

Eastport-South Manor Central School District

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JOSEPH A. STEIMEL
Superintendent of Schools

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Director of Special Education
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March 18, 2024

Dear ESM Community,

This message is to remind you that **Thursday, March 21st**, marks **World Down Syndrome Day**. As a district, we're committed to celebrating the incredible contributions and unique perspectives of individuals with Down syndrome. We're excited to show our support and **encourage your participation** in making this a special day!

Here are some ways you can show your support:

- **Wear blue & yellow:** The official colors of World Down Syndrome Day are blue and yellow. Encourage students and staff to wear these colors on March 21st to create a visible display of unity.
- **Wear colorful mismatched socks:** As a symbol of our support for individuals with Down syndrome. This simple gesture not only raises awareness but also demonstrates our solidarity with the Down syndrome community.
- **Spread the Word:** Share information about Down syndrome with your students and families. Discuss the importance of inclusion and celebrating diversity. Refer to Down Syndrome websites, such as GlobalDownSyndrome.Org and [National Down Syndrome Society @ NDSS.Org](http://NationalDownSyndromeSociety@NDSS.Org).

Together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Franquiz", written in a cursive style.

Benjamin Franquiz
Director of Special Education