

Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent of Schools Administrative Center 310 Seminary Avenue • Aurora, IL 60505

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August 11, 2022

Dear East Aurora Families,

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! I hope you have had an awesome summer. We are excited to welcome back all students on Wednesday, August 24 (PreK students on Monday, August 29).

Our district-wide theme this year is <u>Equity Through Action</u>. Emphasizes our efforts to build a strong sense of <u>Belonging</u> within our school communities, and <u>remove barriers</u> so that each child may <u>Reach their Full Potential!</u>

This year, we have many exciting plans to engage, support and accelerate our students in both their academic and social and emotional learning. We have added the following; *School Status*, student data and parent communication tool that provides an opportunity for every parent to call or text their child's teacher, *Panorama*, survey tool to assess social/emotional needs, *TutorMe*, free 24/7 computer-based live tutor program offered in multiple languages for all 6th-12th graders, *I-Ready*, math program for K-8th graders, and 13 elementary Math Interventionists providing added student math support!

The district has made a few significant system-wide improvements including; a new breakfast and lunch program for our PreK-5th grade schools from *K-12 by Elior*. This will provide meals prepared on-site in district and served fresh at all elementary schools instead of pre-packaged frozen and re-heated meals. Students will also select their meal preferences daily and their choices will be reserved so student choices will not run out during later lunch periods. We heard our parent concerns and are excited to report this improvement!

First Student Bus Company has added a transportation app for parents that will allow parents to track their child's bus from their mobile phone or computer both going to school and on the way home!

East Aurora High School will dismiss earlier this year to assist with Gates Elementary dismissal. We listened to our parent concerns and worked with the high school to make this adjustment for the improved safety and reduced frustrations.

In addition, the district is launching an expanded Safety & Security program for our PreK through 5th grade and middle schools. There will be six Safety & Security Officers hired to work at our elementary schools. These retired law enforcement officers will conduct and complete daily compliance checks to assess and reduce schools weaknesses surrounding external threats. They will also conduct additional emergency drills to make sure all staff and students are ready in the event of an emergency.

A priority remains the health of our students and staff. Administrators have again worked in conjunction with our county, State and federal CDC agencies to update our district health guidance surrounding Covid-19 most recent protocols. Please see the "2022-23 Safe Return to In-Person and Continuity of Services" for updated details.



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We continue to celebrate many successes across our district despite the pandemic. Most importantly, we celebrate having amazing faculty and staff ready to receive your students back to school for what we are planning to be a great school year!

Thank you for your continued support.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent of Schools