

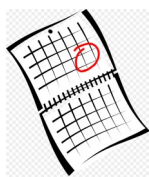
August 4, 2020

EMES Mission Statement

"The purpose of our school is to teach all children to become competent, caring citizens and life-long learners through a challenging and relevant curriculum."

Alicia Lyford, Principal

2020-2021 EMES Family Newsletter



Upcoming Dates to Note at EMES:

- Tuesday, August 11th: Presidential Primary Voting Day in EMES Gym
- Tuesday, September 8th: First Day of School!
- Thursday, September 10th: EMES Picture Day



Dear EMES Families -

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. As I write this, the rain is coming down in buckets outside my window. I do love a good summer rain and am hoping it'll help fill up the pond we recently had dug in our backyard!

I am excited to announce that two new staff will be brought before the board tomorrow evening. Dave Matthies will be our full-time nurse (he was slated to be part time, job-sharing the position with Elizabeth Wirth). Elizabeth will be moving into a district-level position as our new COVID Coordinator. We are so happy for Elizabeth to support the work of all of our schools this coming year, and are looking forward to have Dave full time! I am also excited for Heather Clark-Warner to join our Pre-K team as our new Pre-K teacher. Heather spent time in our Pre-K program last year and also teaches part-time at U-32. Welcome, Heather and Dave!

Thank you for keeping up with all of the emails and announcements coming from our school and district. I know there are a lot, but we're trying to keep you as informed as possible during this time when the information and details are coming fast and furious! There are two very important surveys for families to fill out by the end of this week. One is around remote vs. in person learning (with some information around bussing), and the other one is intended for families coming back in the fall around camping chairs and tents for use at school. Many EMES families have already filled both of these out—thank you!! If you haven't gotten to them yet, please take some time to get these done asap. Your child's classroom teacher will be reaching out to you at the end of this week or on Monday to find out where you're at if we haven't heard from you yet. We really need as close to 100% participation as possible so we can best plan for reopening school next month.

Speaking of remote learning, the following pages contain information in a similar "frequently asked questions" document as you saw from me last week. These all pertain to remote learning. The district elementary principals and our Director of Curriculum, Jen Miller Arsenault, will be conducting interviews early next week to determine who the remote learning teachers will be. Once we have this information, we will share it out with our families.

Please take a few moments to fill out [this survey](#) on our outdoor learning spaces (chairs and tents).

Please take a few moments to fill out [this survey](#) on remote vs. in person learning for the fall.

Best,
Alicia

As questions come in we will likely add to this list but here is what has come up since Friday from across the district.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Edition 2: Remote Learning (Elementary Level)

Thinking ahead, if at some point during the 20/21 school year schools in the State or district are required to go back to Step 1, where everyone is fully remote, can students learning remotely go back to their “home” school and classrooms on a remote basis?

- Families that sign their student(s) up for remote learning will remain with their remote learning class, even if the State or district has to go back to fully remote learning. Since we cannot predict if or when this might occur, we will want to continue educational progress and build on the relationships being strengthened with peers and teachers in the remote setting.
- Our plan is to keep classes or pods together throughout the year, whether we are in Step 1, 2, or 3.

Can we create opportunities for students learning remotely to maintain relationships with their classes?

- We will look into how we can create opportunities to support this possibility. The extent and regularity with which this can happen will depend in part on the composition of the classes, the teaching assignments, and school schedules.

Can we opt in and out of various parts of in-person or remote learning?

- No, your child’s full participation is expected, just as it would be if there was not a choice. Attendance requirements and truancy procedures remain in place regardless of which format is chosen. Students are expected to attend in full (for in-person learning), and participate in full in either mode.
- **Remote learning includes allied arts. Families who choose remote learning cannot opt out of allied arts classes.**
- This includes recess and lunch times. In order to maintain health and safety practices at our schools, students who are learning remotely will be unable to join in at lunch or recess times with their peers learning in-person at Rumney or another WCUUSD school.

Why isn’t there a hybrid option for elementary students, to learn both in-person and remotely?

- We feel that we have the capacity to offer two viable options for our elementary learners and their families based on the staffing levels that we have in our district. Considering the challenges that many faced during remote learning in the spring we wish that we could have all of our students return to in-person learning as we feel that the best educational and social outcomes for our students come from

full-time in-person teaching and learning. In order to accommodate students and/or families for which learning in-person is not possible at this time, the fully remote learning option is in development and will be more robust than was offered in the spring, with increased opportunities for synchronous (*live, occurring at the same time*) teaching and learning.

How firmly are we going to hold families to the decisions they make today or have already made on the [SURVEY](#)?

- We have asked folks to complete the survey by Thursday, August 6th. Ideally, your survey response is a commitment to your child's learning pathway for the year ahead but we ask that you plan for this on a semester basis. We need this information in order to be fully prepared for the reopening of the school year.
- If there are extenuating circumstances that require a change in plans on a quarterly basis, please reach out to your building principal.

We will continue to share updates about our reopening plans and are hopeful that you are finding additional information helpful. Please visit the [WCUUSD Reopening Site](#) regularly for updates.