

## Inspiring News - Update

The journey continues:

As we welcome back students and staff for the 2022-23 school year, we reflect on the sacrifices and commitment of our teachers and staff to deliver educational excellence. The summer break has provided our teachers and staff a much-needed respite as we continue our journey towards personalized learning across all EP Schools this fall.

This journey started over a decade ago, as Eden Prairie schools began the transition from a “standardized” education model, that had been the norm for decades in public education, to a personalized approach to learning. This shift was supported by the 2014 referendum that allowed the district to reengineer buildings and curriculum, implement real-world skill evaluations (the 4C’s- creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication), and reduce class sizes. These investments and reorientation were the foundation for the next evolution in education in Eden Prairie. Beginning in 2019, EP Schools initiated the next step in this evolution when Designing Pathways was implemented to increase choice and improve facilities to deliver more authentic learning environments and facilitate collaboration.

As we approach the 2022-23 school year, Eden Prairie Schools are ready to embark on the next phase of increased student performance and engagement. By building on the Designing Pathways foundation, the transition to personalized learning will better prepare all EP students for college and career opportunities. This fall our community will have the opportunity to continue supporting the on-going evolution of education in EP Schools to fully realize our mission to: “Inspire EACH student to learn continuously so they are empowered to reach personal fulfillment and contribute purposefully to our ever-changing world.” Additionally, our commitment towards eliminating disparities and seeing EACH student thrive in Eden Prairie Schools and beyond, will require a sustained personalized learning effort, including:

- Increased choice at the elementary level
- Choice and career pathways exploration at the middle school level
- Authentic rigorous course offerings and career exploration through capstone offerings at the high school level
- Increased community engagement by connecting students with community learning opportunities and needs
- Use of data and technology to identify and support learning needs, as well as investments in top tier protection to stay on the leading edge of data and device security
- On-going commitment to fiscal stewardship through a commitment to implement annual operational cost savings/efficiencies

These investments will allow the district to further utilize data to identify each students’ needs, to meet them where they are at, and provide exceptional learning opportunities for deeper and greater performance. In addition, the district will expand class offerings and community partnerships to provide more choice and authentic learning, reduce class sizes at 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, and further resource our multi-layered support infrastructure to ensure each student in

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EP Schools can reach their greatest potential. These steps will help inspire each student every day and are critical to improve academic achievement and personal development.

This evolving approach to personalized learning will help ensure EP Schools can deliver a world-class education for EACH student and meet the high expectations of our community and School Board. Over the years, the residents of Eden Prairie have recognized the value of investments in our schools, the importance of fiscal stewardship and long-term financial stability, and the richness of diversity and community in our schools. Over the coming months, Eden Prairie Schools will provide additional resources and information about the November referendum. We hope you will support the next step in our journey forward.