



*August 3, 2020*

**Good afternoon EHS Parents and Guardians,**

Thank you for your commitment to Edgewood, your stamina, and your flexibility during these challenging days. We have been working very hard this summer to plan for a safe, stable and predictable return to school. One of our growth areas is timely communication, and many of your questions and concerns have been incredibly helpful and highlighted our need to improve in this area.

We have been struck by parents', teachers', and community members' deep and abiding care for students and for the mental and physical health of all members of our community. In this pandemic season, emotions, opinions, and advocacy have been passionate and wide-ranging.

Taking into consideration input, Public Health Madison & Dane County guidelines, and the strong need for a stable, predictable educational model in a pandemic, the Board of Trustees met this morning and voted for a virtual start to the year. Following an evaluation of data after two cycles (12 school days), we have a plan to move to in-person, every-other-day instruction, if Dane County school-related metrics allow. Sue Richards, School Nurse, and the Board are working, along with Dane County, to confirm the metrics for a return to school.

That decision was not easy to make, and the input from teachers, a meeting of a subcommittee of teachers, parents, and board members last week, and ongoing planning over the summer to develop a very strong virtual model all helped the Board to make that decision. In conjunction with their decision, the Board also expressed their appreciation and a vote of confidence to the Edgewood faculty and staff for all their hard work during these challenging times.

Beginning next week, new and returning teachers will have in-depth training in small groups and with department members to ensure consistent communication and instruction, whether we're virtual or in-person.

We know the pandemic will pass, we know that moving between virtual and in-person instruction will be a reality this year, and we know that supporting students and their families to connect, to have strong relationships in service of learning, and to be flexible and to have grace with us and each other is the lynchpin of our Edgewood Community. We are grateful for you.

**Mike Elliott, President**  
**Beth Steffen, Principal**

