



Eric Hartfelder, Executive Principal  
eric.hartfelder@mnps.org

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Eakin Elementary  
2500 Fairfax Ave.  
Nashville, TN 37212

### Eagles,

I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving break! Togetherness this year continues to take on a new format. For my family, this year we traded in family dinner for a family Zoom call. While still meaningful, it is a reminder that 2020 has been and continues to be unprecedented.

This past week, Dr. Battle shared that MNPS is returning to all-virtual learning starting tomorrow morning. I am saddened that our car rider line and hallways will not be filled with students. However, I am encouraged because we are returning to a familiar setting. We have many teachers and students who have been successful the entire year in the virtual setting. For our students who were in the building, we are returning to a setting that we experienced the first grading period. While not preferred, it is a setting where we have been and continue to be successful.

The return to virtual learning for all students reminds me of the quote from the late author and motivational speaker, Zig Ziglar. He is quoted as saying,

*Your attitude, not your aptitude will determine your altitude*

I share in the sentiment that I wish we were all in-person. There is no substitute for being one Eakin Family under one roof. However, as we shift back to virtual learning our perspective will continue to be paramount. I choose to focus on how we can continue to build relationships and support one another. If there is one thing that has continually shone through all the obstacles this year it is that as an Eakin Family we can persevere through any situation!

Now on to the information... please read carefully as there is a lot of information and dates. Please take special note of the section on the Family Decision Survey. Included is information on how to update your selection for in-person or virtual learning for the second semester.

### Morning Announcements

Starting our morning together as an Eakin family is one of the many highlights of my day. With the return to Virtual Learning for all students, I look forward to beginning out day together from home! We will begin promptly at 8:00 each morning. So grab your breakfast and be ready to start each day as an Eakin Family!

[11/30 Announcements](#)

[12/1 Announcements](#)

[12/2 Announcements](#)

[12/3 Announcements](#)

[12/4 Announcements](#)

### Family Decision Survey

As I am sure you recall, MNPS sent a survey asking all families to decide if they wanted their students to attend virtually or in person once health conditions allowed. Even as we return to an all-virtual setting for students, the district is providing families an opportunity to change their decision prior to the start of the second semester in January.

Starting **Monday, November 30 through Friday, December 4**, MNPS will open a new survey to allow you to **change** your decision if you choose. The survey is accessible at [mnps.org/decision-survey](https://mnps.org/decision-survey). To reiterate, only families wishing to **change** their decision need to complete the survey. There will be no exceptions or changes after the close of the survey on Friday, December 4.

Important considerations/reminders:

- This survey only applies to the second semester, starting January 2021
- Once the decision is made, it will be final. This allows us to appropriately allocate staff resources to meet the needs of all students
- Decision on when schools will be open for in-person learning will be made by the District based on Nashville's COVID-19 community spread, with the safety and well-being of students, staff, and their families being a top priority
- If a student or teacher tests positive for the coronavirus, students who are within six feet of that person for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period will be required to quarantine for 14 days to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19

District decision on when to re-start the phase-in process and allow for in-person learning at schools will be based on the community spread of COVID-19 and will be announced separately.

To support families with questions and decisions, we will be holding an **Eakin Town Hall on Thursday December 3 from 6:00-7:00 pm**. A separate email with the Zoom link will be sent no later than Wednesday evening. **To submit a question for the Town Hall, please email [EakinPTO@gmail.com](mailto:EakinPTO@gmail.com) with your question by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1.**

#### **Laptops for Original Virtual Families**

We are ready to get new laptops out to students who have remained virtual this entire school year.

Pick up times will be between 9-11am and 1:45-3:15 pm starting Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> through Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please use this link to let us know when you are coming: [Laptop Pick Up Sign Up](#)

If these days/times do not work for your family please reach out to Kelly Bulbalkaya, Eakin Librarian, to arrange another time. [Kelly.bulbalkaya@mnps.org](mailto:Kelly.bulbalkaya@mnps.org). When you come, please bring any MNPS device previously issued to your student including power cord and hot spots no longer needed. If your student currently has a laptop with a yellow IT tag on the bottom, you do not need to swap it out. You have the latest, greatest model! 😊

#### **Library Book Curbside Pick Up**

Students can still get books from the Eakin Library while we are virtual. Yippie! Please use the library catalog to place a hold on the books you want by 2:00 the day before pickup. You will receive an email letting you know the books are ready. The library card number is the 190 student id and the PIN is the student's birthday MMDD. Pick up days are Tuesdays and Fridays 8:15-3:00.

Come to the Fairfax Avenue doors on the pickup day. There is a bookshelf up the steps behind the right column. Get the bag of books with your name. There will be a return bin too. Students can keep their books 3 weeks. 3-4 students can receive public library books at Eakin using this system too. Catalog: <https://280.library.nashville.org>

How to place a hold video: [How to Place a Library Hold Video](#) (Video by Katelyn Jernigan, Tusculum Librarian)

I have heard that sometimes the holds do not work for our K-2 grades. You can use this link to let me know the books you want, and I will do the best to get you them, or something similar:

[Eakin Library Book Request Form](#)

#### **WKRN News 2 Educator of the Month Voting (Ms. Robinson)**

Julianne Robinson, one of our amazing kindergarten teachers, has been selected as the WKRN News 2 Educator of the Week for November! Ms. Robinson is eligible to be voted Educator of the Month. We need your help getting Ms. Robinson and Eakin recognized!

Voting for Educator of the Month is from November 30 through January 3 at <https://tnlottery.com/education-wins/educator-of-the-month/>. You can vote once per day. Please take a moment each morning to vote for Ms. Robinson!

**Eakin Wear Virtual Ordering**

Our online Eakin Wear store is live! You have two options for ordering and items will be delivered directly to the address of your choosing before December 25. Click the links below for a wonderful opportunity to do some holiday shopping, support the school, and send some Eakin pride to family and friends! To order shirts with the color logo, click [HERE](#). For shirts with the logo in white, click [HERE](#).

**Toy Drive**

We are officially entering a season of giving, and there is no community more giving than Eakin! Please consider participating in our annual Toy Drive to help make sure every Eakin Eagle has a reason to celebrate this holiday season. Due to COVID and the return to virtual learning, we are using an Amazon Wish List to collect gifts. Please click the link [HERE](#) to access the Wish List.

As an Eakin Family, we are committed to helping every family and Eagle! Your generous donations go directly to helping every Eakin Eagle have a wonderful holiday. Please contact [rachel.hippel@mnps.org](mailto:rachel.hippel@mnps.org) if you have any questions or would like more information.

I look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow morning bright and early for virtual announcements!

Sincerely,



*Executive Principal, Eakin Elementary School*