

Eastport-South Manor Central School District

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November 27, 2024

Dear Eastport-South Manor School District Family,

As the aroma of holiday foods begin to fill the air and the last gold and crimson leaves fall to the ground, we know that we are approaching Thanksgiving! This holiday is a time for all of us to be with loved ones, express gratitude, and reflect on the blessings in our lives.

As we all know, Thanksgiving holds a special place in American history. While the origins of the holiday trace back to the 1621 harvest feast shared by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people, it wasn't until the midst of the Civil War that President Abraham Lincoln, seeking to foster unity and gratitude amidst a divided nation, officially declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, to be observed annually on the last Thursday of November.

This year, as we gather around our tables, let us remember the spirit of gratitude that lies at the heart of Thanksgiving. Let us be thankful for our families, friends and the countless opportunities we have been given. Let us also take a moment to appreciate the rich history of our nation and the values that have shaped us.

On this Thanksgiving Day, I extend a special recognition to the families within our school community who have loved ones working as first responders and/or serving in the military. Their dedication and sacrifice ensure our safety and freedom, and we are eternally grateful. We recognize that duty calls for many, even on holidays, and our thoughts are with those who are unable to be with their families this Thanksgiving.

To everyone in the Eastport-South Manor Central School District family, I would like to wish you a very happy and fulfilling Thanksgiving.

May your day be filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished memories.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Steimel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the end.

Joseph A. Steimel
Superintendent of Schools