



Rachel Romero, Principal
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Dear Erickson Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Whether you have been a part of our Erickson community for years, or you are new to our school this year, we welcome you and are so happy you are here. We know you have choices in your child's education, and we look forward to providing a year full of academic achievement and positive school experiences.

We all begin this school year remotely, with online education. This is not how we prefer to start the school year because we miss our school being full of happy, productive children, but we know that this is for the safety and health of our students, staff, families, and community. The plan is to begin the year online and continue to receive updates from the district about current recommendations from the Center of Disease Control (CDC), Pima County Health Department (PCHD), the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and Governor Ducey's office about when it is safe for all of us to return to in person learning.

Some of our families are brand new to online learning and some of our families started using our learning platforms in April. Either way, teachers will be spending a large amount of time to start the school year to teach students how to navigate and access their online learning. Students will log in to their Clever account daily and then access their teacher's daily zoom link, Waterford (K – 3rd), IXL (4th – 5th), Benchmark Advance (ELA), Eureka math, and other learning platforms your child's teacher may be using to support their academic learning. We encourage all students to keep their camera on during all teacher led lessons.

Teachers will be taking morning and afternoon attendance and will be grading student work. Teachers will be communicating with families about their learning platforms, daily schedule, and the work your child will be expected to complete online. We appreciate all the support parents, grandparents, siblings, extended family members, and caregivers are giving to support our students in our online learning adventure. We know it is going to take time for everyone to learn schedules and how to access work, but together we will get through the obstacles that may pop up along the way.

Suggestions for creating a remote learning space for your child:

- Sit in a well lit area with space to use a notebook and/or whiteboard
- Sit near an outlet to plug in device during the day, if needed
- Sit in a low traffic area – where there are not people walking around behind your child constantly
- Possibly using headphones if there are multiple children in your home learning at the same time
- Post your child's daily schedule near them once the teacher shares it with you
- Put a post it note on your child's device with their log on and password information



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Other helpful tips include: Restarting your child's device every morning before logging on. This can help prevent updates happening during their learning and working time. Enjoy snacks and drinks during break times, away from their device. Also, during break times encourage your child to go outside for a few minutes, stretch, or even close their eyes for a few minutes. We know that eyes can get tired and feel strained from being on a computer for long periods of time so closing their eyes for a few minutes or stepping outside for natural light can be a nice break for eyes.

Family involvement is a key factor in the success of your child and a school. We appreciate your patience and support as we start school online this year. We welcome your participation and look forward to partnering with parents and families in our PTO, School Site Council, Open House, Conferences, and Family Nights throughout this school year. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Erickson. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully,

Rachel Romero