



EAGLE RIDGE

ACADEMY

March 22, 2018

Dear Eagle Ridge Academy Community,

Spring break has arrived! A time for rest, relaxation, and contemplation for students, families, and staff. Some are traveling to exotic, warm destinations, while others are taking a staycation! No matter your mode of relaxation, my hope is that we all come back to school for the fourth and last quarter ready to finish strong.

The last quarter of the school year includes sunshine, warmer weather, and the view of summer on the horizon. However, fourth quarter is also busy for staff and students, without many days off. At the beginning of fourth quarter, we have the state test, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, which cause a disruption to our normal academic schedule and may be stressful to some students. These tests are mandatory for each school to administer within a short time period. The Minnesota Department of Education and our authorizer, Friends of Education, use the school-wide test results to hold us accountable for student achievement. Eagle Ridge Academy uses the MCA test results to identify opportunities for growth for our school and for individual students.

What we ask of our students is that they do their best on these tests.

New Eagle Ridge Academy Leaders

Eagle Ridge Academy had two leadership openings for 2018-2019. With the recommendation from our Activities Task Force, the ERA School Board chose to hire a full-time Activities Director (AD). The position will oversee our new K-6 Youth Sports program, clubs and organizations, 7-12 athletics, and our TEL program. By hiring a full time AD, we will be able to meet our goal of offering an increased number of activities for all students. We also would like to improve the quality of our programming.

The ERA School Board approved **Mr. Kristofer Babler** as Eagle Ridge Academy's first full-time Activities Director. Mr. Babler has experience coaching at both the high school and college level. He has a BA from Gustavus Adolphus College in English Literature and a MS in Applied Kinesiology and Sports Management from the University of Minnesota. Kris is also a former US Army Public Affairs Officer. Mr. Babler is currently assisting with the transition, collaborating with ISM for fall sports, and planning our fall K-6 Youth Sports.

Mrs. Erica Powell has been with Eagle Ridge Academy since 2012 as our principal in the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric. Erica notified ERA in January that she will resign at the end of the school year. We have been honored to have Mrs. Powell as part of our team and appreciate all the work she has done for the students and staff. Because Erica notified us early, we were able to have a [thoughtful and in-depth](#)

[recruitment and interview process](#) for our new principal. The process included 21 stakeholders, a group comprised of students, parents, staff, and board members.

On March 20, the ERA School Board approved **Dr. Bruce Locklear** as the principal of Schools of Logic and Rhetoric. Dr. Locklear most recently served as Principal for Edina High School from 2007 until his retirement in 2017. While there, he led the school in being recognized as a Newsweek Top performing high school for numerous years, as well as developed a School within a School program to serve at-risk students (of which 100% of participants graduated!). Dr. Locklear was recognized as the Minnesota Secondary Principal of the Year in 2010. Prior to his time with Edina, he served in a variety of other roles:

- Principal at Delano High School
- Professor at Southwest State University
- Superintendent of Owatonna Public Schools
- Principal at Blaine High School
- Assistant Principal at St. Francis High School
- High School Social Studies Teacher at St. Francis High School

As part of his transition plan, Dr. Locklear will be onsite during various times this school year to interview students, staff, and parents.

We invite you to meet Mr. Babler and Dr. Locklear on April 17 for an informal meet and greet. The meet and greet will be part of our [School Board Candidate Forum](#). More details will be communicated after Spring Break.

Needs for 2018-2019

Eagle Ridge Academy has developed a draft budget for 2018-2019. The budget includes staff additions that have been identified by parents and staff as significant needs. For 2018-2019 ERA will be adding:

- New Activities Director position
- An additional School Counselor
- Full-time School Psychologist
- Special Services Coordinator

The addition of these positions will help us improve our college counseling, address social and emotional health of our students, and better identify and support students with behavior or learning difficulties.

March 5 Snow Day

The ERA School Board voted NOT to makeup the missed student contact day that was cancelled on March 5 due to inclement weather. We will follow the [2017-2018 Academic Calendar](#) as-is. If we have another missed student contact day between now and April 23, April 23 would be a student contact day.

Sincerely,

Jason Ulbrich
Executive Director