

December 23, 2020

Season's Greetings EGF ISD 595 Families and Staff Members!

The final day of school for calendar year 2020 is officially in the record books and I am looking forward to 2021! The last nine months have been very challenging for everyone and I greatly appreciate all of your efforts. You have risen to the challenge and we are starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel. There will continue to be some bumps in the road as we head into 2021, but things seem to be improving daily. Please continue to follow the safety recommendations and stay healthy! I am really excited to see students and staff members back in the buildings on Monday, January 4, 2021! The distance learning period served its purpose, but it is not the best learning model for a majority of our students. I hope that the case numbers will continue to decline and we will be able to transition all of our students into in-person instruction at some point in the near future. Please take a little time to review the following information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Return to School on Monday, January 4, 2021 - The East Grand Forks ISD 595 Board of Education approved a plan to have students return to school for in-person instruction for grades PK-5 and hybrid learning for grades 6-12 on Monday, January 4, 2021. The District fully intends to continue with the approved plan and no changes are expected at this time.

- **Activities Calendar Error** - The 2020-21 EGF Activities Calendar states that there is no school January 4, 2021. Please disregard the error! The first day of school after the holiday break will be Monday, January 4, 2021.

School Board Meeting Information - The Board of Education tentatively scheduled a special school board meeting on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 to discuss the latest COVID information and return to school plans. Due to changes made to the [Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#) by Governor Walz and the MN Department of Education, moving to another learning model is not allowed before January 18, 2021 unless a school district had approved a transition plan prior to December 16, 2020. EGF ISD 595 did approve a transition plan on December 8, 2020 and we need to stick with the plan. There is no need for a special school board meeting and the next scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Education will be on January 11, 2021.

The final regular school board meeting of the year was held on December 14, 2020 and Missy Thompson was recognized for her dedication and service to the students, families and community members of EGF ISD 595! Missy has done a wonderful job of serving on the school board since 2013 and we will miss her. Lynn Brott was elected to the school board this fall and her term will start in January. I would like to thank Missy and Lynn for their commitment to providing an expectation of EXCELLENCE for every learner, every day!

COVID Updates - The latest (12.17.20) 14-day case per 10,000 number for Polk County dropped to **165.55** (November 22 - December 5). Please go to [K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County](#) to view the data from across the state. Polk County case numbers have been dropping and we will need to continue to do our part to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and keep our community safe. The number of reported positive COVID cases for school district students and staff members grew slightly between December 16, 2020 and December 22, 2020. It is extremely important for families and staff members to continue reporting COVID related information to the school district. Thank you for the help!

East Grand Forks ISD 595 Positive COVID-19 Case Data through 12.22.20						
	New Heights	South Point	CMS	Senior High	District Wide	Total
Student Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/22/20	4	6	15	24	0	49
Staff Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/22/20	9	5	6	10	2	32
Total Positive COVID Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/22/20	13	11	21	34	2	81
Student Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/22/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	17	13	19	25	0	74
Staff Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/22/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	5	3	7	3	3	21
Total Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/22/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	22	16	26	28	3	95
GRAND TOTAL OF POSITIVE CASES	35	27	47	62	5	176
Case Number Increases from 12.16.20 to 12.22.20	0	0	1	2	1	4
Case Number Increases from 11.12 to 12.23.20	12	9	10	8	3	42

Distance Learning Transition - I would like to encourage families who have elected to participate in the full-time distance learning model and are considering transitioning back to in-person or hybrid learning, to look at transitioning after the holiday break (January 4, 2021) or the end of the semester (January 26, 2021), This is just a friendly reminder that that dates listed above are natural breaks in the school calendar that would work well for transitioning students back into classrooms. Thank you!

Altru Letters - Mr. McGlynn’s 8th grade students recently wrote and delivered “Thank You” letters to nurses at the Altru Cancer Center. Jesse Johnson from Up North Pizza Pub heard about the letters and donated gift certificates to go with them. I would like to say “Thank You” to Mr. McGlynn, Jesse Johnson, and all of the students who wrote the letters! I am sure it brought a big smile to the faces of the nurses! Super job!



Community Education Brochure - Please take a little time to check out the [EGF ISD 595 Winter Community Education Brochure](#) and consider registering for some classes. It looks like I am finally going to learn how to play guitar, participate in a pilates class, and cook with an instant pot! WOOHOO!

MSHSL Winter Activities Update - Governor Walz recently announced the extension of the pause to youth activities and winter athletic teams will be allowed to start practicing on Monday, January 4, 2021. Please go to the following links to register if you have not done so already.

Activities Website: <https://bit.ly/3224rAm>

Sports Qualifying Physical Form: <https://bit.ly/349eITG>

MSHSL Eligibility Brochure: <https://bit.ly/2Y6H4ok> **MSHSL Covid Notice:** <https://bit.ly/3iPjz8>

Early Dismissal Days Reminder (from 12.16.20) - MN Executive Orders 20-94 and 20-95 required school districts to implement plans to provide thirty minutes of additional prep time per day for teachers in hybrid and distance learning models. Please plan on early afternoon dismissal times on the following dates. The exact times for each building will be shared in the very near future. If the District is able to transition back to in-person instruction for all grade levels, the plans will be adjusted accordingly.

- January 8, 15, 22 & 29, February 5, 11, 19 & 26

Enjoy the holiday break and stay healthy!

Mike Kolness

Superintendent of Schools

EGF ISD 595

218-793-2880

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Kolness Family!



