

# A "Special" Newsletter

2020-2021



Below is the **Special Areas Virtual Learning Student Contract**. Your student will be provided a copy of this contract in Google Classroom. We ask that each student digitally signs and reshare their agreement to the contract's guidelines and expectations.

## Special Areas Virtual Learning Contract

*This year will be different; however, we still want to have a fun and educational learning experience for all. Students are responsible for checking their classroom schedule to see what special area class they will be attending.*

**\*Hybrid Students** will be virtually attending specials three days a week on the days they do not go to school (Cohort A will come to school on Monday and Tuesday, and will have specials at home on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Cohort B will come to school on Thursday and Friday, and will have specials at home on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday). At the end of the trimester, they will then switch to two new specials to attend. You can find out which special is assigned through their homeroom teacher.

**\*Remote Students** will be assigned one special and attend five days a week. After six weeks, they will switch to a new special. You can find out which special is assigned through their homeroom teacher.

### Classroom Expectations:

- LOG ON to your scheduled special area's Google Meet ON TIME and LEAVE at the end of class. We have a strict schedule, so you must leave once the class is over.
- Attendance will be taken.
- Wear school-appropriate clothing.
- No eating during class.
- Keep the video camera ON at all times during our class time.
- Keep your microphone on MUTE until it is your time to talk.
- Set yourself up so there are no distractions or background noise. Pretend like it is just like how we act in class.
- Please sit at a table or a desk (not on the floor or in bed)
- Display good character and be respectful of your teacher and classmates.
- Do not use the chat unless you have a question or directed to by the teacher.
- Be prepared and participate!

### Grading Policy

M- Masters the Standard = 92+  
W- Working toward the Standard = 74-91  
N- Not meeting the Standard = 73-below

*I have read and understand the stated expectations and grading policy for all of my special area classes for the 2020-2021 school year. I will do my best to follow directions and ask for help when necessary.*

*Please digitally sign your name and homeroom below:*

**\*TYPE YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME HERE:**

**\*TYPE YOUR HOMEROOM HERE:**

→ Share this Doc with your assigned Special Area Teacher once you have provided your digital signature.

### **ART Education**

I am so excited to get started this year. It may be new to us all, but I love computers and have so many creative things planned for East Greenwich kids!

You will receive a Portfolio- Take good care of it! It WILL be collected!

Store it somewhere flat! DO NOT Draw all over it!!! We will have things to do on the cover, so wait and leave it blank!

The stapled COPY paper is for assignment practice and sketching, you will need some for class. If you use it up you can ask for more or find your own BLANK no lined paper....

The paper on the inside is HEAVY paper. This is for projects because it is "good art paper" it is hard to replace, just keep in the folder until we use it during class. You can color this for fun.

**These items are needed for art class. Old ones work too. So check your house first!**

Erasers #2Pencils

Color Pencils 12 pack or more (Crayola but any brand is fine)

Color Markers Thick 8 pack (chisel point Crayola....)

1 medium or thick BLACK permanent-"Sharpie"

1 Black ball point pen (any kind)

Elmer's Glue

A few Post-it notes

Looking forward to a great school year!

Can't Wait to see you!!!

Mrs. Benedetto



[Website](#)

[benedettod@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us](mailto:benedettod@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us)

## **Physical Education**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. We are very excited to have you in our classes. Our classes are going to be a little different this year. First, we only teach our class in live Google Meets. Attendance is mandatory as participation and preparation for class is very important. We will post a supply list aka equipment list at the beginning of each week session. For anyone who has PE for this trimester, we ask that you come to class prepared with a ball that can be kicked. We are trying to make this year's PE classes look like our normal PE classes and having the equipment will create a successful class for everyone. We will share more information in our classes. Health will be taught on days when all students will be remote learning. Please reference the "R" days on the district calendar for the Health instruction days. We look forward to seeing you in class.

Diane O'Malley, PE Teacher [omalleyd@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us](mailto:omalleyd@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us)  
Kevin DeVillasanta, PE Teacher [devillasantak@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us](mailto:devillasantak@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us)



## **SPANISH CLASS**



Hola Parents! I look forward to meeting your child(ren) and getting to know them! As you know, this school year we will meet virtually multiple times a week. Your child will learn Spanish through music, acting, stories, drawing, and of course using computer resources. Our Spanish classes will be offered using live instruction classes and your child's participation is required.

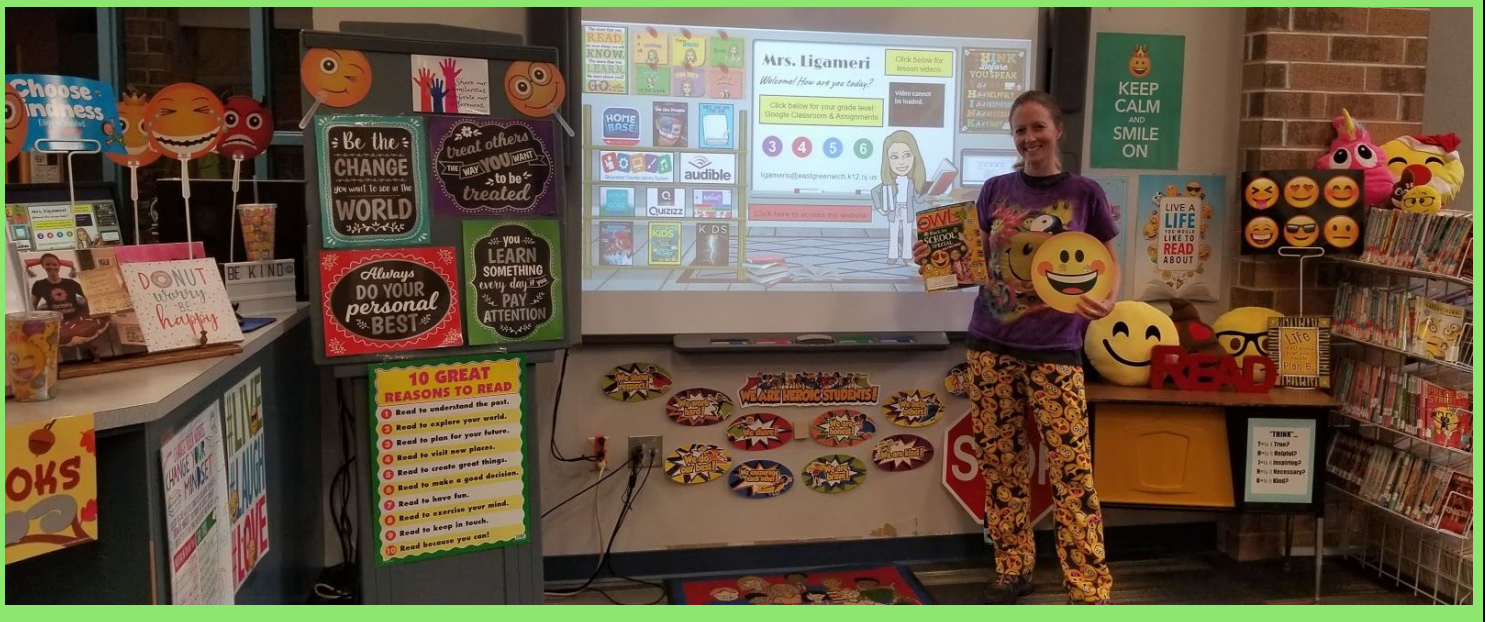
I encourage you to help your child create a learning space that will help them learn and practice their Spanish. Some items that they will need for Spanish class include: pencils, crayons or markers, paper for writing and drawing, and post-it notes (but index cards and tape will work too).

I wish you a wonderful start to the school year! Please feel free to connect with me at:  
[moralesc@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us](mailto:moralesc@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us)

Sincerely,  
Señora Morales

## Library

- ★ Welcome back to school! For any new parents, I am Mrs. Ligameri the Samuel Mickle librarian. As I shared in your child's welcome video, I am excited to be back together again. I know we would all love to be back to normal and teaching fully in-person, but that option isn't available for specials this year. Our goal is to get back to as normal as possible for now. In the spring, remote virtual learning was challenging for all of us! This fall will have new challenges, but since your child(ren) now has a schedule to follow and live instruction to attend, it will make library very similar to our regular in-person instruction in the past. Now that students will be attending library classes, they will not have to watch videos, read my posts or do your assignment on their own or with you. Rather, they will do all their work with me during our classes. My goal is for them to have NO work outside of our class time (*other than encouraging them to read and write for enjoyment, of course!*).
- ★ This year's library theme is emojis! We all have ever-changing feelings right now and we will focus on all the positives! During our first week, I will go over all the details of my expectations, bitmoji library, our Google Classroom, as well as links and resources available to students. Next week will be solely for sharing information and getting back into the swing of things, but my ultimate goal is to focus on the same skills as before: reading, writing, listening and speaking--while infusing fun and great character into every lesson. In addition, this year we will also utilize the 3 P's: positivity, patience and perseverance.
- ★ I fully understand every child is unique and can feel one way or another on any given day and that's perfectly okay! We just have to stick together because we are all part of the East Greenwich family. So keep smiling and please have your child(ren) join me in **EVERY** scheduled library class because participation and completion of assignments accounts for most of their grade. I hope they have lots of fun learning!
- ★ Supplies: blank and/or lined paper (as needed), pencil, coloring materials, books and a smile!
- ★ Please have your child(ren) return any library books from last year during the first week of school. I will be printing overdue book notices the following week.
- ★ Check out my website at <http://mrsligamerislibrary.weebly.com>
- ★ Feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns at [ligameris@eastgreenwich.nj.us](mailto:ligameris@eastgreenwich.nj.us)



## General Music

Hi Parents!

Despite all of the changes for our 2020-2021 school year, I am very excited and eager to get things started! I am looking forward to delivering a diverse, yet fun, music education whether we are in person or at home. In music class, students will still be able to learn all of the objectives and goals that we normally do, just virtually! This is only the beginning of my learning goals for this year:

- 3rd Grade: The building blocks of music notation, creating and performing songs using homemade instruments, history of the "Star Spangled Banner" as well as other important songs from our history
- 4th Grade: An indepth education on the instrument families, instrument construction, notation, theory, homemade instrument compositions
- 5th Grade: Learning and understanding music from around the world, homemade drums, being able to describe musical elements when listening to a song, instrument families and timbres
- 6th Grade: A complete analyzation of our musical history and understand how we got to having the music in our lives today

Each grade level will have elements of creating and composition, evaluation and response, singing, dancing, music notation, instruments, performing and interpretation, as well as their own individualized connection with music. Attendance for our live class meets are mandatory and participation is very important.

For more information, please visit my website at [EGMusic.weebly.com](http://EGMusic.weebly.com) and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. I am looking forward to a great year!

Alexa Zimmerman, General Music, [Zimmermana@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us](mailto:Zimmermana@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us)

## STRINGS MUSIC

Welcome back to school, Mickle Strings! I am thrilled to be back working with you, despite the craziness of 2020! This year certainly proves to be an interesting one, but I am excited to take on the new challenge of virtual learning. I have been working hard on finding multiple online resources to fully enhance this year's program and hopefully make it the best year yet!

### [Welcome Back, SMS Strings!](#)

Please fill out this form, if you are interested in continuing strings lessons this year!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScBF7k-sKSmNXyoH4\\_GBDbQU-w221solIZvfWTTm5rG0WDdg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScBF7k-sKSmNXyoH4_GBDbQU-w221solIZvfWTTm5rG0WDdg/viewform)

We will begin virtual lessons soon, so it is really important to submit the online behavior contract and registration form. Importantly, our **SMS** Strings parent night has been moved to Monday, September 14th, 2020 from 6:30-7:30PM using the link: [meet.google.com/azk-yfcg-rpy](https://meet.google.com/azk-yfcg-rpy).

I will make a video recording of the meeting for anyone who is unable to make it and I will also make myself available throughout the week, if you would like to schedule another meeting.

Currently, I am working on moving the old strings website (found directly below) to weebly.

<https://sites.google.com/eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us/eastgreenwichstrings/home>

Exciting New Strings website: <https://egstrings.weebly.com>

For any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at: [stewartj@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us](mailto:stewartj@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us)

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (Band)**

Welcome back band students! After a crazy 2020 so far, I am very excited to get back to making music together.

**6th Grade Band** will start with virtual lessons soon. Please return registration forms to me via email or your child's homeroom teacher so that I can add your child to my lesson schedule:

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EbqN1fBeFUIQPORbEA54QiNdInpUfRyICmQc3XbYHlo/edit?usp=sharing>)

I am also looking forward to adding new students to our band program in the **5th Grade Band**! If your 5th Grader is interested in starting a band instrument, please fill out the registration form:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YpOO\\_CCgpB1RZpTJhIr1SYuNwOsch07bBUiUPoPOad8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YpOO_CCgpB1RZpTJhIr1SYuNwOsch07bBUiUPoPOad8/edit?usp=sharing)

If they are having trouble deciding which instrument to pick, check out my demo video:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vFNzRAR5\\_Zg6TVwXXjMGJ78Drb-bejUm/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vFNzRAR5_Zg6TVwXXjMGJ78Drb-bejUm/view?usp=sharing)

5th Grade Band Information Night will take place on September 17th at 7pm:

<https://meet.google.com/jdm-vqnp-twa>

Join the meet to learn more about the band program!

I look forward to "seeing" all of our great SMS Band students again this year!

Mr. Gillespie

For more information, check out my website (<https://samuelmickleband.weebly.com/>) or feel free to email me at [gillespiem@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us](mailto:gillespiem@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us)