



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

June 25, 2020

Dear EMS ISD Families,

As we continue through the weeks of summer, the preparations for back to school in August remain at the forefront of our work in EMS ISD. We have been waiting to hear from our state leaders about what will be expected for returning to school in August. This week, the Texas Commissioner of Education provided a general pathway for the 2020-2021 school year. While more details are still to come, he did explain that all Texas public school students would have the option of attending school in person or learning remotely.

A district re-opening task force has already been working to design a plan that supports the needs of our students, both in person and remotely, while addressing the health and safety of our community. Our ultimate desire is for everyone to be able to return to classes in August, as we believe having in-person collaboration with teachers and classmates makes the difference between educating and learning. However, the health and safety of our EMS ISD family comes first as we consider our options for the coming school year.

EMS ISD will offer two learning options for the 2020-2021 school year:

- **In-Person Learning:** Students come to campus each school day for face-to-face instruction. The district will implement enhanced health safety measures and continue strict cleaning protocols.
- **Remote Learning:** All learning and activities will occur online, with students not coming to campus for any instruction. Students will be asked to remain in remote learning for a full grading period, but will have the flexibility to transition back to on-campus learning.

In both options, courses will be taught by highly qualified, certified EMS ISD teachers. Additional supports for social/emotional needs of students and staff will be available in either option. Should it be necessary to close school buildings to the public again for any reason, all students would transition to remote learning.

There are still many questions that cannot be answered at this time. The Education Commissioner will be providing additional details regarding in-person learning options. We also will be receiving information regarding sports, fine arts, transportation, personal protective equipment, group activities, etc. We expect to receive this information in July.

Throughout this ongoing pandemic, we have applied a very measured approach in our decision-making. With all the uncertainty that continues across our state, it is important that we make decisions based on as much fact as possible regarding the upcoming school year. You can be certain that we are making every effort to consider all options, obstacles, challenges, and opportunities regarding the upcoming school year.

As the district receives guidance from state and local health authorities, it is also essential that we listen to the voices of our families and community. The survey at the link below asks about you and your child's experience with distance learning this past semester, as well as your thoughts for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Feedback collected from this survey will help us to be prepared and informed as we make decisions that are best for our students' educational experiences and the health of our students, employees, families, and community.

[Parent Feedback Survey 2020](#)



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Thank you for your faith and confidence in us as we move at the speed of safety to prepare to welcome our students and staff back to school in August. You can expect another update on our plans to be shared with you during the week of July 13.

Sincerely,

Jim F. Chadwell, Ed.D.
Superintendent