



## EDINBURG COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Boys and Girls,

Welcome back to school. The Staff and I are so excited to begin this school year and we hope that you are ready to have fun, learn and work hard!

In the classrooms this year you will notice some new furniture aimed at helping you to be able to move more around the room. You will also have a class this year called STEM. This is integrating Science/Technology/Engineering and Math. I am certain you are all going to love your STEM time.

Grades 4-6 will also have a health class added to their weekly schedule. This class will be held with our new PE teacher.

Music lessons will continue to be offered for our 5th and 6th grade students and chorus will be open to students grade 4-6. Our new music teacher, Mrs. Pat Zullo is excited to bring some new things to our music program PK-6.

Our Vision Statement, which boys and girls means our theme or goal for our school, is “**EAGLES IGNITE**”. You will see these two words a great deal this year and we want you to know what it stands for. IGNITE is an acronym that stands for *Inspiring Growth & Nurturing Innovation Through Exploration*. So what does this all mean for you, the student? It means that our goal is to help you be successful by providing exciting opportunities for you to learn through exploration and when possible, hands-on experiences. Your success is super important to us and we are committed to doing our part to ensure it but you too play a big part in your learning. Keep reading to see what we expect from you as a student.

### **GENERAL RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

So boys and girls, are you respectful, responsible, resourceful and positive? Are you open to new ideas, willing to ask questions, explain your thinking and lead classroom discussions? Are you willing to learn and work together with your family and all ECS staff? If you answered yes to all of these questions then you are a student that has what it takes to be highly successful which means able to learn, work and succeed at your personally best level.

Attached to this letter there is an expectations sheet called the “Eagle Way Expectations.” This explains what we expect from you as a student in the hallways, classrooms, assemblies, bathrooms, on the school bus, playground and in the cafeteria. Your teacher and parents should be going over this chart with you and making sure you understand what is expected and why it

is important. It is also posted in all classrooms and in the District office as a reminder to you throughout the school year.

**WHAT OTHER BEHAVIORS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:**

Bullying      Fighting      Physical Contact of any kind      Swearing

Coloring or drawing on walls, bathroom stalls, destroying any school property like desks, books, bulletin boards etc...

Threatening someone or intimidating them (making them afraid of you)

Yelling and disrespecting your classmates or any adult in the district

Knives, guns, ammunition - even used, guns, fireworks or anything that looks like a weapon is never allowed in school, on the bus or in your backpack or your pockets. Any items will be confiscated and you risk suspension from school and possible police and social service involvement which you do not want! This includes real and toy weapons both. This is a really important rule to know and understand so please ask a grown-up if you are not clear on this safety rule.

There will be consequences for breaking the rules. Depending on the rule it could be lunch or recess detention, in-school or out of school suspension, a mandatory meeting with your parents, Even a year of expulsion for a weapons violation. This is not meant to scare you boys and girls just to make you understand the seriousness of making poor choices.

**You are not allowed to have cell phones or any type of trading cards or toys in school or on the school bus. (The only exception for toys is if there is a show in tell tell in which case a note will come home from the teacher.)**

**Hand-held games, I-Pads, I-Pods, headphones, sometimes these electronics help you on the bus ride but they are costly to replace and if you bring them on the bus, they are your sole responsibility and if they get lost, stolen or broken the school will not be responsible.**

**During the school day, if you are Parents/Guardians allow you to have those electronic items, they must go into your backpack before you get off the school bus and they must stay in your backpack until you are back on the school bus.**

Fidget spinners must be kept in your cubbies during instructional time unless it is something approved by your parents and the RTI team as a needed resource or used as a teacher tool under the teacher's direction.

### **WHAT IS THE DIGNITY ACT?:**

Mr. Sitts is your Dignity Act Coordinator. If you are intimidating, scaring, bullying, picking on a student you will be sent to see Mr. Sitts so that he can determine if your behavior is violating the rights of your classmates or staff and is in deed a violation of the Dignity Act Policy #0115.

We will teach you about having good character and making good choices throughout the school year. We will also learn what bullying is and is not and why it is important to treat others the way you want to be treated. We want everyone to feel happy and safe at school. It is one of our most important goals is to have a climate where all boys and girls respect and take care of each other. You may not always “Like” everyone but it is important to learn how to work with and be kind to even those that may not be your “best friends.”

### **AGENDA:**

Students in grades 3-6, You will have an agenda to bring home with you to show your parents every night. Even if you do not have any evening tasks or things to remember to bring to school, you still need to get in the routine of having your parents see and initial your agenda on a nightly basis. This is important because your parents need to know what and how you are doing and assist you in ensuring you meet the expectations of your classroom.

### **FRIDAY FOLDERS:**

New this year, all students will have a Friday Folder. These folders will have all of your papers for the week that must go home to your Parents/Guardians including completed school work, announcements, handouts, important notices, Behavior referrals, Report cards, Progress reports etc... These folders will go home with you each Friday. No more stuffing papers in your desk or cubbies boys and girls! Please ask your Parent/Guardian to empty out your folder and help you remember to bring it back to school every Monday morning. Let the adults know that going through the folder with you is a great way to spark conversations with you about your week including all the things that you did and things that were both easy and hard for you.

### **SCHOOL HOURS:**

All boys and girls need to be in the building by 8:00 a.m. to avoid being marked tardy. If you arrive after 8:00 a.m., your parent/guardian will have to come into the building and sign you in. At that time you will also have to tell our secretary, Ms. Kramer what you would like for lunch so that it gets ordered.

If you are eating breakfast at school, you need to be here by 7:45 a.m. The earliest you can be dropped off at school is 7:40 a.m. because we do not have anyone to watch you before 7:40 a.m.

Please cooperate with your family in the morning because getting to school on time is so very important to your success in school.

Dismissal is at 2:45. If you are being picked up, you must give your note to the office first thing in the morning either on your way into school or you can give it to your teacher when you go to your classroom at 8:20. Pick-ups will be on the parking lot side of the building just like last year. That seems to work well with the flow of traffic and not interfering with the buses loading.

The parent pick-up doors on the parking lot side of the building will be opened by Mrs. Monge and Mrs. Ferguson at 2:45. Prior to that time, they are still in classrooms and that door will be locked.

If you have to be picked up earlier for an appointment please have your Parents/Guardian write a note to the school and then the office will call down for you when they arrive.

### **BICYCLES:**

Students in grades 4-6 are permitted to ride their bikes to school as long as we have a note on file from the parent/guardian. This note is required each school year.

### **BUS RIDERS:**

This year, you are allowed to have two morning pick-up locations and two afternoon drop off locations. You are not allowed to have any other bus changes. For example, if you want to go home with a friend and they are not one of your drop-off locations, then you would either have to be picked-up or you would have to go to one of your two locations and your friend's parent/guardian can pick you up there. Your safety and getting to where you need to be is super important to us and the more changes you have the more likely an error could be made and you end up on the wrong bus. While we work hard to ensure this does not happen and we always get you to the right place, this new procedure will ensure that even more than before.

### **SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS:**

School closing, delays and early dismissals will be displayed on all local television stations. In addition, everyone that signs up for the Remind me App will receive a text or an email letting you know about the closing, delay or early dismissal.

It is important that your Parents/Guardians sign up for the Remind Me APP so that they get all of the District important announcements for upcoming events or weather delays/closings. Information to sign up will be going home in your forms booklet.

### **TELEPHONE CALLS**

Boys and Girls are not allowed to call home during the school day to ask for any change in your after school busing like wanting to go to a friend's house, you can not call home for forgetting homework, friday folders, instruments, sneakers or gym clothes. These things are your responsibility to remember. If you forget you will just have to bring it in the next day or next time. It is unfair to disrupt your parent/guardian's day for these items.

For health reasons or something like a forgotten lunch, The School nurse, Mrs. Sniezik or the Office staff, Ms. Kramer and Mrs. Cherry will help you call your parents/guardians. You will need a pass from the classroom teacher first though to see the nurse or the office staff.

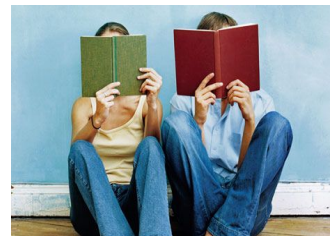
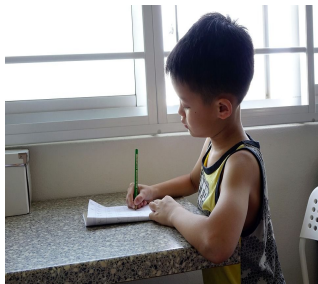
**ABSENCES:**

Please remember that anytime you are absent, the nurse must be called by your parent/guardian. The machine is on 24 hours a day but we need to know where you are at all times school is in session. Unless you are sick, please be in school every day. You miss so much when you are not here.

Make sure you get all of your work from your teacher after coming back to school and have your family help you finish and return it to school. Our staff will do everything we can to catch you up but you have to do your part in asking for and completing any missed work due to absence or music lessons.

After you are absent 10 days you will start getting letters sent home regarding your absences and asking that you please not miss anymore school unless you are sick.

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER BOYS AND GIRLS AND MAKE THIS THE BEST YEAR EVER!**



**IGNITE YOUR PASSION  
FOR LEARNING TODAY!**

# **“OUR HUMAN RIGHTS”**

**I have the right to be happy and to be treated  
with compassion in this room:  
This means that no one will laugh at me or hurt my feelings.**

**I have the right to be myself in this room:  
This means that no one will treat me unfairly because  
Of my skin color,  
fat or thin,  
tall or short  
boy or girl  
or by the way I look or way I learn.**

**I have a right to be safe in this room and in this school:  
This means no one will  
hit me,  
kick me,  
push me,  
pinch me,  
bite me  
or hurt me in any way.**

**I have a right to hear and be heard in this room and in this school:  
This means no one will  
yell,  
scream,  
shout,  
make loud noises**

**I have the right to learn about myself in this room and school:  
This means that I will be free to express my feelings and opinions without  
being interrupted, picked-on or reprimanded.**

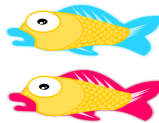
**I have a right to make mistakes and learn according to my own ability:  
This means no one will call me names or pick on me because of the way I learn.**

**“THE ECS WAY”**



**We are always honest and true to ourselves  
We show kindness and respect to everyone  
We treat others the way we want to be treated  
We always do our best at work and in play  
We take care of our minds and bodies every day  
That is the ECS Way**

**“THE FISH PHILOSOPHY”**



**Have a positive attitude every day  
Do something to make someone else's Day  
Take time to play every day  
Be There for each other**

**“POWER OF YET”**

**Remember it is okay to make mistakes, we all do!  
Never say “I can't, but say “I can't YET”  
Never be afraid to ask for help**

**“PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE”**



**I Pledge Allegiance to the flag  
Of the United States of America,  
And to the republic,  
For which it stands,  
One nation, under god,  
Indivisible,  
With liberty and justice for all.**

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