlights (10/16/17)**



You can view this meeting and past meetings at:

<http://www.easthamptonps.org/2017-2018-boe-meetings>

Scroll down the page and click on “**VIDEO**” of the date you wish to view.

- The Board honored the Principals of our schools as part of East Hampton Principals’ Recognition Day that coincides with National Boss’s Day. The Board also acknowledged the efforts of several East Hampton teachers who attended a Google Summit in Manchester, Connecticut to bring back instructional strategies using 1-to-1 technology in the classroom.
- The Board honored East Hampton High School Senior, Lisa Clair Cowen who spent the 2016-17 school year as an exchange student in Germany as part of the Rotary Club’s program to create international exchanges for students from the U.S.
- The Board honored Bus Driver Amber Dufond, an employee of DATTCO, whose quick actions as a car was passing through flashing red lights of the bus prevented a student injury.
- Student representatives indicated that participation by the High School in the annual Relay for Life resulted in a donation of \$12,000 to the American Cancer Society.
- The Superintendent explained that the November 6 Board of Education Meeting (6:30 PM in the High School T-Bell) will begin with a public forum in which staff members and members of the public can make recommendations for inclusions in the 2018-19 Budget.
- It was also mentioned to the Board that this year’s budget, as a result of the lack of a budget at the state level, is on a “soft” freeze meaning that only essential items are being purchased at this time. Two positions to be filled will be filled upon the state budget being approved by the General Assembly.
- The Board approved the DRAFT Calendar for 2018-19.
- The Board approved the following polies:
 - 4131 Professional Learning
 - 6111 School Calendar
 - 7551 Naming of Facilities
 - 9240 Board of Education Development
 - 9325.43 Electronic Attendance at Meetings

- 9400 Board of Education Self Evaluation
- The Board review the following polices, which will be approved at the meeting of November 6.
 - 1312 Public Complaints
 - 6140 Curriculum
 - 6141 Curriculum Design
 - 6146.2 State Examination

All district policies are online:
[Click here](#)

School Calendar 2018-19 – a first look!


At the Board of Education meeting on Monday, October 23, the Board of Education reviewed a DRAFT School Calendar for 2018-19 and will vote to make it the official school calendar at the next Board meeting on Monday, November 6. This calendar is being shared now to allow teachers, staff members, and families time to plan for the vacations and summer break.

In a survey completed recently in which all teachers, staff members, and families were offered an opportunity to provide input as to the start date, there was overwhelming support (2-to-1) to begin school after Labor Day. The Connecticut General Assembly has made it optional for school districts to adopt the Regional School Calendar, so we now have flexibility on the first day of school. In this draft calendar the school vacations still align with the region for purposes of transportation and shared services.

Please note the following in the attached DRAFT Calendar:

1. The start date for students is Tuesday, September 4 (after Labor Day on Monday, September 3).
2. Teachers and certified staff will report prior to Labor Day for Convocation and Professional Learning on Tuesday-Thursday, August 28-30.
3. The 2 “Late Start” mornings for Professional Learning have been replaced by 2 “Early Release” afternoons for Professional Learning.
4. Good Friday falls during the April Vacation in 2019.
5. The Winter Weekend in February includes a Friday, February Professional Learning Day for teachers, making the weekend longer for students and families.

By approving the Calendar at the next Board meeting on November 6, the hope is to provide adequate planning time for all members of our school community.




East Hampton Public Schools

2018-2019 School Calendar

	Key	August 2018	September 2018	October 2018
Notes:				
Sep 03: Labor Day				
Aug. 28: Faculty First Day				
Sept. 4: Student First Day				
Oct 8: Columbus Day				
Nov 12: Veterans Day				
Nov 22/23: Thanksgiving Day				
Dec 24 - Jan 1: Winter Recess				
Jan 21: Martin Luther King Day				
Feb 18 - Feb 20: February Recess				
Feb 18: Presidents' Day				
Apr 19: Good Friday				
Apr 15 - Apr 19: Spring Recess				
May 27: Memorial Day				
Jun 13: Student and Fac. Last Day				
Professional Workshop – Full Day				
• Aug. 28, 29 & 30				
• Nov. 6 (Regional)				
• March 8 (Regional)				
• Feb. 15				
Other Shortened Days:				
Elementary Parent Conf. K – 5:				
• Dec. 5 & 6				
• Mar. 13 & 14				
Middle School Parent Conf. 6-8:				
• Nov. 14 & 15				
• May 22 & 23				
•				
High School Exam Days:				
• Jan. 17, 18, 22 & 23				
• June 7, 10, 11 & 12				

APPROVED:

At the next Board of Education meeting



Please plan to make your Budget Requests!
Board of Education Meeting
Monday, November 6
 East Hampton High School T-Bell,
 6:30 PM

This meeting is a chance for teachers, students, and parents to make budget requests for 2018-19 to the Board of Education. Your opinion matters – and your voice is heard loud and clear by the Superintendent of Schools and the East Hampton Board of Education as we work together to make our schools the highest achieving schools in Connecticut!



Sharing Excellence
 East Hampton Public Schools
 Learning Walks

Learning Walks 2017-18 – “Sharing Excellence!”

We are beginning our **Learning Walks** in classrooms in November and would like to include two teachers from each building to participate along with administrators on the following dates. Please see your building Principal if you are interested in participating on one of the following dates. Learning Walks will be held from **9:00-11:00 AM** on the following dates:

November 1	Center School
November 6	Middle School
November 14	Memorial School
December 1	High School

A Learning Walk is simply a brief classroom visit during of approximately 10 minutes during which the presence of researched-based instructional strategies are examined. As the Learning Walk visits a classroom, the visitors ascertain what students are learning, learning strategies that are present, student interaction with the content, and the level of student engagement. The goal is simply to collect data based on “snapshots” of the classrooms. Data is not collected for individual teachers. Rather, the information is collected for an entire school, grade level, or department and ultimately shared at the corresponding level.

The Learning Walks in 2017-18 will focus on the following questions:

How has the objective been clearly communicated to the learner? <i>Is the objective aligned to grade-level standards?</i>
Is there critical or creative thinking as part of the lesson? <i>What is the predominant thinking level in the classroom?</i>
What instructional strategies are involved in the lesson? <i>Do students have a voice in the learning?</i>
What is the predominant level of engagement in the classroom? <i>Are students involved in goal setting and/or self-reflection?</i>
How does the environment promote learning? <i>Do students show evidence of a positive academic mindset?</i>
Is there collaborative learning taking place? <i>Does collaboration require in-depth content knowledge?</i>
Is there independent learning taking place? <i>Is it clear how students monitor their progress?</i>
Does technology enhance the learning environment? <i>Does the use of technology promote personalized learning?</i>

Certain visits may not yield information for each of the questions given the timing of the visit; however, over time the data should be useful for reflection. Ultimately our mission is “Sharing Excellence” by promoting reflective practice throughout our schools and classrooms!

Thoughts



“Students will need autonomy and freedom to customize their own education.”

The article below is the type of article I love to read and ponder. It points us to look into a future that we as adults may not experience, but it certainly speaks to a future that our children will know. As I read it, I feel an urgency to make sure that we don't merely duplicate an education for our children that served us. Our goal must be to make sure we carefully craft an education, PK -12, that meets the needs of students upon their graduation from the East Hampton Public Schools.

Keep in mind that this year's Kindergarteners are the Class of 2030!

One of our projects this year will be to develop a Profile of the Graduate. This profile will include the skills that our East Hampton School Community determines are the most important skills for our students to practice and master as part of experiences PK-12 in our schools.

As you read the “disruptions” below, think about how we would develop experiences for our students that matter most to them now and in their future.

10 Disruptions That Will Jump-Start The Next Education Revolution By Peter W. Cookson Jr. in *EdWeek*

Artificial intelligence and technology will prove significant for education

The idea that machines are smarter than humans has inspired a library of science-fiction stories and movies. What often happens when intelligent machines and ordinary humans cross cognitive swords? Humans lose. We weaker and dumber creatures are no match for machines that are out-thinking us at every turn, taking away our jobs, and planning to establish a dictatorship of computers.

As much fun as these dire scenarios are to imagine, they are false. In fact, the development of advanced artificial intelligence, or superintelligence, opens up doors to discoveries never before imagined. **While opinions vary about the speed with which superintelligence will develop, there is little doubt that within the next decade, the cognitive landscape will be very different than it is today.**

The "thinking machines" predicted by computer scientist Alan Turing in the 1950s are already part of the education landscape. Adaptive learning enhanced by AI, virtual reality, and e-learning gives students experiences their parents never had. **Today's students may be technologically savvy, but moving from distraction to deep learning is one of our most pressing education challenges.**

Nobody has a crystal ball, but everyone can see that the world is changing at warp speed. Through my research of blended learning and equity in education, I have heard many educators say that it's time to seize the future. Here is my take on the 10 disruptions that will revolutionize education in the coming years:

1. Digital learners will rebel against intellectual conformity.

Digital natives live in two worlds—the physical one and the lightning-fast virtual one of the internet. They are interactive and hands-on learners; they tend to be more interested in solutions than reflection. Many are less linear in their thinking, multitask easily, and often have short attention spans. **Much of schooling is constructed around conformity and standardization, but digital natives will force educators to break out of that box.**

2. Learning avatars will become commonplace.

Avatars—virtual images representing humans—can serve as an online proxy for in-person narrators, experts, and mentors. Because of advanced software, avatars can adapt to the personalized learning needs of students. Take, for instance, a student who is struggling with basic math principles: **An avatar can be customized to reinforce specific skills in a way that empowers a student without publicly calling them out.**

3. Participatory-learning hubs will replace isolated classrooms.

A school that fully embraces 21st-century intelligence will serve in a connected, global network of learning institutions. Teachers and students will spend less time sitting in their seats and more time networking with an international web of co-learners. **Students from around the world will work together to solve problems using the power of collective intelligence.**

4. Inquiry skills will drive learning.

In an age when knowledge is growing exponentially through scientific and technological breakthroughs, big ideas will dominate the education landscape. Teachers will need new pedagogies and curricula for their students that emphasize problem-solving, higher-order skills, access to machine intelligence, teamwork, and lifelong learning.

5. Capacities will matter more than grades.

Conventional grading is already becoming outdated. What a student can do rather than what she or he can remember will be the new standard of achievement in the age of the creative economy.

6. Teachers will become inventors.

In the near future, hopefully, all educators will have internalized the importance of social-emotional learning. Teachers will be empowered to create learning environments that are focused on the relationship between cognition, emotional well-being, and inventive thinking.

7. School leaders will give up their desks.

The next generation of school leaders will be less wedded to traditional practices. Students will need autonomy and freedom to customize their own education, so top-down leadership will be replaced by student agency in a culture of mutual respect.

8. Students and families will become co-learners and co-creators.

Participatory education means little if students and families are pushed to the side. Families will no longer be shut out of the learning process. They will be seen as full partners in their children's education.

9. Formal credentials will no longer be the Holy Grail.

For decades, graduating from college has been considered the goal for which nearly all students should strive. But in the coming era, competencies will matter more than formal credentials. While college will remain important, there should be the option for professional portfolios demonstrating not only what students have learned but what they will learn. Employers will increasingly seek job applicants that can think for themselves, are intrinsically motivated and team-oriented, and exhibit resilience and determination.

10. Policymakers will form communities of continuous improvement

Policymakers will become the vanguard of education transformation. Stuffy panels and unread reports will be replaced by innovative think tanks where, along with the input of communities, new ideas will be developed, tested, and implemented.

If education stays stuck in the past, generations of students will be mis-educated. They won't be equipped to thrive in a world of new ideas and technologies. The current task of educators should be to embrace these changes with an open mind and consider how new disruptions can aid, rather than hinder, learning for all students.

The future of our students is in our hands!



Paul K. Smith



26 Miles of Hope