

ELPS Updates ***April 17, 2022***

Next Board of Education Meeting – Monday, April 25, 2022

The ELPS Board of Education will be holding its next regular meeting Monday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room in East Lansing High School. The meeting will be held in person and will be live streamed.

Here is a link to access the live stream and to view previously recorded meetings: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/east-lansing-high-school-east-lansing-mi>

Mask Requirement Update & Resources

At last week's meeting, the Board of Education voted 4 – 3 to remove the mask mandate and make masks optional in our school buildings and on school transportation effective Monday, April 18.

Contact tracing and dashboard reporting are no longer requirements for schools (these requirements were rescinded), and we will follow all rules and regulations around communicable diseases and report known positive cases to the Ingham County Health Department. Guidance around isolation, close contacts and quarantine will now come from the health department. We will continue to send notification letters to elementary classrooms where a positive case has been identified.

Here are some resources to support discussions with your student(s):

PowerPoint presentation – geared more toward elementary

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tk7oOSJM78ukmLY2cU0_UZT8JOj3jPL2BdziCRKr1tc/edit?usp=sharing

Articles – relevant to students of wide age range

<https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/tips-talking-kids-mask-mandates-being-lifted-schools> - directed more for parents

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/03/27/1082633794/some-kids-are-happy-to-ditch-the-mask-at-school-others-struggle-with-the-transit> - both parents and staff

<https://theconversation.com/surprise-your-kids-may-be-nervous-about-ditching-the-mask-177989> - first seven tips are more school-relevant

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1644528214/fairfieldschoolsorg/kjgrxawdbmuexteh4mrm/TalkingPointsreOptionalMasking004docx.pdf> - includes sample scripts for teachers who may be unsure how to approach

Masks will still be provided for all staff and students – KN95 masks are available in school offices. We also still have antigen tests available if a staff member or student would like to be tested – our weekly PCR testing will continue through the end of the school year.

Anxiety, Depression and Other Common Mental Health Challenges in Youth Discussion

On Tuesday April 19, East Lansing Public Schools is partnering with our local Community Mental Health to continue conversations around mental health and well-being. Many of our youth struggle with mental health challenges, and as concerned parents, teachers, and community members, we know that you want to support them.

Come learn about the most commonly diagnosed mental health challenges in young people and ways to help them be successful in managing them. You can join the discussion at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday by clicking on this Zoom link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83375283076>. All ELPS Community members are welcome to join!

Summer School Programming 2022

We are actively planning for summer programming and will have information out to families later this month. With the available staffing we have for summer programming, summer school will be available on an invitation-only basis to target students who are below grade level in reading and/or math.

In-person elementary Summer Learning Camp will be held for rising 1st-6th grade students. Building principals will be contacting families whose students qualify for our Summer Learning Camp. Mrs. Ware and Mrs. Barton will be coordinating elementary summer programming.

The high school credit recovery program will run as usual, and we plan to offer a Middle School 101 and High School 101 two-week program in August. More information to come.

Summer programming for special education categorical classrooms will also be offered. More information will be coming from Mr. Hamilton and/or your student's teacher.