

Welcome to a New School Year and New Opportunities

Some things are changing . . .

The Eden Prairie School Board would like to welcome students, families, and staff back for a new school year with many exciting new opportunities for students. Exciting changes include:

- Welcoming sixth graders to an amazing, updated Central Middle School.
- Engaging students in Inspired Choices programming to give them more options to pursue rigorous, engaging, and authentic learning experiences.
- Giving preschoolers the opportunity to create a school community connection, reduce transitions, and prepare for kindergarten through Little Eagles preschool, now available at each Eden Prairie boundaried elementary school.
- Continuing to provide and enhance EP Online, which will be available to students in Eden Prairie and throughout Minnesota. The curriculum blends proven online curriculum strengthened by Eden Prairie School's high-quality curriculum — taught by teachers who know it well.

We recognize the importance of effectively managing the forthcoming changes and helping students and families to adjust and thrive in new environments. Although these changes might be uncomfortable at first, every family can expect caring and prepared staff ready to welcome our students back.

While many things are staying the same.

The Eden Prairie School Board remains committed to:

- delivering academic excellence and opportunity to each student,
- closing the achievement gap,
- driving outstanding graduation rates, and
- providing these outcomes in an equitable and fiscally responsible manner for the community.

Despite challenging circumstances, our staff worked hard to support continued student success and it's reflected in the data. Overall, Eden Prairie's 2020 graduation rate was 95%, well above the state average, and 80% of our third-grade students were reading at grade level, well above the FastBridge national average. Our teachers are committed to identifying and addressing any learning loss experienced by students during the trying times of the pandemic.

We extend our sincere thanks to the community members who participated in the School Board's Listen and Learn session in June. We look forward to future opportunities to engage with the community to better understand our shared values and identify opportunities to grow and thrive.

In May of this year board member Veronica Stoltz resigned due to a family relocation. We thank her for her service. In June, the board appointed a previous board member, Karla Bratrud, to temporarily fill the seat from July 26th until the special election which will be held on November 2nd. We encourage you to participate in the process of electing a new school board member this fall.

Strong communities result in strong schools and the tradition of excellence in Eden Prairie schools continues because of the tremendous support of our diverse and vibrant community.

Welcome back everyone and remember, Eagles fly high!