



August 2019

upcoming dates...

Aug. 26th-Sept. 6th
MAP testing (Kindergarten-5th)

September 2nd– Labor Day
No School

September 12th
New Family Breakfast

September 13h
Walk-a-Thon

September 16th
PTO 7:00 PM Library

September 23rd
Picture Retakes

September 24th/25th
Parent-Teacher Conferences
2:00 Dismissal

September 26th
Teacher In-Service

September 27th
No School

October 2nd/3rd
Outdoor Ed-5th Grade

October 17th
End of First Quarter
Fall Fest 6:00-8:00 PM

October 18th
Teacher In-Service

Principal's Note:

Dear Parents–

We were very excited to open our doors to children this week. Although it has only been two days, a lot of learning has already been taking place. Students are learning about the rules of Fire Ridge which include: Be safe, Be respectful, and Be responsible. They are also learning about the procedures and expectations of their grade level and teacher. I have observed smiles, coloring, reading and so much more!

This year our theme is focused on Growth Mindset. We held an assembly where we learned that struggling is a sign of learning! Several staff members shared experiences where they have struggled. Each person emphasized how they kept trying even though it was difficult, used new strategies and received support until they were successful at learning. We hope to instill these skills into our students for life-long success.

Have a wonderful weekend and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Deb Knutson

The Struggle is
Real...
Learning!



WALKING CLUB FUN!

All students are invited to join Walking Club. Walking Club begins at 7:55 a.m. and ends when the first bell rings at 8:10 a.m. Students should meet on the east playground and wait for direction from Mr. Dahl. For those who do not want to participate in Walking Club, please arrive at 8:10 a.m. Please remember there is no supervision before 7:55 when Walking Club begins. During inclement weather, Walking Club will take place inside.

TRAFFIC REMINDERS

Please keep the following things in mind during drop off and pick up times:

- Slow down, watch for safety patrol members
- Right turn only out of front loop
- Make sure kids can buckle and unbuckle independently
- **Pull forward**
- Kids enter and exit car curbside only
- Do not walk across front loop entry
- Come to a full stop at the 4 way stop behind the crosswalk

Office Reminders:

- Please call the office by 9 AM if your child is going to be absent.
- If your child is tardy for school, a parent needs to come in to the office to sign in.
- If you are picking your child up early, please call the office 10-15 min. before you plan to arrive and we will have your child waiting in the office.
- If your child is getting to school before 7:55 AM, there is no supervision during their wait outside. One option would be for your child to eat breakfast. Breakfast begins at 7:30 AM. At that time, students will be allowed to come in through the front doors.

No Dogs on School Grounds

Just a reminder that dogs are not allowed on school grounds when school is in session. Even the most well-mannered dogs, when surrounded by little hands and loud voices of children, may react in a way that we would not expect. In addition, some of our children have pet allergies. Thank you for your help with this!

PTO NEWS:

- You are invited to the first PTO meeting on September 16th at 7:00 in the library. If you are interested in volunteering, go to www.fireridgepto.com
- The Walkathon kick-off assembly will be held on August 23rd.
- All Walkathon packets will go home on the 23rd and due at noon on September 12th.
- All parents are invited to walk with their children the day of the Walkathon on Sept. 13th. Please see the PTO website for the grade level walking schedule. We hope to see you there!



Reminders From Your School Nurse...

If you haven't done so already, please get those required kindergarten physical and vision exams turned in, and copies of updated vaccines. We want to take great care of your child, and one way to help us do that is to provide the health office with current health information and medication needed for your child.

If your child has any health needs such as Asthma, Severe Allergy, Diabetes, Seizures, etc. we must have an *action plan* on file that is signed by the doctor and the parent. This information is very important, so we know exactly what is best to do for your child, in the event of an emergency.

Please remember if your student has any medications such as an inhaler, Epi-Pen, Benedryl, etc to be used in an emergency situation, we need to have those available at school, with a signed medication authorization, so trained staff can administer.

If your child requires **any** medication while at school, this includes all prescription and/or all over-the-counter (e.g. ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cough drops, etc)

ALL MEDICATION requires a medication authorization, signed by the physician and the parent. All medication must be unexpired and provided in the original store packaging or pharmacy labeled container.

Links to blank forms, or your doctor may use their preferred version.

Medication Authorization

<http://www.elkhornweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Med-Auth-Form-Front-Only.pdf>

AireNebraska Asthma/Allergy Action Plan

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/cfbaa74b1585069c3e62e082be27a34c?AccessKeyId=32029651ABFAD3DBF315&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

I do travel during the week to several buildings in the district, so please feel free to contact me via email alaughlinhardick@epsne.org or leave a message for me at your school's office, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I look forward to a great school year!

Amy Laughlin-Hardick, BSN, RN
VNA School Nurse
ESHS
ERMS
Fire Ridge Elementary
West Ridge Elementary



DISTRICT CALENDAR

Visit <https://www.elkhornweb.org/calendar> to view the most current activities and events information on the District calendar or to choose an individual building calendar to view.

SCHOOLMESSENGER MESSAGING AND ALERT SYSTEM

Both the EPS District and each individual building regularly use a parent messaging system called SchoolMessenger to send emails and phone calls to parents, including monthly information about building happenings, as well as school closings.

SchoolMessenger also allows recipients the option to “unsubscribe” from its mailing list; please understand that by “unsubscribing” you are completely removing your email address from ALL lists, including both District and building specific emails.

If, at any time, you unsubscribe then later decide you would like to begin receiving emails again, please let your building secretary know.

TECH SAVVY PARENT TIPS

As students and parents get back into the school year, it’s important to remember to prioritize time and focus on schoolwork. For students, procrastination generally takes on the form of “multitasking”, which often leads to distractions and wasted time. In order to curb this occurrence prior to it becoming a bad habit that will move with them into adulthood, take a look at a few options for apps and plug-ins that help reduce the instances of this current trend.

RescueTime: this plug-in tracks how much time is being spent on specific sites and generates reports showing the results. By reviewing these reports, you and your child can see exactly where the majority of their time is being wasted.

Work Mode: *Work Mode* blocks access to all social media feeds during any time frame that the plug-in is turned on. What better way to ensure your child is focused solely on the task at hand than by making the distractions they typically default to inaccessible during the time they need to be focusing on other important things?

For more information on these and other time saving options, visit www.common sense media.org.

Elkhorn Public Schools Policy 507.13—Internet Safety Policy was written in compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act. Tech Savvy Parent tips are intended to inform and educate parents of technology that may be available to their students. Tips may feature apps that are educational as well as those that may be a cause for concern to parents.



DISTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA

To better serve our communication needs and ensure that all EPS students, families, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community receive necessary information and District updates, all EPS buildings have launched social media accounts. The links to all EPS accounts are below and can be followed for regular updates from the District and buildings.

<i>School</i>	<i>Social Platform Links</i>
Elkhorn Public Schools	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPS
EPS Young Adult Program	https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSYAP https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_YAP
Elkhorn High School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_EHS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSEHS
Elkhorn South High School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_ESHS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSESHS
Elkhorn Grandview Middle School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_EGMS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSEGMS
Elkhorn Middle School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_EMS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSEMS/
Elkhorn Ridge Middle School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_ERMS https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSESMS/
Elkhorn Valley View Middle School	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_EVVMS https://www.facebook.com/Elkhorn-Valley-View-Middle-School-557415441267940/
Arbor View	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_AV https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSAV
Blue Sage	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_BSE https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSBS
Fire Ridge	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_FR https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSFR
Hillrise	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_HR https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSHR/
Manchester	https://twitter.com/ElkhornPS_MN https://www.facebook.com/ElkhornPSMNI/



Fire Ridge Falcons

Fire Ridge PTO President Letter

Dear Fire Ridge Parents:

First, who is shocked we are preparing ourselves for the 2019-2020 school year? I am!! Summer tends to go by way too fast. Yet, here we are again - trying to wrap our brains around another school year.

Your PTO has already been working this summer on preparing for the First Day of School and our Annual Walkathon Fundraiser, Friday, September 13th. The Keep Fire Ridge Beautiful Committee has been pulling weeds and preparing flower pots and Hospitality is working on the BooHoo Yahoo Breakfast for Kindergarten families. Below is the link needed to log into Membership ToolKit to update your Directory information and much much more. Check it out.

<https://firidgeelem.membershiptoolkit.com/home>

Did you know, as a parent of a Fire Ridge Falcon, you are automatically a PTO member? There is a place for everyone on the PTO among the 15 different committees. We are looking forward to a few changes including the PTO meeting structure bringing in different speakers we hope will have something to offer everyone. It is going to be a fun ride. We would love to have everyone find a home whether you would like to be a worker bee, planner, supporter or *an inventor* creating something new for our school and families. All are encouraged and welcome to participate in our first meeting: Monday, September 16th at 7 pm in the Library. If there are any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at firidgepto@gmail.com

Have a great start and *an inventive* year!!
Sherry



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Find us on Facebook
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Elkhorn NE



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firidgepto.com

2019-2020 PTO Executive
Board

President: Sherry Zehr
Vice President: Lesley Clark
Treasurer: Kelli Tierney
Secretary: Anne Garinger

falcon times

