



East Rochester Schools
200 Woodbine Ave. East Rochester, NY 14445 (585) 248-6350 Fax: (585) 248-6383
Website: <http://www.erschools.org>

October 1, 2020

Dear East Rochester Families,

We have had a very successful, though different, start to our 2020-21 school year! Thank you to parents, staff and students for an outstanding start to an unprecedented year. We are heading in a very positive direction. Staff has been sharing how cooperative students have been with the COVID-19 guidelines and how positive students are about learning. This is all great news!

As true professionals, our teachers are continually evolving as they navigate our new hybrid learning model (a combination of in-person and remote learning), as well as our fully virtual learning model. We are proud of how well this has started and are committed to continuous improvement as we strive to maximize learning toward the content standards.

Thank you to the parents and families for your exceptional efforts in getting our students' health screenings completed daily. Please remember to do a temperature check every day your child is on campus. In addition, the wearing of masks is instrumental in keeping our COVID-19 numbers low, with the ultimate goal of having students remain in person throughout the year. Your efforts on this are greatly appreciated.

I currently plan to send out a monthly newsletter to families with updates from the Jr./Sr. High School. This plan may change, depending on the need for more frequent communication in the coming months. Please reach out to teachers with any questions you have about specific classes. The best way to reach staff this year is via email. Teachers are changing classrooms each period, so it is difficult to leave voicemail messages. We encourage constant communication with teachers as questions and concerns arise.

As we continue to move into October, I want to make you aware of the following:

- Earlier this week, Mr. Onze and I visited the high school classes to remind our hybrid students of the importance of the five-day learning mindset. While in-person school is two days per week, students were asked to share how they have been navigating their three virtual days. It was wonderful to hear the various organizational strategies being used by our students.
- In the weeks ahead, student clubs will begin. Stay tuned for more information from club advisors, via student email, on how each club will meet.
- The Music Department has worked diligently to develop a schedule for ensembles to meet before and after school, while following all State guidelines. They will be providing more specific information in the coming weeks.
- While we were not able to do our traditional Block Party/Open House this year, we are in the process of creating a virtual version for later this month. More information will be communicated as plans are finalized.

- While we have been able to supply students with a loaner chromebook in the past when they have left their chromebook home, we are unfortunately currently unable to do this. Due to our low number of extra chromebooks at this time, spare chromebooks are needing to be reserved for replacements in the event of a broken device. In addition, there are no chargers available to borrow or take home (except for new students). For any chromebook related or other technology issues, please email the help desk at er.helpdesk@erschools.org.
- The ERHS Counseling Department will be administering the PSAT/NMSQT to interested Juniors on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. Participants are able to practice for the SAT and have the opportunity to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program! The test will be administered beginning at 8 a.m. at East Rochester Jr./Sr. High School. Interested students can register in the counseling office or by contacting Mrs. Verdi at (585)248-6354.
- The USDA has extended the free meals for all students program for students who are in school **and** remote until December 31, 2020 or until the funds appropriated by Congress are exhausted. In the event the federal free meals program ends, we will transition back to the paid, reduced and free meal status of students, using the free and reduced meal applications.
- Specific to our remote learners (for both hybrid students on remote days and fully virtual learners), student meals are available for pick-up each day, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- As a reminder, the first progress report period ends on October 9, 2020. These progress report grades will be available on the Parent Portal on Friday, October 16, 2020. While we typically do not mail progress reports and/or quarterly report cards, we have decided to mail this first five-week report home due to the many changes that were necessary for our COVID-19 reopening plan. It is important to sit with your student and review their progress reports when you receive them. Grades are now being assessed and this is different from the Pass/Fail system used last spring.
- We strongly encourage everyone to join the **PTA**. Their monthly meeting dates are on the printed school calendar and the [events calendar](#) on the [district website](#). Another way to be informed and involved is to attend the monthly **Board of Education meetings**. These organizations value your input and ideas, and look forward to hearing from you.
- Seniors (Class of 2021) - Please pay attention to deadlines for ordering caps and gowns, yearbooks etc. Please be reading your emails. Jostens will be sending ordering information during the month of October.
- The **ER Schools app** is a great way to stay up to date on all things ER. News, calendars, athletic schedules and more are all accessible through the app. Take time to download the ER Schools app through your App Store today.

A few reminders as we continue to transition into the new year:

- I'd like to remind parents that it is important for you to call the school's attendance office whenever your child is absent from school, for any reason. It is particularly important this year, as we monitor and contact trace COVID-19. When calling in an absence, appointment or a message for your student, please make sure you call the **Attendance Office at (585)-248-6321**. The attendance email is attendance@erschools.org. Please be specific as to the reason that your child is absent. Please do not email individual staff with attendance issues.

- If your child has an appointment, please send in a note at the beginning of the day or call the Attendance Office. **A note first thing allows the student to get a pass and be responsible for getting himself/herself to the office on time.**

Dates to Remember for October/November:

Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day - No School

Tuesday, October 13 - PTA Meeting 6:30 p.m., email erpta2020@gmail.com for Zoom link

Tuesday, October 20 - BOE Meeting 6 p.m., Elementary Cafeteria

Thursday, October 29 - School Picture Makeup Date

Friday, November 13 - Grades 6-12 First Marking Period Ends

Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans Day - School Closed

Wednesday, November 25 - Friday, November 27 - Thanksgiving Recess

My door is always open – please feel free to keep in touch!

Sincerely,

Casey van Harssel, Ed.D.

Principal