

## **Inspiring News: It Takes All of Us**

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. In Eden Prairie, we have high academic and behavioral expectations; however, feedback over the past year from parents and teachers indicates there is room for improvement.

All of us have a role to play in creating the desired climate and culture our schools require to achieve excellent outcomes. This begins with clear direction from the school board, consistent and thoughtful enforcement by district administration and teachers, supportive parents/guardians, and engaged students and community members. An environment where staff and students feel respected and safe is foundational to achieving academic success.

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

As a district, clear communication and enforcing the handbook rules across all school locations and functions is crucial. Unacceptable behavior must be addressed, not excused. We expect our students to respect themselves, their peers, and their teachers.

Parents and guardians play a vital role in supporting and modeling the 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, adhering to the school dress code, and being polite and respectful to each other. We ask parents and guardians to partner with us to reinforce that school rules must 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?"

As a community, we have a responsibility to prepare the next generation to be productive, responsible, and kind citizens. To reinforce our sense of community and enhance student experiences, there are many avenues for community members to share their experience and skills. You are invited and encouraged to explore volunteer opportunities, vocational collaboration, and internships through our Inspired Journey program and student mentoring. In addition, visit the district webpage to follow the progress and provide feedback for "Flight Plan 2035, which will lay the foundation for what experiences, opportunities and learning will look like for our students 10 years from now.

We have amazing parents, students, teachers, support staff, and community members supporting Eden Prairie Schools. It takes all of us to champion a culture that elevates academic excellence in Eden Prairie Schools and a strong sense of community through safe, responsible, and kind schools. As we enter the new year in 2025, please join us as we work to promote a climate of respect and community.