



# 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. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator

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

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

Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

Nov. 22, 2023

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: \$17 Hourly Rate for new Lunch Aides and Bus Aides starting on Jan. 2, 2024; Bonuses for Staff Who Recruit Drivers, Bonuses for New Drivers; Superintendent Comments from Nov. 16, 2023 BOE meeting; Thanksgiving Thanks.

“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”)

**Nov. 23, 8 AM, Savich Field, Marlton Turkey Trot: Family Friendly 5K Run**

**Nov. 28, 5 pm, SEPAG Meeting, DeMasi Library**

**“ANNIE”, Cherokee’s Fall Show, Dec 1, 2, 8, & 9 @ 7 pm**

**Tickets info [www.cherokeedrama.org](http://www.cherokeedrama.org)**

**Dec. 20, 5 pm, MS Jazz Band Performances w/Cherokee Jazz Band, Cherokee North Cafeteria**

**Happy 60th Birthday to Beeler ES! Great whole school B-Day celebration today!**

“In the News”...recent article about our award-winning Social Behavioral Support (SBS) Program at MES (also recognized at our May 2023 BOE meeting):

<https://www.njsba.org/news-publications/school-leader/fall-2023-vol-55-no-2/special-students-creating-a-better-world/> ... [For more info](#)

Hourly rate for lunch and bus aides rising to **\$17 an hour** starting Jan. 2, 2024. Every lunch/bus aide wage guide step will rise starting Jan. 2. [Apply to be a Lunch Aide!](#)  
[Apply to be a Bus Aide!](#) (openings for both roles)



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## Bonuses for Staff Who Recruit Bus Drivers! Bonuses for New Drivers!

**For All Staff:** Any staff member who refers someone to ETSD who is hired by the district as a bus driver and drives for the district for 12 months or one full school year (Sept 1 - June 30), shall earn a **\$500 bonus**, to be paid after the time of 12 months or one full school year has been reached. That staff member who made the referral shall earn a **second \$500 bonus** if that driver who was referred drives for the district for a second 12 month period or a second full school year (Sept. 1 - June 30), to be paid after the time of a second 12 month period of a second full school year has been reached.

**For Anyone/Everyone:** Anyone newly hired by our district as a bus driver who drives for our district for 12 months or one full school year (Sept. 1 - June 30), shall earn a **\$500 bonus**, to be paid after the time of 12 months or one full school year has been reached. That driver shall earn a **second \$500 bonus** if that driver drives for the district for a second 12 month period or a second full school year (Sept. 1 - June 30), to be paid after the time of a second 12 month period of a second full school year has been reached.

## Superintendent Comments from Nov. 16, 2023 BOE meeting

To segway from the recognition of our Ballot Committee volunteers to my comments, I would just like to highlight our Board of Education for making the achievement of tuition-free FDK its #1 goal. Doing so was a clear and powerful statement, and was essential to success.

Our staff is already at work on the transition, and openings for additional staff positions have been posted. More information will be provided to our HDK families in the coming weeks as we solidify details based on the results of our final, final FDK interest survey.

In other news, a big thank you to all our staff and teachers for welcoming parents in our classrooms during American Education Week this week, and thank you to our parents for making the time to join us! This week was full of valuable (and fun) opportunities for enriching understanding of the great work going on within our schools.

Lastly I would like to speak a bit about the upcoming transition of our ECC program to Archway Just Kids on Dec. 1. 400 existing ECC students have been registered, and Archway has hired our existing ECC staff to carry on the program at all 6 of our elementary schools. I would reiterate that this decision to transition ECC to Archway Just Kids was



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made for financial reasons as an alternative to cutting the program altogether. No Archway Just Kids, No ECC. With that being said, I'd also like to read this statement from Archway Just Kids:

"Archway Programs is a special needs community that offers services through its schools, special programs, and group homes. While Just Kids is an Archway program, it operates under a separate state license, allowing only a subset of services commonly available through schools.

With this in mind, Just Kids reviews each child presenting an IEP individually with one goal: to provide adequate childcare services to the child while staying within the legal bounds of the Office of Licensing. It carefully evaluates each student using a multiple-step process. Its Licensing Manager reviews their IEP, along with the Director of Just Kids and the Director of Early Intervention.

Archway Just Kids can only accept students if they fall within its legally permitted services. Some factors that may result in such a determination include, but are not limited to, the following: if a child requires a 1:1 counselor or aide, has a history of elopement, behaviors that would require therapeutic holds, or if the child needs assistance with toileting, Archway Just Kids is not legally permitted to provide those services.

Just Kids' commitment to safety and providing exemplary care is why it uses a three-step process to determine the acceptance of a child into its program. Its goal is to accept all children, even on a trial basis, but it must follow state guidelines to ensure the safety of all the children in the program.

Just Kids currently serves over 1,100 children, and responds to all registration questions and IEP concerns as quickly as possible. Evaluating an IEP and determining if it can provide adequate childcare is a lengthy process that takes time, and Archway Just Kids appreciates families' patience and understanding."

## Thanksgiving Thanks

Wishing everyone, staff, families, community members, a happy Thanksgiving, and time with family and friends. I'm grateful for all that our dedicated staff give every day, along with help from our families and community, to provide the best possible support for our students.



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Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith

Superintendent of Schools