

Eastport-South Manor Central School District

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November 9, 2022

Dear Members of the ESM Community:

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the Allied nations and Germany declared an armistice, ending the major hostilities of World War I. The following year, President Woodrow Wilson declared that November 11th would be commemorated as Armistice Day. On June 4, 1926, Congress passed a resolution that the "recurring anniversary of November 11, 1918, should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations" and that the President should issue an annual proclamation calling for the observance of Armistice Day. In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, President Dwight Eisenhower signed legislation calling the day Veterans Day; a day to honor all Americans who have serviced in the military during both wartime and peacetime. This week, we once again commemorate this national holiday.

Unfortunately, the meaning of the national holidays is often forgotten and becomes merely a day off from school for our children. Let us not allow this to happen this week. There are millions of veterans throughout our country who have sacrificed a great deal to insure that America preserves the freedoms that we enjoy and, all too frequently, take for granted. At a time when brave American soldiers are fighting for our liberty around the globe, let us take time to honor our veterans. We should also be sure that we pass the importance of this along to the next generation. I ask that teachers and parents discuss with our children the many sacrifices these heroic men and women have made to keep our nation safe. A kind deed or even a simple word of thanks to a veteran would lift their spirits and teach our children a truly valuable lesson. Regardless of where we are or what we are doing, let us all pause for a moment this Friday, November 11th, at 11:00 a.m., and remember all those who have served this great nation in the line of duty.

Our veterans are our real American heroes. We should all be sure to honor them this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Steimel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "S".

Joseph A. Steimel
Superintendent of Schools