

September 4, 2020

Greetings EGF ISD 595 Families and Staff Members!

It has been a very busy week at EGF ISD 595, but also very exciting! The Re-Entry Plan continues to be a work in progress, but we are making steady progress and will be ready for students next week. Seeing staff members and families back in the buildings this week brought a huge smile to my face and you could really sense the happiness when students were meeting their teachers using Smart Start sessions. Everyone was wearing face coverings, but you could still see the happiness on their faces. THANK YOU for making Smart Start 2020-21 a big success!

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

- **Latest Polk County Data** - The District Incident Command Team received the latest Polk County 14-day case per 10,000 data for the weeks of August 9-22 and it jumped slightly to 9.81. There has been an uptick in cases throughout the region and we are watching the data closely. The District is in a good place with the approved re-entry model, but everyone will need to do their part in order to decrease the spread of the virus. THANK YOU for all of your efforts!
- **Symptom Screening, ParentVUE, and COVID-19 Decision Tree Information** - Three documents containing information about symptom screening, ParentVUE, and the latest MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree were shared with families during Smart Start meetings as well as by building offices. The IMPORTANT documents can also be found at the following link. Please review the information and make sure you have registered for a ParentVUE account in Synergy. We need every family to be able to be able to access ParentVUE before the start of school.
 - [Parent Letter from Suraya Driscoll Regarding Symptom Screening](#)
 - [8.31.20 MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree](#)
 - [Getting Started with ParentVUE and StudentVUE 2.0](#)
- **Food Service Letter Regarding USDA Announcement** - The USDA recently released information about free meals for all school age children, but MN districts have been directed NOT to move forward with the free meals until MDE receives confirmation from USDA. Please read the following letter from EGF ISD 595 Food Service Director Karen Pickett and stay tuned for updates. MN school districts are waiting for guidance from MDE.

- [USDA Food Service Letter from Karen Pickett](#)
- **Face Covering Policy 808** - The Board of Education recently adopted [Face Covering Policy 808](#) in order to provide clarity for staff members and families. Please take a little time to review the policy and contact a district administrator if you have any questions. The face covering requirements are not a local decision and we must follow the directives listed in the Executive Orders. Thank you for all of your help!
- **Family Flex Option Updates** - Over two-hundred students have enrolled in the EGF ISD 595 Family Flex Option and teacher assignments have been determined. If you have registered your child(ren) for the program and not received any correspondence from a teacher or building administrator, please contact the building principal or Supt. Mike Kolness. **Family Flex Option Student Meals Reminder** - Family Flex Option parents will need to monitor their email every morning for the “Grab & Go Meals” order form in order to request meals for your children for the day. Please contact Karen Pickett if you have any questions about the program.
- **Transportation Updates** - One of the most challenging components of the 2020-21 Re-Entry Plan has been planning for student transportation. Debbie Delisle and her staff have been working hard to build route schedules, meet bus capacity requirements, and find enough bus drivers to fill the routes. The District is in critical need of bus drivers and there will be some challenges next week. Please contact Debbie Delisle if you have any interest in driving a bus or have concerns about transportation. The first couple of weeks will be very challenging and we are asking for everyone to be patient. THANK YOU!
- **Employment Opportunities** - The District is looking for bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and substitutes in all areas. Please go to [EGF ISD 595 Job Opportunities](#) to apply.
- **Activities Update** - Green Wave teams have had a busy week and I have enjoyed watching many of them compete. It is great to see the student-athletes back in action! **GO WAVE!**



Have a wonderful weekend and be safe!

Mike Kolness

EGF ISD 595 Superintendent of Schools

