

November 11, 2020

Greetings EGF ISD 595 families and staff members!

I would like to start this newsletter by saying “THANK YOU” to all of the men and women who have served in the military and protected our freedoms, as well as to their family members. We owe a great debt to each and everyone one of them for their commitment to preserving our country and way of life. You are truly appreciated and I wish you a Happy Veterans Day 2020! Please go to [2020 EGF Central Middle School Virtual Veterans Day Program](#) to watch the 2020 CMS Veterans Day Program. I would like to thank the CMS staff and participants in the video for doing a great job!



Please take little time to review the following information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Fall 2020 Parent-Teacher Conferences** - The first quarter of the 2020-21 school year is officially in the record books and Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled throughout the week of November 16-20. Please go to the individual website for each building to find more information about PTC's.

**School Learning Model Update** - The latest (11.5.20) 14-day case per 10,000 number for Polk County grew significantly to **113.32** (October 11-24) and is predicted to be even larger this week. As mentioned in previous weekly newsletters, the [K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County](#) is only one piece of data used to determine the best learning model for East Grand Forks ISD 595. The District's Incident Command Team meets on a regular basis with Polk County Public Health officials to also review more detailed information from the immediate area and school system. **The District has reached a point where shifting to a different learning model may need to occur in the near future and parents should start to plan for a potential shift. If a move is made, the District will do everything possible to provide advance notification to families and staff members.** During the November 9, 2020 School Board meeting, information contained in the following link was shared with the board members. [11.9.20 EGF ISD 595 School Board Meeting COVID Report](#)

Section 3 of the report lists the number of COVID-19 related absences on 11.4.20. The latest one-day numbers for 11.10.20 are listed below and I was happy to see a decrease. I know that things can change quickly, but wanted to share some positive news.

East Grand Forks ISD 595 COVID-19 Related Absences on 11.10.20 (1 Day)							
	Preschool	New Heights	South Point	CMS	Senior High	District	Total
Students	NA	50	50	51	55	0	206
Building Staff	NA	3	1	5	4	0	13
District Level Staff	NA	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Quarantine Notes: Some of the absences were due to the following conditions:</b>							
Preschool numbers are included in the building data where the classroom is located							
Quarantined PK-5 Classrooms							
Quarantined athletic team							

**11.13.20 District Command Team and Special School Board Meeting Information** - The EGF ISD 595 Incident Command Team will be meeting in partnership with Polk County Public Health on Friday, November 13th to discuss updated COVID related data. Information from the Command Team Meeting will be shared with the public during a special school board meeting at noon on the same day. The school board will be meeting virtually via zoom and will be available to view on the District's Facebook page. Please be on the lookout for future school district updates and do not be surprised if all or parts of the school district transition to a distance learning model in near future. My intent is not to increase the level of anxiety for families and staff members, but to be transparent and provide an advanced warning that a transition to a different learning model is very possible. District leaders and staff members will do their best to keep students in classrooms safely for as long as possible.

THANK YOU for being patient and demonstrating grace! You are appreciated!

*Mike Kolness*

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