

Dear Friends,

Greetings! The last days of August are upon us and the excitement of a new school year is before us. We hope your summer at home has been filled with great moments, time with family and friends and of course...summer reading. For our kids, we are looking forward to having you back in school and continuing our work together. In East Hartford our Schools are the Pride of our Community—we appreciate your partnership to make this happen.

As we head into a new school year we wanted to share a few reminders that will help you set up a successful school year. If we can be of help with any of these issues, please do not hesitate to let us know.

1. **School Attendance:** Attending and being present in school is one of the greatest predictors of student success. At East Hartford Public Schools, we monitor attendance closely and make every effort to reach out to engage you in the necessary supports to be sure your child is in school. Please check your final report card last year and identify how many days your child missed—please set a goal for this year and let us know how we can help.
2. **Central Registration:** Please be sure to make sure your child is registered for school and that your address and contact information are updated. The district Central Registration site is located at 734 Tolland Street—if your child is not registered, please do so immediately to avoid the delays that tend to occur with the back to school rush. Please also make sure that your medical records and immunizations are updated especially for Kindergarten, 7th and 10th grades. Unfortunately, failing to register your child or update appropriate records will result in a delay or disrupted start of the school year.
3. **Busing and School Transportation:** The start to a new school year is an incredibly busy time for school transportation. Please keep the following points in mind regarding our transportation system:
 - Contact Numbers: BOE Transportation Coordinator (860) 622-5139; Dattco Bus Yard (860) 904-9783.
 - Letters were sent to all parents of elementary students on May 15, 2017 notifying them that day care transportation requests were due by August 1, 2017. All requests received after that date will be reviewed in mid-September.
 - Dattco will have school buses on site for all Kindergarten student orientations. Please check our website at www.ehps.org and click on the “Parent” link at the top of the page to find a listing of the “2107-18 Open House & Orientation” dates.
 - EHPS will create a link to the Dattco routing system web site for parents. The on-line routing system is expected to “go live” by August 21st. Parents will be able to look up bus routes on line.
 - Wristbands will be placed by school staff on all Kindergarten students at dismissal. This will help bus drivers identify students who must have a parent, guardian and/or older sibling meet them at the afternoon bus stop.
 - Parents are reminded to have their child at the designated bus stops at least (10) minutes before his/her scheduled pick-up.
 - All bus routes will be published in The Gazette before the start of school at the end of August.
 - EHPS will have staff available to respond to parent phone calls until 6:00p.m., Monday - Friday, the first two weeks of school.

4. **School Uniforms:** If you haven't purchased your school uniforms yet, please visit the Connecticut Shirt Man at 70 Tolland Street as soon as possible to avoid any delays or back orders that can occur during this extremely busy time.

5. **A Mindset for Success:** One of the most important parts of a new year is achieving a "mindset for success" that includes a commitment to specific goals and actions. Parents and Guardians, you can help—have the conversation, set the goals and help your child make those commitments to what this year will be all about. As you set goals with your child, reflect on strengths and areas of growth, then make a plan to review your goals frequently. Hold yourself to being a cheerleader for these goals and bring these goals to your first parent teacher conference. A "mindset for success" is a choice we all make—let's make that choice together!

Enjoy the precious days we still have left and spend them with someone you love.

If we can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience (Mr. Hall – 860-622-5017 hall.br@easthartford.org, Mr. Quesnel – 860-622-5107 quesnel.nd@easthartford.org).

We're "**ALL IN**" with you and looking forward to seeing your child on our first day of school, **Wednesday, August 30,**



Bryan R. Hall
Board of Education Chairman
East Hartford Public Schools



Nathan Quesnel
Superintendent
East Hartford Public School