



April 13, 2022

Dear Erie High families,

I hope you're having a happy, healthy and restful spring break.

Thank you for your patience as we worked with faculty and district administration to design a comprehensive plan for the safe return of staff and students to Erie High School. Before I outline that plan, I want to reiterate some of the safety measures your child can expect to see in place when they return to our building.

Safety improvements include:

- Modifications to interior doors where needed. All classrooms and other instructional areas will have the ability to be locked. Deadbolts for doors that currently lock from the exterior only have been ordered. Teachers in those rooms will be required to keep their doors locked at all times until a deadbolt can be installed.
- Updates to the intrusion alarm system, including audible alarms at all exterior doors.
- Review of our security camera system to eliminate blind spots.
- A pilot of an electronic hall pass system that will help reduce and manage hallway traffic. More information will be coming soon.
- And, lastly, the installation of standing walk-through metal detectors.

All students will be required to enter through the front lobby doors and walk through the metal detectors. The screening process will be conducted by school staff, behavioral specialists and district police officers at all open entrances throughout the day. Members of the Erie Education Association will also be on hand to support students and guide them through the process.

Students who refuse to be screened should be referred to an administrator.

Before walking through the metal detectors, students will need to empty their pockets and place all personal items into trays. All bags and purses will be placed on tables and searched.

If a prohibited item is found during the screening process, the student will be referred to an administrator.

Students and visitors arriving after the designated morning arrival time will be subjected to the same procedures as described above.

I know this is a lot of information to digest, which is why **I'd like to invite you to an open house on Wednesday, April 27, from 5-7 p.m.** During the open house, you'll have the opportunity to view

demonstrations of the metal detectors, see other safety improvements, and ask questions of building and district administrators.

Finally, we have worked together with district administration to create a schedule for remote learning and a timetable for the return of in-person instruction.

**Monday, April 18:** District holiday. All district schools and buildings are closed.

**Tuesday, April 19:** Act 80 non-attendance day for all Erie High staff and students.

**Wednesday, April 20-Wednesday, April 27:** All students will participate in **asynchronous** remote learning. Students should log on to Schoology to view and complete assignments. Teachers will be available to assist students during their usual instructional blocks.

**Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29:** All students will participate in **synchronous** remote instruction via Zoom following the school day schedule.

**Monday, May 2:** Targeted date for in-person instruction to resume. More information will follow shortly.

All Erie High students and families may pick up pre-packed meals at the Metz Culinary Center, 255 E. 19<sup>th</sup> St., (19<sup>th</sup> and German streets) between 1:30 and 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 26. Families should register ahead of time at <https://tinyurl.com/EPSfood>.

As we continue to heal from the events of April 5, please encourage your child to take advantage of the many resources and supports available here at Erie High and in our community. If your child needs help processing their thoughts and feelings or simply needs someone to talk to, please contact our mental health specialists:

- Dina Moore (students with last names A-G), at [dmoore@eriesd.org](mailto:dmoore@eriesd.org) or 874-6282
- Jill Kirner (last names H-O), at [jkirner@eriesd.org](mailto:jkirner@eriesd.org) or 874-6200
- Latasha Cook (last names P-Z) at [lcook@eriesd.org](mailto:lcook@eriesd.org) or 874-6806

Our entire Erie High community, including our teachers, staff and administrators, is united around the common goal of keeping our staff and students safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 814-874-6200 or at [dorlando@eriesd.org](mailto:dorlando@eriesd.org).

Sincerely,

Donald Orlando  
Principal