



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

FROM THE DESK OF DR. LINDA PARKER

Deputy Superintendent

April 27, 2020

Greetings Parents/Guardians in EMS ISD:

As we embrace the final six weeks of the 2019-2020 school year, we are continuing with our EMS ISD Distance Learning Plan. We appreciate you meeting the challenge and overcoming the frustrations as you support the learning in your own home. I am so appreciative of the input we have received, celebrations shared, and understanding reached as we have worked to communicate, streamline, and simplify processes in distance learning.

I have a few key points I need to share and/or clarify with you today as we continue this journey together. First, school is still in session. The Governor's order closes school buildings for the remainder of the school year, but he and the State Education Commissioner maintain that our schools continue providing instruction through online or distance programs. This means that every student needs to be participating in their classes.

As a result, a major priority right now is student participation in his/her classes. We are working to contact students who are still not participating in school and even making home visits if needed. Another priority is for students to be able to demonstrate their mastery of key concepts as shown on their graded assignments. Please understand that if a child fails a course for this semester and/or fails a course for the year, that child will be expected to attend summer school until mastery is proven or will be repeating the course/grade level next year.

I also wanted to clarify the "Conduct" grade that is seen on a report card. For this unique time in learning, EMS ISD is not giving conduct grades to students. If conduct grades appear on the report card, know those are invalid and please disregard.

Assignments will continue to be open through the 5th six weeks of this grading period. This means a student can request to submit a "redo" on any assignment and even submit an assignment that has not been submitted for a grade. Teachers will accept this work without penalty. Remember, while you are receiving a numerical grade for the 5th and 6th Weeks Grading Periods, the numerical final grade for course completion will move to a Pass/Fall grade for secondary students. Elementary grades will be reviewed at the end of the year and, if the student shows minimal mastery or above for the subject areas of that grade level, he/she will be promoted to the next grade.

Summer fine arts, athletic, and enrichment camps have been canceled for June. Registration fees for camps that will not be rescheduled will be refunded as quickly as possible. Please give the District time to finalize the process for refunds. We will continue to monitor information from UIL and the Governor and make determinations about July and August camps at a later date.

Since the buildings are closed to the public until the end of the school year, EMS ISD is developing a plan for students to pick up personal items. Each campus will be communicating with you once the



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process is finalized. Students also will be able to return items in athletics and fine arts as well as library books when they pick up their personal items. This will be a coordinated event that will require no contact and fulfill the requirements set for safe physical distancing. Additionally, we will communicate a process for “drop-off” of academic books, technology devices, and other materials during the last week of school.

A request I make of you as parents and guardians and your children is to continue your support of our teachers and school administrators. Patience, mercy, and kindness go so far to support our educators. We endeavor to minimize mistakes, but in this unprecedented environment, the likelihood of challenges of implementation increase. Together, we will get through COVID-19 stronger as an EMS ISD community.

If you have questions about grades or assignments, please first visit with your child. If you need further information, reach out the teacher. We are all here to support and help, and provide compassion, show patience, and be flexible. Thank you for your commitment and dedication throughout this distance learning environment.

EMS Proud,

Linda Parker

Linda Parker, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent