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August 15, 2018

Dear Erie's Public Schools families:

It's been a busy summer in Erie's Public Schools as efforts are underway to implement "*Mobilizing Community, Igniting Excellence*," our district's six-year strategic plan. This plan, which was created with extensive input from families, students, staff and community members, will serve as our roadmap for the next six years. It is based on our belief in the potential of all students and challenges us all to work harder and more collaboratively to ensure their success.

With this in mind, we are excited to welcome back all of our students on **August 27**. Please note that our school times have changed this year to the following schedule:

- **Elementary Schools (grades preK-5)—8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Early Dismissal time is 1:00 p.m.)**
- **Middle Schools (grades 6-8)—8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. (Early Dismissal time is 1:15 p.m.)**
- **High Schools (grades 9-12)—8:40 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Early Dismissal time is 1:40 p.m.)**

Many of our schools will be holding open houses during the week of August 20 and you should have received a letter from your child's school with that information. We encourage you to attend these open houses to meet your child's teachers and learn more about what to expect during this school year.

Bus schedule information is now available online at www.eriesd.org/transportation. If your child is in elementary or middle school and lives 1.5 miles or more from their school, they are eligible to receive a bus pass. If your child is in high school, they must live 2 miles or more from the school to receive a bus pass.

Printed copies of bus schedules are available in all school offices and can be obtained at the school open houses. Students can also pick up their bus pass in their school office and at the open house events. If you are unsure whether your child qualifies for a bus pass, please call the school secretary at your child's school. S/he can determine

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whether a bus pass has been printed for your child and, if not, whether you are able to apply for one. EMTA will follow a two-week grace period policy during the first weeks of school and will allow students without a bus pass to ride the bus while they wait to obtain an actual pass.

As you get ready for the school year, please also make sure that your child's immunization records are up-to-date. This is particularly important for students entering Kindergarten and grades 7 and 12 because students in these grades may require additional immunizations. Please contact your medical provider and/or the school nurse if you have any questions about your child's medical records.

Finally, please remember that school begins for all students on August 27. It is very important that students attend school from the very first day to ensure that they begin their year on the right note.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter or anything related to the start of the new school year, please visit www.eriesd.org/backtoschool where you can find immunization requirements, transportation information, open house dates, bell schedules, dress code updates and much more. Please also contact your child's principal for further information or with any questions.

On behalf of the Board of School Directors and the entire administration and staff of Erie's Public Schools, I wish you and your family a successful and rewarding school year!

Sincerely,



Brian J. Polito
Superintendent of Schools