September 2, 2020

Dear Families,

We would like to welcome you and introduce ourselves as the Principals of the Grand Erie K-12 Virtual Academy. We recognize that these uncertain times are very stressful and understand that you likely have many questions with regards to what online learning will look like this fall. Although things will look different this year, we know that with your positive support, we will create an amazing virtual learning community for our students. The Grand Erie Virtual Academy has been created for the 2020-21 school year for families who have chosen to have their children learn online.

**This letter serves as confirmation that your child has been enrolled in Grand Erie’s K-12 Virtual Academy.**By having selected online learning, your child will be removed from registration at their home school and registered in Grand Erie’s K-12 Virtual Academy. Your child will also be removed from the bus route, as transportation won’t be required so long as they are registered in the virtual school. If you have received this letter and your child(ren) will not be taking part in online learning, please contact your child’s home school Principal by Thursday, September 3, 2020, at 3 p.m.

Today, Grand Erie posted its Back-to-School Guide for Online Learning for Parents and Guardians. You can find this guide [here](http://bit.ly/GE-VA). We will continue to keep you informed as new information becomes available. Please know that we will be working as quickly as possible to get this information to you. It will take all of us working together to ensure that everything goes as smoothly and safely as possible.

More detailed information will be communicated as we get closer to the start of school.For now, here are a few important updates to share:

* Students in Grand Erie will adopt a staggered start to school to support students

learning new routines.

* During the week of September 14, your child will be able to access the Virtual Learning Environment to refamiliarize themselves with the online learning space, and to participate in orientation activities.
* During the week of September 14, teachers will contact their students.
* More information to follow about class start up.
* Elementary students in Grades 1 to 8 will be receiving 300 minutes of instruction per day, five days a week. Each day, students will have 220 of 300 minutes dedicated to daily synchronous learning (i.e., learning in real time with the teacher through video conferences, teleconferences, live chatting and live streaming classes). This will include whole-group instruction; guided instruction & independent play/work as well as small-group/individual synchronous check & connect.
* Students in Kindergarten will be receiving 300 minutes of instruction per day for five days a week. Each day, students will have 180 of 300 minutes dedicated to daily synchronous learning (i.e., learning in real time with the teacher through video conferences, teleconferences, live chatting and live streaming classes). This will include whole-group instruction; guided instruction & independent play/work as well as small-group/individual synchronous check & connect.
* Students in Special Education classes will be receiving 300 minutes of learning

time per day. Learning will be provided by a Special Education teacher with support by an Educational Assistant. There will be synchronous learning (i.e., learning in real time with the teacher and/or Educational Assistant through video conferences, teleconferences, live chatting and live streaming classes) as well as times during the day set aside for independent learning by the student. Individual Education Plans will be reviewed with parent input to make learning goals meaningful for the online and home learning environment.

* If your family borrowed a device from your home school in the spring, you may continue to use this device for virtual learning. More information will follow about borrowing additional Grand Erie technology.

Please continue to monitor our school and board websites and Twitter accounts for updates. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach us.

Finally, we’re all in this together. Our goal is to work with each other to provide a safe and successful return for students, and a great start to the year for all families. We’re counting on you to be part of this team! Please be patient as we all learn new routines. Recognize that this is new to all of us – none of us has all the answers regarding COVID-19. As we receive more information or situations change, we will share this with you. Demonstrate leadership for your child and all students in our school by remaining calm and positive. We will get through this together!

Kind Regards,

Lori Barkans, Principal

Laurie Murray, Principal