

Parents/Guardians,

We are now about two months into the school year, and I wanted to reach out and share some of the work we're doing at Evart Public Schools.

Our elementary teachers continue to receive training in literacy instruction, as this is a key area of focus for us at EPS. Teachers who have not yet completed a program called **LETRS** (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) are preparing to do so. In addition, many teachers spent time over the summer completing Orton-Gillingham Plus literacy instruction.

Our middle and high school principals have been working together to streamline the secondary experience (grades 6–12) for students, including the creation of one handbook that applies to the entire secondary environment. We've also added some exciting new classes. At the high school, Mr. Johnson is leading a class focused on examining the health of our local waterways, flora, and fauna. At the middle school, we've launched a course designed to help students earn Michigan safety certifications. Mr. Bishop's class will allow our 7th-grade students to earn certifications in Boater Safety, Snowmobile Safety, ORV Safety, and eventually Hunter Safety. This is our first year with the program, and while we may not complete all four certifications this year, that is the goal Mr. Bishop is working toward.

District-wide, we have begun implementing an **MTSS** (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) system. In our first year, the focus is on developing behavioral systems at the school level. Much of the initial work is happening at the elementary level, where we are testing a few approaches to determine what works best for our teachers and students.

As you may already know, Monday is a day off for students but a professional development day for our teachers. Both elementary and secondary staff will attend a presentation on Autism Awareness, where we hope to deepen our understanding of how to communicate with and support all of our students. We've invited all staff members who work directly with students to participate. In the second half of the day, teachers will explore AI tools to help them create resources for their classrooms. Please remind your student that, even though they're not in school, it's still a great day to catch

up on assignments—especially with parent/teacher conferences coming up. And if they're already caught up, it might be the perfect time to start a new book!

That brings me to parent/teacher conferences, which will be held on the evening of **Thursday, October 23, 2025**. You have likely already received communication from your student's teacher or school about the schedule, but if not, you will soon. While you're always welcome to schedule a meeting at any time to discuss your student's progress, this is a great opportunity to visit our schools, connect with teachers, and learn how the year is going. We truly hope to see all of you there, so we can continue working together as a team to support our students.

In closing, I want to say how excited I am about the direction of EPS, the positivity of our staff, and the opportunities we have to support the young people of Evert. If you have any questions or concerns about our programming, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Dan Boyer

Superintendent

Evert Public Schools

boyerd@evartps.org