

September 7, 2020

Happy Labor Day EGF ISD 595 Families and Staff Members!

I hope all of you enjoyed time with your family and friends over the holiday weekend! The weather was pretty nice for the first half of the weekend, but the temps dropped and the wind speeds picked up yesterday! It was a good reminder that fall is right around the corner!

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

- **First Day of School Reminders** - It was exciting to see students, parents, and staff members back in the school buildings last week and I am looking forward to the official start of the 2020-21 school year. All of us will be heading down a very unfamiliar path this week and it might be a little unsettling at times. Please know that district staff members have worked very hard to plan for the new school year and implement measures to keep everyone safe. PLEASE NOTE - Only two grade levels (6th and 9th) are scheduled to start school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 and all other grade levels will start on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Grades PK-5 will be following the “In-Person” model while grades 6-12 will be in the “Hybrid” model.
- **2020-21 EGF Activities Calendar** - Hard copies of the 2020-21 District Activities Calendar are scheduled to arrive this week and will be sent home with the oldest child of each family. Due to the pandemic, numerous changes were made to the original calendar and I am sure there will continue to be more. A digital copy of the calendar can be found at the following link. A huge “THANK YOU” goes out to all of the businesses who supported the calendar program. Please check out the list of businesses on the second page of the calendar and thank them for their support!
 - [2020-21 EGF ISD 595 Activities Calendar](#)
- **Symptom Screening and ParentVUE Reminders** - Please review the information listed below 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 the school year for symptom screening purposes. It is very important!
 - [Parent Letter from Suraya Driscoll Regarding Symptom Screening](#)
 - [8.31.20 MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree](#)
 - [Getting Started with ParentVUE and StudentVUE 2.0](#)

- **Thermometers Available** - Polk County Public Health has purchased a large supply of digital thermometers for families who may not have access to one. As soon as the District receives the supply of the thermometers from PCPH, a message will be sent to families containing information on how to access a device. Please stay tuned for updates! The thermometers will be here very soon!
- **UPDATED (9.6.20) Food Service Letter Regarding Free Meals** - The District received updated guidance from MDE late in the day on Friday, September 4th. The new guidance confirmed that students will be allowed to eat for free to start the school year. Please take a little time to review the updated letter from Karen Pickett. The District still encourages parents to complete the free and reduced lunch application process even though meals will be free to start the school year.
 - [9.6.20 EGF ISD 595 Food Service Letter - Free Meals](#)
- **Transportation Guidelines and Updates** - School buses will be running regular routes this week and it is going to take a great team effort to make things work smoothly! We are still encouraging parents to transport their children to school when possible in order to reduce the number of students on the buses, but also understand that it might not be possible for some parents. Please review the following transportation guidance and contact Debbie Delisle if you have any concerns regarding transportation. The first couple of weeks will be very challenging and we are asking for everyone to be patient. **Please note - Face coverings will be required for students and staff members when being transported on school buses.** THANK YOU for all of your help!
 - [2020-21 EGF ISD 595 Transportation Guidelines](#)
- **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.

Have a wonderful weekend and be safe!

Mike Kolness

EGF ISD 595 Superintendent of Schools

