



# Evesham Township School District

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

[www.evesham.k12.nj.us](http://www.evesham.k12.nj.us) · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. Jonathan Yates, Business Administrator (starting 1.26.24)

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

January 3, 2024

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: Teddy Bear Academy to Close on June 28, 2024; Point of Light: Tuition-Free FDK Update; Reminder from last Update: 2023-24 ETSD Calendar adjustment; Hourly rate for new lunch and bus aides now \$17 an hour; Opportunities and Resources.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

– proverb with variations tracing back to multiple continents

(our 2023-24 District Theme is “Cooperation is Key”)

**Come out and support Evesham Education Foundation’s fantastic 3rd Annual Double Down Event, 7-10:30 pm, Feb. 2! For tickets and more info:**

<https://eveshameducationfoundation.org/events/>

Regular Admission discount code for ETSD staff and families: ETSD2024

ETSD Bundle discount code for ETSD staff and families: ETSDBundle2024

## **Teddy Bear Academy to Close on June 28, 2024**

The last day for the Teddy Bear Academy program will be Friday, June 28, 2024. The program will continue to operate until that date; however, new students are no longer being accepted.

Our district has given this decision much consideration. Reasons necessitating this closure include budgetary impact, tuition-free preschool expansion plans, future space needs, and more. TBA loses money. Within the context of a projected \$719,000 loss in state aid for 2024-25 and rising costs in multiple areas of operations, which may result in cuts to educational programming, our district cannot continue to operate TBA beyond June 28.

This news is being shared now to give families time for future child care plans. TBA staff and families are receiving additional communication. All current TBA staff will be offered other positions in our district to start after June 28.

Teddy Bear Academy has been an important resource in our community. June, 2024 will be its 10-year anniversary. We are thankful, through TBA, to have provided quality child care in our community for the past decade.



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## Point of Light: Tuition-Free FDK Update

This has been an exciting week for our transitioning full day kindergarten students. The overwhelming majority of our HDK students made the switch to FDK yesterday (about 125 students). Our district has been able to transition all but one of our HDK teachers to FDK and hire additional FDK teachers. Parents received communication from the schools, and the teachers and the rooms were ready to go. The new teachers offered a Meet and Greet prior to Winter Break. Most students are in the same classrooms with their classmates; in the few instances where changes occurred, staff have assisted with the transition to the new room(s). We preserved one section of HDK for the rest of this school year, based on parent requests. Thank you again for all the invaluable support of this initiative—from everyone who voted, to our FDK committee volunteers, to ETEA and our staff, and more—making this positive change come to fruition here in ETSD.

## Reminder from last Update: 2023-24 ETSD Calendar adjustment

Our last in-service day has been moved to Tuesday, June 4, 2024 where it has traditionally been, from its prior date of Friday, May 24, 2024. This will enable our schools to be closed for students on the first Tuesday in June, since our schools are used as polling locations. Our [2023-24 ETSD Calendar](#) is linked on our homepage.

**Hourly rate for lunch and bus aides now \$17 an hour. [Apply to be a Lunch Aide!](#)**  
**[Apply to be a Bus Aide!](#)** (openings for both roles)

## Opportunities and Resources

- 2.2.24: Evesham Education Foundation's 3rd Annual Double Down Event, 7-10:30 pm: <https://eveshameducationfoundation.org/events/>
- [2.2.24: Give Kids A Smile Day! \(español\)](#)
- <https://raproom.org/home>: Local resource to help and advocate for families and their loved ones struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith  
Superintendent of Schools