

7-9-20

Dear ESD Families,

As we plan for the reopening of schools this fall in the Edgerton School District, we must consider numerous factors to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. We would like to thank all of you who were able to respond to the *Fall 2020 Return to School Survey*. We had an outstanding response rate and your feedback has provided us with critical data to aid in our planning process.

Results of the survey can be accessed on the District website. Some of the highlights of the survey revealed that the majority of respondents preferred that all learning be conducted in a school (82.3% elementary & 85.6% middle/high), nearly a third of respondents preferred a hybrid model where children physically attend school at different times (35.8%), and almost ten percent of respondents preferred that all learning be conducted remotely (7.9%).

Based on the survey, there is concern with making sure proper cleaning protocols are followed, personal sanitizing supplies are available, and social distancing guidelines are enforced to the greatest extent possible. Your biggest concerns are public health guidance being followed, classrooms and gathering spaces being properly cleaned, and the availability of disinfecting and personal protective equipment.

As a district, we appreciate and share many of your concerns. We also understand that some individuals have strong feelings one way or another about simply returning to school in a "normal" manner versus the safety measures that need to be employed in order to best protect the safety of all. This is an incredible spectrum to balance and we will continue to work diligently in putting together a comprehensive reopening plan.

On July 8, a Town Hall meeting was held to share our preliminary fall reopening plans and address questions/concerns in a two way communication format. The recording of the meeting can be accessed on the District website. The Board of Education will be presented with an *ESD Fall 2020 Reopening plan on July 20, at a special School Board meeting. At the July 27, School Board meeting the Board will approve a reopening plan.* Our commitment to honor the expressed parents strong interest in students returning to school in

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person will be reflected in the reopening plan which includes a continuum of service delivery options that families will choose between full-time in-person learning, a blended option, and two virtual learning options. More detailed information of each option will be forthcoming.

We, as a district, are committed to providing an educational delivery platform model that will allow families to make a choice between in-person schooling and a home-based virtual education. Our plans will balance your expressed wishes while taking into account the safety of all of our students and staff. The plan will also allow us to seamlessly shift if the pandemic spread requires us to move into a virtual environment similar to last spring.

We need to finalize plans for curriculum delivery, transportation, food service, cleaning protocols, athletics/extracurricular activities, and have the ability to staff all of these options. We have more than 250 staff members who are also a major part of our planning process and new federal regulations by the way of FFCRA (Family First Coronavirus Response Act) to follow. At times, this and other protocols will make staffing a challenge. We will need your help, and more importantly your patience and flexibility in the development of our plan and the ability to carry it out.

More than 50% of respondents on the survey indicated that their child rides a bus to and/or from school. Transportation is something that is going to be a very delicate issue. Safety guidance and protocols being shared by public health organizations are calling for reducing the numbers of students on buses and doing so will create great challenges for the District.

Currently, we are exploring breakfast and lunch options that involve eating in classrooms as maintaining social distancing and adhering to disinfecting and safety protocols is not feasible in large lunch shifts. We are also working on recess plans and how to safely deliver courses such as career and technical education, physical education, art, band, choir, etc.

We appreciate your understanding that there is no playbook to follow regarding this fluid and evolving situation. We have learned the only thing we can truly predict is to expect things to constantly change, and anticipate that whatever plan we have today, will likely be revised and adjusted in the future. We appreciate the difficulties you have experienced as families and we know you understand the challenges we have faced as a staff and district in trying to accommodate the needs of so many stakeholders.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to work diligently at finalizing a reopening plan. Your feedback has and will continue to be important as we further prepare for what will certainly be a unique and challenging school year. Thank you for your partnership with the Edgerton School District and hope that you and your family are having a safe and enjoyable Summer Break.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dennis Pauli  
District Administrator