

CLINTON BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES & INFORMATION

June 26, 2020



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ANNOUNCEMENTS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Reopening of Schools

On Thursday, June 25, 2020 Governor Lamont and Education Commissioner Cardona announced details of the framework and guidelines to school districts regarding reopening of schools for all students in the fall. The guidance includes operational and educational considerations to consider and implement, including an emphasis on keeping cohorts of students together, social distancing within facilities and classrooms, wearing of face coverings, and ensuring equity and access. These guidelines apply in the present context and are the result of the state's successful COVID-19 containment efforts. School districts are being asked to develop plans for full opening, with contingency plans that will allow a quick adjustment if the transmission rates were to increase. These would include an online learning plan or a possible hybrid model. The administration has focused initial planning on a review of facilities and space, adjustments in our office spaces, potential staffing needs, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols, and the acquisition of PPE and disinfecting supplies. Now that the Governor has announced the details of the framework, the Board of Education is establishing a Reopening Advisory Committee with representation of various stakeholders who will provide input and feedback to the District Administrative Team as they prepare the reopening plans for our schools.

[Governor's Press Release on Reopening Schools](#)

[Executive Summary of Connecticut's 2020-2021 School Planning](#)

Facilities Projects & Move of Offices to Morgan

Several facilities projects are taking place this summer including the replacement of outside piping at Eliot Middle School, a replacement of a section of roofing at Eliot, and a large roof replacement project at Joel Elementary School. These projects have resulted in the relocation of the Eliot and Joel School Offices as well as Central Office, Special Services, and the Business Office.

For the months of July and August, all Clinton Public Schools Offices will be housed at The Morgan School. Business hours and phone contacts remain the same, and we are continuing our request that all visitors call ahead for an appointment in order to maintain safety protocols.

Meal Distribution

As of Friday, June 26th, the Pierson School grab and go meal distribution site is closed. Meals for all children 18 years of age and younger will continue to be served Monday through Thursday from 10:00am – 11:30am at the back of The Morgan School. Double meals will be served on Thursdays since we will be closed on Fridays.

Student Physical Requirements

According to Connecticut State Statute and the immunization requirements, all sixth and tenth grade students must have updated physical and required immunizations completed before entering seventh and eleventh grade. Please have these completed as soon as possible. Please contact Donna Frechette, Nursing Supervisor, with any questions at dfrechette@clintonpublic.net.

If your child needs medications to be delivered during the school day it is advisable to contact your provider now to get these orders completed. Providers need ample notice this year to fill out these forms. Forms can be faxed to our HIPPA compliant fax number at 844-831-2351.

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SCHOOL & DISTRICT UPDATES

Morgan Class of 2020 Graduation

On Wednesday, June 10, 2020, our Morgan School seniors experienced a graduation like no other in The Morgan School history. The graduation ceremony lasted all day long, as each senior and their family drove onto the Morgan campus and were able to receive their diplomas. Each graduate crossed the graduation stage as their name was called and did so to the cheers of their family and district administration. It was a special day that will be remembered for the creativity and efforts of the entire Clinton community to give our seniors a chance to be celebrated and to know that they are important and that Clinton cares. Special thanks to the Clinton Police Department, Morgan Alumni Association, the Clinton PTA, Morgan's 2020 Project Graduation Team, The Town Council, Grove Gardens, Cold Stone Creamery, school staff, and all of the businesses, residents, and families who not only decorated and cheered throughout the day, but have supported our schools and our students throughout the years!

[Graduation 2020 Photo Gallery](#)

Classified Employee of the Year

Earlier this month, Penny Kozak was recognized as the Clinton Public Schools Classified Employee of the Year. Penny was the longtime library assistant at Pierson Elementary School, having been hired in 2013. Recently, she transferred to Eliot Middle School where she has been affectionately referred to as the "glue" that keeps the library and the entire school together.

Retirees Recognition

Clinton Public Schools is proud to recognize the achievements of the following staff members who are retiring at the end of the school year. We are thankful for their contributions and the positive influences they have had on countless students throughout the years. Please click here for a tribute [video](#) which was created in their honor.

Joel School:

Gail Apgar, Grade 3

Laura Ragonese, Grade K

Maggie Steendam, Special Education

The Morgan School:

Jeff Motter, Social Studies

Joanne Cozzolino, Transition Coordinator

Online Learning Surveys

On June 8, 2020, surveys were administered to assess online teaching and learning in Clinton over the past three months and to look for ways to improve the experience for students, teachers, and families if deemed necessary for the 2020-2021 school year. The survey topics included questions regarding access to technology, student workload, and overall effectiveness of instruction and support for learning. Results were presented to the Clinton Board of Education at their meeting held on June 15, 2020.

Overall results showed that students had access to both devices and internet connectivity during the school closure and that the tech support provided by the district met their needs. Most students found the online activities to be engaging, however many students struggled with maintaining their focus and attention during their online learning experience, especially at the younger grades. Parents, teachers, and students all reported that they would like to see increased use of "live" Google Meet sessions between teachers and students if online learning needs to be resumed in the fall.

This summer, administrators will be reviewing the results, paying close attention to the open-ended questions in which respondents provided personal accounts of their experience and offered many helpful suggestions on how to build upon our first experience with online learning. This information will be used to help revise and establish our online learning contingency plans as required in the fall reopening guidance released by Governor Lamont.

Empowering learners to embrace and influence the future with courage and compassion