

# EDGEWATER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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KERRY L. POSTMA  
SUPERINTENDENT

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September 2018

Dear Member of the Edgewater School District Community,

Welcome back for the 2018-2019 school year. We have 1,001 students enrolled at this time in grades Pre-K to 6, up from 962 at the end of last school year. George Washington School will house 5 preschool classes, 8 kindergartens, 8 first grade classes and 5 second grade classes. Eleanor Van Gelder School will serve 6 third grade classes, 5 fourth grade classes, 5 fifth grade homerooms, and 4 sixth grade homerooms. This letter is to inform you of the district's goals and initiatives for this coming year.

## **PARENT/VISITOR POLICY**

To continue to ensure the safety of all students and staff, the visitor policy instituted last spring will continue, with **parents and visitors allowed to enter the buildings by appointment only**. Please make appointments directly with your child's teacher, or with the main office if you need to make arrangements for early pick-up, etc. Any **forgotten lunchboxes, instruments, etc. must be labeled and deposited on the table/bench** outside the front door of each school. These areas are monitored consistently, and items will be retrieved by the office staff and delivered to your child in a timely manner. Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to put safety first for all students and staff.

## **NEW MISSION STATEMENT**

We are happy to announce that after several working sessions with all stakeholders – staff, students, parents and board members—we have a new mission statement:

**The Edgewater School District, a culturally rich community, fosters academic achievement, social-emotional growth, and intellectual curiosity, preparing our students for lifelong learning and future success.**

## **NEW PRINCIPAL OF GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

We are pleased to announce that after an extensive search, **Mrs. Jarlyn Veras** has been selected as the new principal for the George Washington School. Mrs. Veras has most recently been serving as an assistant principal of grades Pre-K to two in Newark Public Schools, and has taught preschool and served as an early childhood teacher coach. Mrs. Veras will begin work September 13<sup>th</sup>, until which time Mr. Kirkby will continue in the role of principal.

## **CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY**

We will be entering into our second year of using the Pearson Science program and the Kids Discover Social Studies program by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. We are entering our fifth year of using the GoMath series in Grades K-6. We continue to integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts and Math) into the curriculum at all grade levels, and we are happy to continue our partnership with Teachers College for staff development in Reading and Writing Workshop at both schools. Each student in grades three to six will be issued a Chromebook in September for use in school, and sixth graders will be permitted to travel with their devices to and from school.

## **PTO and EEF**

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A big thank you to the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and Edgewater Education Foundation (EEF) for their generous donations in the 2017-2018 school year. The PTO donated two new basketball hoops at GW School, and a year-end monetary gift of \$3,000 to each school, which was used to purchase technology and books for students. In addition, the PTO's Book Fair fundraisers resulted in a gift to the district of over \$10,000 in Scholastic gift cards. This money was used to purchase new classroom library books and student magazine subscriptions for students in Grades PreK to 6. The EEF's annual gala held in February resulted in \$11,500 in STEAM grants distributed among GW and EVG teachers who submitted proposals. STEAM items granted to Edgewater teachers this past spring by the EEF included Lenovo computers, LED light tables, digital books, STEAM invention kits, 3D pens, and 3D printers.

## **FACILITIES, SCHOOL SAFETY, AND TRANSPORTATION**

The district's maintenance staff has been working hard to prepare the buildings for the arrival of students and staff. Additional playground equipment will be installed at EVG School in the coming weeks. The district continues to place a high priority on school safety and security. District officials held their annual security meeting with local police and fire officials this summer to review all safety and security measures currently in place. The Edgewater Police Department will continue to partner closely with us for all security measures. **The visitor policy instituted last spring will continue, with parents and visitors allowed to enter the buildings by appointment only.** The district purchased a third school bus over the summer. The remainder of the bus routes will continue to be run by First Student and the Leonia Board of Education.

Thank you to all members of the administrative team, the administrative support staff, and the maintenance staff who worked diligently this summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. Thank you all for your dedication to the students and families of Edgewater. I look forward to seeing you soon, as we launch what is sure to be another successful year.

Sincerely,

*Kerry Postma*  
Kerry Postma