East Grand Forks Public Schools
Independent School District #595
P.O. Box 151
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
(218) 773 - 3494

March 16, 2020

Dear East Grand Forks Families, Staff and Community Members,

Governor Tim Walz and Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker recently announced that all Minnesota public schools will close to students starting Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with the plan to resume instruction on Monday, March 30, 2020.

During the school closure for students, East Grand Forks staff members will be creating plans to equitably distribute distance learning to our students should there be a need to close schools statewide for a longer period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minnesota Department of Education is defining distance learning to mean that a student receives daily interaction with their licensed teacher(s) and appropriate educational materials. Starting March 30, 2020, per instructions from the Minnesota Department of Education, student learning will continue for the rest of the school year. This will take place either by regular classroom instruction or by distance learning. **PLEASE NOTE - March 18-27 has been designated as a planning time for district staff members to develop distance learning plans. Please consider this time to be similar to a "Spring Break". There will not be any assignments for students to complete during this time period.**

In addition to the school closure, all afterschool programs, extra-curricular activities, community education classes and other school events have been cancelled through March 30, 2020.

Once the distance learning plans have been finalized, the district will communicate the plans to families via the school district digital platforms, website and messenger system. It is imperative that parents double check their contact information in the Synergy system to make sure it is current in order to solidify the lines of

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communication between parents and the school district. If you have any questions or need help with updating your information, please contact the district or school building offices.

Childcare services will be provided to health care workers and members of the emergency services profession. A sign up sheet will be available on the school district website and sent home with students. Please contact the district office at 218-773-3494 if you have any questions or concerns.

The school district will continue to provide breakfast and lunch opportunities to all of our students. Information on how this service will be provided will be sent out electronically and available on the school district website.

As we continue forward, please remember the basics for prevention of the spread of COVID-19. These basics are: thorough and frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, practicing social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings of people.

We will continue to keep you informed as we navigate COVID-19. We are currently developing a separate section of the website that will be the central hub for EGF ISD 595 COVID-19 related information. Our goal is to post and send daily updates until they become unnecessary. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. It is going to take a real "TEAM EFFORT" to get through these challenging times and I am confident we are going to be successful! THANK YOU for your patience and understanding!

Sincerely,

Mike Kolness
Superintendent of Schools
East Grand Forks ISD 595
218-793-2880