

October 12, 2021

Greetings EGF ISD 595 Families and Staff Members,

I hope all of you are doing well! It is hard to believe that it is already the middle of October and a high percentage of the area crops have been harvested. Mother Nature has been cooperative since the beginning of the 21-22 school year and I am very thankful for the nice weather. Students and staff members have been able to get outside on a regular basis and it has really helped us out! Thank you for doing everything possible to make the 2021-22 school year the best it can be for our students! Please review the following information and feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns.

School District News

MEA Break - The annual MEA Break is right around the corner. There will be no school at EGF ISD 595 on Thursday, October 21st and Friday, October 22nd. Enjoy the extended weekend!

Early Dismissal Dates Reminder - The official EGF ISD 595 school calendar includes one early dismissal day per month for staff development activities. Students will be dismissed at 12:50 (New Heights and South Point) and 1:15 (CMS and the SH) on the following dates. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

- Wednesday, October 20, 2021
- Wednesday, November 24, 2021
- Wednesday, December 22, 2021
- Friday, January 21, 2022
- Thursday, February 17, 2022
- Friday, March 25, 2022
- Wednesday, April 27, 2022
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Job Postings - EGF ISD 595 is currently accepting applications for the following positions. Please go to [East Grand Forks ISD 595 Job Postings](#) to submit an application and feel free to contact the District Office at 218-773-3494 if you have any questions. Thank you!

- Licensed School Social Worker
- Licensed School Counselor
- Special Education Teacher
- Elementary Education Teacher
- Bus Driver
- Paraprofessional
- Substitute Teacher

New Heights Student Drop-Off/Pick-up Area Reminder - The new parking lot and designated pick-up/drop-off lane on 15th Street on the north side of New Heights Elementary School have been welcome additions. The Safe Kids volunteers did a super job of educating parents and students during the first week of school and things have been running pretty smoothly. There are currently two areas of concern that we are hoping to correct. 1) If you park on the north side of 15th Street to drop-off or pick-up your child(ren), please use the marked crosswalks at the end of the block to cross the street. 2) Please do not park in the drop-off/pick-up lane and leave your vehicle unattended. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your cooperation! It is greatly appreciated!**

School Board Meeting Live Streaming - I would like to start off by apologizing for the live streaming issues that occurred during the September 27, 2021 school board meeting. The school district installed a new live streaming system over the summer and it worked well for several meetings. District staff members have worked closely with the vendor who installed the system to make sure it does not happen in the future. The District has also transitioned from using Facebook live to YouTube for broadcasting meetings. Please go to the East Grand Forks Public Schools YouTube Channel at <https://bit.ly/egfschoolboardchannel> or the City of EGF Channel (Midco 15) to view future school board meetings. Thank you!

EGF ISD 595 COVID and Mitigation Strategy Level Information - East Grand Forks ISD 595 transitioned to Mitigation Strategy Level 3 on September 16, 2021 as listed in the [2021-22 Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan](#) and the increased mitigation strategies helped keep positive cases down and students in school for in-person instruction. COVID-19 case information from the start of the school year through Friday, October 8, 2021 is listed below. We have been very fortunate to keep positive case numbers down the last few weeks when other school districts in this region are experiencing significant increases. The primary reasons for the increased mitigation strategies were to keep students and staff members healthy and in school for in-person instruction. There are strong differences of opinion when it comes to requiring masks for students and the pandemic has made the jobs of our elected officials very difficult. The members of the EGF ISD 595 Board of Education are very intelligent, hard working and caring individuals who provide a high level of service for all of our students and staff members. A couple of positive statistics that are not listed below are as follows. Forty (40) students and staff members that were determined to be close contacts were exempt from quarantine due to their vaccination status and another one-hundred sixteen (116) were exempt because they were wearing masks during the time of exposure. The EGF ISD 595 Incident Command Team, School Board, and Administration will continue to work closely with local public health officials to determine the appropriate mitigation strategy level.

Data through 3:00 PM on October 8, 2021							
East Grand Forks ISD 595 COVID Data	Pre-K	New Heights	South Point	CMS	Senior High	Other	Total
YTD Positive Student Cases	2	8	7	7	13	0	37
YTD Positive Staff Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active Positive Student Cases	0	2	1	2	2	0	7
Active Positive Staff Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Student out pending test results	2	5	3	8	1	0	19
Staff out pending test results	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Students in quarantine (school or household)	1	9	2	6	12	0	30
Staff in quarantine (school or household)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Completed							317

Homecoming Week - Homecoming Week 2021 was a big success and fun for the students, staff members and families of the school district! I would like to thank all of the students and staff members who planned and participated in fun events throughout the week. Congratulations to Queen Mikila Gudajtes, King Jonah Tollefson and the entire Homecoming Court! Great job everyone!



Activities Update - The Green Wave athletic teams have had a very busy fall season and fun to follow as a Green Wave fan! The playoff season has started for some of the teams and right around the corner for several others. The student-athletes and coaches have done a super job this fall and it has been fun to watch them compete! Please go to the [Green Wave Events Calendar](#) to find a complete schedule of events for the teams and come on out to support the Green Wave!





Thank you!

Mike Kolness

Superintendent of Schools

EGF ISD 595

218-793-2880