

Dear ECASD Families,

As we wrap up our third week of school, I am happy to report that our students have largely settled in and are working hard to learn and engage in these unusual times. While visiting schools, I continue to see our staff develop relationships and provide an engaging learning environment for students. Our students, staff, and families have demonstrated considerable resilience, and we are proud of how seriously everyone is taking our health and safety measures. Keep up the great work!

I am also pleased to share that our virtual programming has officially started, allowing students to continue learning from home on the days they are not in our school buildings. We have also shifted staff to support the 1,970 students currently engaged in our 100% virtual program. We are committed to providing a quality educational experience to all students, regardless of their model. We have learned of specific areas to improve from staff, parent, and student feedback; we take those seriously and will make progress daily and weekly.

The district continues to receive requests from families to switch their instructional models. As these numbers change, we will likely need to shift resources from our blended model to a 100% virtual setting. For example, at this week's board meeting, we received approval to move Laura Schlichting and Travis Hedtke into roles as virtual programming administrators. This will focus the educational leadership and communication with all involved in this model, benefiting students, families, and our 100% virtual staff.

We look to be as flexible as we can for families in making these changes yet proceed carefully for a smooth transition with systems and staff. We are thankful for your continued patience, communication, and understanding.

While we know that hybrid and virtual learning are not ideal, we are incredibly appreciative of your support as we have taken actions to protect the health and wellbeing of our entire school community.

Sincerely,

Michael Johnson, Superintendent
Eau Claire Area School District