Greetings EGF Families and Staff Members,

I hope all of you are doing well and enjoying the beautiful summer weather. It is hard to believe the middle of July is already here! Before we know it, the farmers will be harvesting their crops and students will be back in school. There continues to be many unanswered questions about the 2020-21 school year and all of us are anxiously waiting to receive updates from state leaders. Please take a little time to review the following information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

- **2020-21 School Year Options** - The MN Department of Education (MDE) directed school districts to prepare for three different learning scenarios (In-person learning, Hybrid learning and Distance learning) for the 2020-21 school year. East Grand Forks School District leaders have started the planning process for all three scenarios and been told that an announcement would be made by the MDE about the 2020-21 school year by the week of July 27, 2020. Guidance documents from the MDE, MDH and the MN School Boards Association are being used by the district and the process will take a great deal of time and effort. District officials plan to develop solid outlines for all the three scenarios by the time MDE makes their announcement in late July about returning to school.

- **Family and Staff Surveys** - The MN Department of Education recently released the results from their family survey and the results were shared in a press release that was emailed to families and staff members in the district. I would like to thank all of the EGF families who participated in the survey. The data will be used by state leaders to make important decisions about returning to school in 2020-21. EGF ISD 595 leaders are in the process of developing
short staff and family surveys that will be used to gather more local feedback in regards to returning to school this fall. **Your input will be very valuable and used in the plan development process**. Information about the surveys will be shared with families and staff members in the very near future. Please do not be surprised if you also receive a personal phone call from the school district.

- **2020-21 School District Calendar** - The EGF ISD 595 Board of Education adopted two calendars in April with start dates of 9.1.20 and 9.8.20 just in case school districts were given the option to start school before Labor Day. To date, the State of MN has not given school districts the latitude to start early unless they meet certain criteria. Due to the need for extended planning time and professional development needs for staff members, the East Grand Forks School District is planning to start school after Labor Day and considering converting two scheduled students days in June of 2021 to staff development days that will be used in August of 2020. Please plan on a post Labor Day start for students this fall. The latest school district calendar can be found on the home page of the school district website and viewed at [2020-21 School District Calendar](#).

- **Weekly Communications** - Due to the uncertainty surrounding the 2020-21 school year, I am planning to communicate with families and staff members at least one time per week using newsletters, email or videos. I do not want to overload anyone with too much information, but feel it is necessary to keep everyone up to date. Please stay tuned for updates and make sure your contact information is current in the school district student information system.

- **School Building Start and End Time Adjustments/Bus Routes** - EGF ISD 595 is planning to adjust the start and end times to the school day at certain sites this year in order to allow for double bus routes in town and provide consistency to the length of the school day. Tentative start and end times at New Heights and South Point Elementary Schools will be 8:00 - 2:50 while CMS and the Senior High School will be from 8:30 - 3:15. The times have not been made final and may vary by a few minutes at each location. Please stay tuned for updates.
• **Tri-Valley Opportunity Council July Newsletter** - Please go to the following link to read the TVOC July 2020 Newsletter.

• **Bus Drivers Needed** - The East Grand Forks School District is currently hiring school bus drivers for the 2020-21 school year. Please contact Debbie Delisle at 218-773-0476 or ddelisle@egf.k12.mn.us if you are interested in joining the Green Team! #EGFpride

![School bus image]

EAST GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

• **Pandemic EBT** - Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) can provide families with children up to $325 for groceries. The Minnesota Department of Human Services says as many as 150,000 families may be eligible for these additional food assistance benefits. The application is available in Hmong, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese. The deadline has been extended to July 31. Please share this message with your community so that families can apply at https://mn.p-ebt.org. For help applying, families can call 651-431-4050 or 800-657-3698, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Please continue to check your email on a regular and the designated “COVID-19” section of the school district website at EGF ISD 595 COVID-19 Link to stay updated. It is going to take a great TEAM effort to make the 2020-21 school year the best it can be for all of the students, families and staff members.

THANK YOU for being a great teammate!

*Mike Kolness*

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