

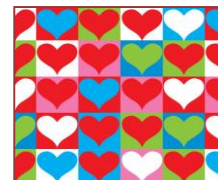


East Hampton Public Schools

Superintendent's Update

Week of February 8, 2016

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.



When nothing is sure, everything is possible.

~ Margaret Drabble



Please take our survey this week for
The East Hampton 2025 Project.

We are looking for input from
teachers, parents, students, and community members
in order to determine the most important student outcomes
as we prepare our students for their future.

[Click here to take the survey!](#)

Calendar

- **Monday, February 8– Kindergarten Registration Packets available.** Kindergarten Registration information for all parents with children eligible for Kindergarten in September 2016 will be available at Memorial School, the EH Public Library, and on the School's website beginning Monday, February 8.
- **Monday, February 8 – Board of Education Policy Subcommittee meeting in the Central Office, 5:00 PM.**
- **Monday, February 8 – Board of Education meeting in the East Hampton High School Library, 7:00 PM.** Parents and community members are welcome to come to the meeting to get budget updates and offer any opinions about next year's proposed increase of 1.9%, just 0.10% over last year's approved increase of 1.8%. If you need babysitting, plan to come to the February 22 meeting as babysitting will be offered for that meeting.
- **Tuesday, February 9 – Elementary PTO Meeting at Memorial School, 6:30 PM.**
- **Wednesday, February 10 – Middle School PTO Meeting in the EHMS Library/Media Center, 1:00 PM.**
- **Wednesday, February 10 – Center School Math Evening, 6:30 PM.**
- **Thursday, February 11 – Center School & Memorial School OPTIONAL Faculty and Staff Information on the 2016-17 Budget at the Memorial School Cafeteria, 3:30 PM.** Teachers and staff are invited to meet with the Superintendent for first-hand information on the **2016-17 School Budget.**
- **Thursday, February 11 – OPEN HOUSE at East Hampton High School.** Take an hour to tour the new additions at East Hampton High School. Attendees will get a tour of the new science classrooms, the renovated auditorium, and the new gym. You'll also see areas in transition such as the new cafeteria. Meet at 6:00 PM in front of the main office at the front entry. (And then, stay for the concert at 7:00 PM!)
- **Thursday, February 11 – High School Concert in the EHHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM.** The renovated auditorium is a wonderful space for our students to showcase their remarkable skills!
- **Thursday, February 11 – Grade 7 & 8 Dance in the Middle School Commons, 7:00-9:30 PM.**
- **Friday, February 12 – Professional Development Day, No School.**
- **Sunday-Saturday, February 14-20 – National Random Acts of Kindness Week.** Take a moment to do one nice thing for someone in your life! It doesn't have to cost anything. A kind word or wishing someone well will do! Between our students and staff, there should be over 2300 acts of kindness during this week. With parents and community members joining us, we could spread beyond the school community and create an overwhelming week of kindness for the entire town of East Hampton. Join us! Visit the website for ideas: <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>
- **Sunday, February 14 – Valentine's Day.**

- **Monday, February 15 – Presidents’ Day, No School.**
- **Tuesday, February 16 – Winter Break, No School.**
- **Wednesday, February 17 – Classes resume after Winter Weekend.**
- **Wednesday, February 17 – National Digital Learning Day.** Please take the opportunity to engage students in a lesson involving computers/digital learning: <http://digitallearningday.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=11>.
- **Wednesday, February 17 – High School Tri-M National Music Honor Society Induction in the EHHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM.**
- **Thursday, February 18 – High School Building Committee Meeting in the EHHS Library, 5:30 PM.**



Friday, February 19 – Coffee with the Superintendent of Schools at the Central Office, 7:30-9:30 AM. Cold mornings and free coffee – there is no better combination. And, you can ask questions on the **2016-17 School Budget**.

- **Friday, February 19 – *East Hampton 2025* Survey closes.** We are looking for parent input, student input, staff input, and community input. Please make sure we have your input by this date on a very short survey as we define the district vision to prepare East Hampton students for their future success in college and careers.
- **Friday, February 19 – The Brain Show at the Memorial School, 6:30 and 7:30 PM.** Families must sign in at 6:15 and 7:15 PM. Due to the popularity of this event, there are two show times. If your family is interested in participating in the show by going on stage, pre-registration is required. Participation on stage is limited to the first 20 pre-registrations received for each show time. Even if your family is just going to watch, pre-registration is encouraged. Registrations forms are available by contacting Tania Sones: tksones@aol.com.
- **Monday, February 22 – Board of Education Policy Subcommittee meeting in the Central Office, 5:00 PM.**

- **Monday, February 22 – Board of Education meeting in the East Hampton High School Library, 7:00 PM.** Parents are urged to attend this meeting to be part of the Budget Process. We will be providing **babysitting service** that evening. The Budget discussion will be in the early portion of the meeting, so please attend!

- **Wednesday-Thursday, February 24-25 – Middle School Early Release at 12:30 PM / Middle School Parent Conferences, 1:00 PM.** Please note that students are dismissed at 12:30 PM both days. Lunch is served both days.
- **Wednesday, February 24 – World Read Aloud Day.** Organized by LitWorld, (<http://www.litworld.org/wrad/>), this event calls for bringing global attention to the importance of reading aloud and sharing stories. Memorial School will join World Read Aloud Day by participating in a read aloud assembly during the afternoon. Click on the link above for materials including a Countdown calendar for creating a build-up to February 24, activities for students to do at school or at home, statistics that help share the importance of this day, recommended read aloud books, and more. “Read aloud. Change the world.”



Wednesday, February 24 – *EVENING* Coffee with the Superintendent of Schools at the Central Office, 5:00-6:30 PM. If you can’t make the morning coffee discussions, stop in on Wednesday evening for “coffee and chat” with the Superintendent. There will conversation and information on the **2016-17 School Budget**.

- **Thursday, February 25 – High School PTO Meeting in Room 14, EHHS, 7:00 PM.**
- **Friday, February 26 – East Hampton School Volunteers Appreciation Day.** We’ll take a moment this day to thank the many volunteers who make our schools a special place for students and staff.
- **Tuesday, March 1 – Music Boosters Meeting in the EHHS Art Room, 6:30 PM. Thursday, March 3 – Memorial School Evening Parent Conferences.**
- **Wednesday, March 2 – National Read Across America Day.**



Wednesday, March 2 – Superintendent’s Advisory Council at the Central Office, 9:00-10:15 AM. On the first Wednesday of each month, the Superintendent holds a “coffee and chat” meeting for parents and community members. There will be an agenda for each meeting and time for parents to ask questions.

- **Friday, March 4 – Late Arrival for Students (2-hours) for Professional Development.** The student day will begin two hours later than the normal day.



Friday, March 4 – Coffee with the Superintendent of Schools at the Central Office, 7:30-9:30 AM. Please stop in for free coffee. Stay and chat with the Superintendent if you wish!

- **Tuesday, March 8 – Memorial & Center School Early Release / Memorial & Center School Afternoon Parent Conferences.**
- **Wednesday, March 9 – Middle School PTO Meeting in the EHMS Library/Media Center, 7:00 PM.**
- **Wednesday, March 9 – Center School Evening Parent Conferences**
- **Thursday, March 10 – Center School Early Release / Center School Parent Conferences.**
- **Thursday, March 10 – Elementary PTO Meeting at Center School, 6:30 PM**
- **Sunday, March 13 – Daylight Savings Time begins!**
- **Monday, March 14 – Board of Education Policy Subcommittee meeting in the Central Office, 5:00 PM.**
- **Monday, March 14 – Board of Education meeting in the East Hampton High School Library, 7:00 PM.** Since March is Board of Education Appreciation Month, we will take a moment at this meeting to honor the volunteer work of our Board of Education members!
- **Monday, March 14 – Sophomore Parent Night at East Hampton High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM.**
- **Wednesday, March 16 – Prom Fashion Show at East Hampton High School, 7:00 PM.**
- **Thursday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day.**
- **Thursday, March 17 – High School Building Committee Meeting in the EHHS Library, 5:30 PM.**
- **Thursday, March 17 – East Hampton High School Winter Athletic Awards.**



Friday, March 18 – Coffee with the Superintendent of Schools at the Central Office, 7:30-9:30 AM. Please stop in for free coffee. Stay and chat with the Superintendent if you wish!

- **Friday-Saturday, March 18-19 – Middle School Drama Club Performance, 7:00 PM.**
- **Sunday, March 20 – The First Day of Spring.**
- **Thursday, March 24 – East Hampton Paraeducators Appreciation Day.** We will take the day to honor our Paraeducators who work every day to improve the lives of our students!
- **Thursday, March 24 – District Safety Committee in the EHHS Library, 3:00 PM.**
- **Friday, March 25 – Good Friday, No School.**
- **Monday, March 28 – Board of Education Policy Subcommittee meeting in the Central Office, 5:00 PM.**
- **Monday, March 28 – Board of Education meeting in the East Hampton High School Library, 7:00 PM.**



Wednesday, March 30 – EVENING Coffee with the Superintendent of Schools at the Central Office, 5:00-6:30 PM. If you can't make the morning coffee discussions, stop in on Wednesday evening for "coffee and chat" with the Superintendent.

Get your event on this Calendar; it's sent every Monday morning to all East Hampton Public Schools teachers, staff, parents, and families!
If you would like a school/community event listed please forward dates and information to Paul Smith: psmith@easthamptonct.org

Notes

The East Hampton 2025 Project – Please take the survey before February 19.

Give us your thoughts! We need input from teachers, staff members, students, parents, and community members as we define the district vision to prepare East Hampton students for their future success in college and careers. Please participate in a very brief survey (3 questions) from February 1 – February 19.

Survey available at: www.easthamptonps.org through February 19 or by [clicking here](#).





■ 2016-17 Budget Update

Are you looking for information on the 2016-17 Budget?



[Click here](#) for the **Superintendent's presentation**.



[Click here](#) for a **copy of the 2016-17 Budget** that includes every line item expenditure.

(Be careful before printing as each is over 30 pages. Hard copies are available in the Central Office at 94 Main Street.)

Please feel free to contact the Superintendent of Schools, Paul K. Smith with any questions you may have. Phone: 860-365-4000 or psmith@easthamptonct.org.

You can also get first-hand accurate information at the following informal meetings/conversation:

Friday, February 19	Coffee with the Superintendent at Central Office, 94 Main Street	7:30 – 9:30 AM
Monday, February 22	Board of Education Meeting at the High School (Babysitting available)	7:00 PM
Wednesday, February 24	Coffee with the Superintendent at Central Office, 94 Main Street	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Wednesday, March 2	Superintendent's Advisory Committee at Central Office, 94 Main Street	9:00 AM
Friday, March 4	Coffee with the Superintendent at Central Office, 94 Main Street	7:30 – 9:30 AM
Friday, March 18	Coffee with the Superintendent at Central Office, 94 Main Street	7:30 – 9:30 AM
Wednesday, March 30	Coffee with the Superintendent at Central Office, 94 Main Street	5:00 – 6:30 PM

Thoughts



Colleges are looking for more than good *grades*, they're looking for good *character*.

There is a new movement in college admissions – a campaign called “Turning the Tide.” Over the last decade there has been high value on academic achievement alone. And while high school seniors have been encourage to round out applications with extracurricular achievements and leadership positions, there is a move currently to encourage credit for good citizenship and “ethical engagement.”

What a great concept for us to promote in our children!

Massachusetts Institute of Technology added a new mandatory essay to their application that asks of applicants: “At MIT, we seek to develop in each member of our community the ability and passion to work collaboratively for the betterment of humankind. How have you improved the lives of others in your community?”

Encouraging our students to be involved in meaningful community service and opportunities to help others is good for them, their future, and our community! We need to lead our students to become ethical citizens who see a purpose beyond their own interests.

Based on “Wanted: Students of High Character” by Eric Hoover in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 29, 2016.

(If you would like a copy of the article, please contact me.)

I am urging people to read the brief *executive summary* of “Turning the Tide” by clicking here.

You can read the *full report* of “Turning the Tide” by clicking here.

The “Turning the Tide” website can be found by clicking here.

It's time to say, "Enough."

Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions marks the first time in history that a broad coalition of college admissions offices have joined forces to collectively encourage high school students to focus on meaningful ethical and intellectual engagement. The report includes concrete recommendations to reshape the college admissions process and promote greater ethical engagement among aspiring students, reduce excessive achievement pressure, and level the playing field for economically disadvantaged students. It is the first step in a two-year campaign that seeks to substantially reshape the existing college admissions process.

The report includes concrete recommendations in three core areas:

1. Promoting more meaningful contributions to others, community service and engagement with the public good.
2. Assessing students' ethical engagement and contributions to others in ways that reflect varying types of family and community contributions across race, culture and class.
3. Redefining achievement in ways that both level the playing field for economically diverse students and reduce excessive achievement pressure.

Recommendation #1: Meaningful, Sustained Community Service

We recommend that students engage in forms of service that are authentically chosen—that emerge from a student's particular passions and interests—that are consistent and well-structured, and that provide opportunity for reflection both individually and with peers and adults. We also recommend that students undertake at least a year of sustained service or community engagement (see below for description of "community engagement"). This service can take the form of substantial and sustained contributions to one's family, such as working outside the home to provide needed income. Just as important, it's vital that the admissions process squarely challenges misconceptions about what types of service are valued in admissions. Some students seek to "game" service by taking up high-profile or exotic forms of community service, sometimes in faraway places, that have little meaning to them but appear to demonstrate their entrepreneurial spirit and leadership. The admissions process should clearly convey that what counts is not whether service occurred locally or in some distant place or whether students were leaders, but whether students immersed themselves in an experience and the emotional and ethical awareness and skills generated by that experience.

Recommendation #2: Collective Action that Takes on Community Challenges

While individual service can be valuable, we also encourage young people to consider various forms of community engagement, including working in groups on community problems, whether the problem is a local park that needs attention, bullying in their schools or communities or some form of environmental degradation. These types of activities can help young people develop key emotional and ethical capacities, including problem-solving skills and group awareness, as well as greater understanding of and investment in the common good.

Recommendation #3: Authentic, Meaningful Experiences with Diversity

We encourage students to undertake community service and engagement that deepens their appreciation of diversity. Too often, current forms of service are patronizing to recipients and don't spark in those providing service a deeper understanding of social structures and inequalities. Rather than students "doing for" students from different backgrounds, for example, we encourage students to "do with"—to work in diverse groups for sustained periods of time on school and community challenges, groups in which students learn from one another. Importantly, these experiences of diversity should be carefully constructed and facilitated.

Recommendation #4: Service that Develops Gratitude and a Sense of Responsibility for the Future

We encourage students to take up forms of community engagement, service and reflection that help them appreciate the contributions of the generations before them—how their lives are built on the service of others—and their responsibility to their descendants. Working within a tradition, whether religious or secular, such as 4H clubs, can help generate this kind of gratitude and responsibility.

Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions

BY [NEWSEDITOR](#)

In first comprehensive effort of its kind, leading colleges and universities join together to reshape the college admissions process and promote concern for others and the common good.

The Launch of the Turning the Tide Report Marks the First Step in Efforts of Coalition to Inspire Concern for Others in High School Students, Reduce Achievement Pressure, and Create Greater Equity for Economically Diverse Students

New York, NY – Admissions deans and other leaders from the nation’s top colleges and universities joined together to announce the launch of [Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions](#), (Click for the full report.) a report with concrete recommendations to reshape the college admissions process and promote greater ethical engagement among aspiring students, reduce excessive achievement pressure, and level the playing field for economically disadvantaged students.

“Too often, today’s culture sends young people messages that emphasize personal success rather than concern for others and the common good,” said [Richard Weissbourd](#), senior lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and co-director of the Making Caring Common Project. “As a rite of passage, college admissions plays a powerful role in shaping student attitudes and behaviors. Admissions deans are stepping up collectively to underscore the importance of meaningful engagement in communities and greater equity for economically diverse students.”

Turning the Tide is the first step in a two-year campaign that seeks to substantially reshape the existing college admissions process. The report stems from an exploratory meeting at the Harvard Graduate School of Education hosted by [Making Caring Common](#) (MCC), a project that helps educators, parents, and communities raise children who are caring, responsible to their communities, and committed to justice. It was written by Richard Weissbourd in collaboration with Lloyd Thacker, Director of The Education Conservancy, and based on a meeting of college admissions deans and other stakeholders in the college admissions process. The goals of the report are to harness the collective influence of college admissions to send a unified message that both ethical engagement *and* intellectual engagement are highly important and to more fairly capture the strengths of students across race, class and culture.

“Escalating achievement pressure is not healthy for our youth. Young people are suffering from higher rates of depression, anxiety and substance abuse as they juggle the demands of their lives. Many students, especially those from low-income families, are often discouraged due to limited access to the resources perceived as necessary for selective college admissions. It’s a double-edged sword,” said Kedra Ishop, associate vice president for enrollment management at the University of Michigan. “*Turning the Tide* offers recommendations to tackle both of these issues simultaneously by promoting the *quality* of academic engagement over the *quantity* of achievements in college admissions.”

As of today, *Turning the Tide* has been endorsed by a growing list of 85 stakeholders across college admissions and education. Many endorsers have already committed to implementing changes consistent with the report recommendations – from revised essay questions and marketing materials, to the development of entirely new recruitment, scholarship and high school programs focused on community engagement and caring for others.

“*Turning the Tide* does a tremendous job articulating many of the things we have looked at for a long time at Yale,” said Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions at Yale University. “In response to the report, Yale has agreed to add a question on next year’s application asking students to reflect on their contribution to family, community, and/or the public good. We will also advocate for more flexibility in the extracurricular forms on both the Common Application and Coalition Application so that schools can more easily control how they ask students to list and reflect on their extracurricular involvement.”

“This report communicates our expectations much more clearly to applicants. We don’t want students who do things just because they think they have to in order to get into college. To the contrary: we want students who lead balanced lives, who pursue their interests with energy and enthusiasm, and who work cooperatively with others, all of which will help them be successful in and after college,” said Stuart Schmill, dean of admissions, interim executive director of student financial services, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

“*Turning the Tide* is the kind of essential collaborative effort that I dreamed about while establishing The Education Conservancy. Not only will it help students, but it will enable colleges to align practices with the values they espouse and demonstrate how collaboration among colleges can help them serve their common public interest charge,” said Lloyd Thacker, founder and executive director, The Education Conservancy.

“With this initiative, we are turning our attention to a critical developmental time in our children’s lives. Clearly, our current admissions landscape emphasizes extremely important traits, aptitudes, and achievements. And yet we owe our students a paradigm that goes beyond our current schema,” said Diane Anci, vice president for enrollment – dean of admission and financial aid, Kenyon College. “In *Turning the Tide*, we are granting our children permission, space, and time to develop their analytical strength, their empathic and generative selves, and their inner lives of reflection, values, and aspirations. We will reward them by emphasizing depth of commitment over breadth of resume, strength of purpose over multiple application fillers. In shifting our focus, we hope to inspire students to use their high school years as truly formative. We aspire to the goal of matriculating students who have an internal clarity and drive that will propel them forward through their college years and beyond.”

Making Caring Common will host a summit in summer 2016 convening admissions leaders and high school and parent representatives from across the country with the goal of developing a two-year plan to implement key elements of *Turning the Tide* nationwide.

For the full report and additional information, visit Making Caring Common online: www.makingcaringcommon.org.

Media Coverage

- *New York Times*: [Rethinking College Admissions](#)
- *Today*: [Major Changes Proposed for the College Admissions Process](#) (video)
- NBC News: [New Harvard Report Proposes Major Changes to College Admissions: Get the Details](#)
- ABC News: [Report Urges College to Give More Weight to Applicants’ Community Involvement](#) (video)
- CBS News: [New Report Suggests Ways to Revolutionize College Admissions](#) (video)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [Educators Seek to Ease Pressure in College Admissions Process](#)
- *Washington Post*: [To Get into College, Harvard Report Advocates for Kindness Instead of Overachieving](#)
- *Boston Globe*: [Harvard Report Calls for College Credential Shift](#)
- Reuters: [Want to Go to College in U.S.? Show Compassion Not Test Scores: Proposal](#)
- *Christian Science Monitor*: [Harvard Study Says SATs Should Be Optional. Here’s Why.](#)
- *Education Week*: [College Admission 2.0: Service Over Self](#) (Commentary by Senior Lecturer Richard Weissbourd)
- *Chronicle of Higher Education*: [Wanted: High-Character Students](#)
- *Inside Higher Ed*: [A New Call for Reform of Admissions](#)
- *U.S. News & World Report*: [Colleges Should Flip the Admissions Process on its Head](#)
- Univision: [Reporte recomienda revolucionar proceso de admisiones y que SAT o ACT sean opcionales](#)
- *International Business Times*: [College Application Process Should Focus Less On Tests, More On ‘Meaningful’ Service Projects: Report](#)
- Boston.com: [Harvard Report Calls for College Admissions “Revolution”](#)
- Cleveland.com: [Colleges Should Place Less Emphasis on Test Scores and ‘Résumé Padding’ When Admitting Students, Report Says](#)
- WABC-TV (New York): [Harvard-Led Report Urges Colleges to Change Application Process](#)
- KSL.com: [Harvard Report Seeks to Lessen Stress, Pressure of College Application Process](#)
- *The Hechinger Report*: [Elite Colleges Sound a Call to Reshape Admissions – but Will it Spur Any Concrete Changes?](#)
- *BuzzFeed*: [How America’s Top Colleges Plan To Fix The Admissions Process](#)
- *Business Insider*: [Harvard Just Proposed a Radically New Approach to College Admissions in America](#)
- *The Oregonian*: [Report: College Admissions Need Overhaul, Emphasis on ‘True Citizenship’ Not Chasing Test Scores](#)
- *EdSurge*: [A Call for Kindness in College Admissions](#)
- *PBS NewsHour*: [College Apps Should Emphasize Passion Not Accomplishments, Says Harvard Report](#) (video)
- *The 74 Million*: [AP Overload, Padded Resumes, Suicides: Why Harvard Is Pushing Elites to Rethink College Admissions](#)
- *Harvard Crimson*: [Ed School Report Calls for Reforming Admissions Practices](#)
- *Yale Daily News*: [Admissions to Focus on Character](#)
- MIT News: [Stu Schmill Endorses Report on Consideration of Character in College Admissions](#)

Promoting good character, community service, and good citizenship in our students, advances our schools and community!



Have a great week!
Paul Smith

The Superintendent of Schools sends out text message using **Remind**.

Remind is a one-way text messaging and email system. With *Remind*, all personal information remains completely confidential. If you would like reminders about East Hampton Public Schools events or immediate updates on school cancelations in the winter directly from the Superintendent of Schools [click here](#) and simply enter your mobile phone number.

