

## Inspiring News Topic Discussion – “It Takes All of Us” (*First DRAFT*)

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Kind. If you have spent time in Eden Prairie Schools, you have heard these six simple words, forming the foundation of our behavioral expectations. This credo is reinforced daily throughout our student’s early school experiences, underpinning our district’s commitment to create the foundational expectation for positive educational experiences. While the School Board sets lofty academic and behavioral standards, feedback from parents and teachers indicates a need for improved treatment among teachers, staff, and students.

Creating the desired climate and culture in our schools requires everyone’s involvement— “It takes all of us.” Modeling and reinforcing these expectations is essential, starting with clear direction from the school board, thoughtful and consistent enforcement by district administration, supportive parents, community members and engaged students.

The school board emphasizes to students, staff, and the community that we expect the student handbook rules to be implemented promptly, consistently, and fairly by our administration. We aim for an environment where students and staff treat each other with respect and dignity.

As a district, clear communication and enforcing the handbook rules are crucial. Unacceptable behavior must be addressed, not excused. We expect our students to respect themselves, their peers, and their teachers, and empower teachers and staff to uphold these expectations. We believe this will foster an improved learning environment for students and staff, resulting in improved educational outcomes and stronger community.

Parents play a vital role in supporting the district’s behavioral expectations set by the district. These expectations are weaved into daily student life, from resolving disagreements and confrontations respectfully, being on-time and in the classroom, to adhering to the school dress code. We ask parents to partner with us to reinforce that school rules should be followed. This can start with a simple question to your child each day: “How did you live out being safe, responsible, or kind today?” Please support our teachers, staff, and administration in this effort.

To build a closer community, we rely on adult role models to interact with our students. Despite challenges posed by COVID, which made volunteering more difficult, we want to re-invite adults back into our schools to support learning. Your experience, perspective, and mentorship are needed more than ever. Please be on the lookout for expanded volunteer opportunities throughout the 2024-25 school year.

As a community, we have a responsibility to teach the next generation how to be productive, responsible, and kind citizens. We have amazing parents, students, teachers, support staff, and community members supporting Eden Prairie Schools who will answer this call to action. Together, we can uphold these expectations, championing a culture that elevates EP Schools to extraordinary levels of educational excellence and strong community through safe, responsible, and kind schools.