



## ELYRIA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 3, 2020

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you had an enjoyable winter break and are ready to leap into a year—and decade—of new beginnings for Elyria Schools.

This fall the district will open three of five new, state-of-the-art school buildings that will serve elementary and middle school students.

**In the fall of 2020 the new sites of Hamilton Elementary School, Ely Elementary School and Northwood Campus will open to students for the 2020-2021 school year.**

The existing schools of Franklin Elementary, Windsor Elementary, Ely Elementary and Northwood Middle will permanently close at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

**Likewise in the fall of 2021 the new sites of Eastern Heights Campus and Westwood Campus will open to students for the 2021-2022 school year.**

The existing schools of Crestwood Elementary, Oakwood Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Prospect Elementary and Eastern Heights Middle will then permanently close at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

As the district prepares to merge 11 elementary and middle schools into five central sites, school administrators are continually monitoring student enrollment and examining existing school attendance areas. Some shifting of boundaries will be necessary to appropriately populate the new buildings across grade levels.

The transition from old schools to new is exciting indeed, but we recognize that it may also create a sense of unease or uncertainty. We want to assure you we'll do everything possible to smooth the process and ensure a positive experience for students and families.

### **Attendance Areas**

This letter includes a link to an interactive map with a “look-up” feature for searching home addresses within new school-attendance areas.

Attendance areas may be searched by following this link, [www.elyriaschools.org/boundaries](http://www.elyriaschools.org/boundaries), and typing a home address in the search bar at the top of the page.

If your student is already established in a school that falls outside the new boundaries of their attendance area and you would like them to stay with their current classmates, you may complete

what's called a "cohort choice application" found at <https://www.elyriaschools.org/Page/943>. The forms also are available at elementary and middle schools.

The cohort choice application offers the opportunity for students whose home school has changed during redistricting to continue attending a school with their current classmates.

Parents must complete one application per student and return completed applications by **February 21, 2020**, to the Elyria Schools Pupil Services Office, 42101 Griswold Road, Elyria, OH 44035.

The option to request enrollment in a school outside the boundaries of a student's natural attendance area **only** applies to students who've been impacted by redistricting and who wish to continue with their cohort of classmates. (Approval of the application is dependent primarily upon building, program and classroom capacity.)

**NOTE:** The cohort-choice application is NOT the same as an open-enrollment form. If your student is open-enrolled in the Elyria Schools you must complete the appropriate open-enrollment form to apply for, or to reapply for, open enrollment as required each year. The form is located at <https://www.elyriaschools.org/Page/384>. The open-enrollment period runs from Feb. 1 through April 24, 2020.

## **Transportation**

School bus transportation is provided within attendance areas.

If parents complete a "cohort choice application" to request that students follow their classmates to a school that is outside the new boundaries of their attendance area, school bus transportation will **not** be provided.

Bus transportation within an attendance area is provided to students who live more than 1.25 miles from their neighborhood school or for students who live near roadways or intersections that have been deemed by First Student Transportation as hazardous crossings.

First Student will assign bus routes to students before the 2020-2021 school year and parents will receive pertinent information related to their child's bus stop and pick-up and drop-off locations.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Please find enclosed with this letter a list of Frequently Asked Questions related to the plan for new schools and the 2020-2021 school year. We hope you'll find this information helpful. To request further information, please call the Elyria Schools Communications Office at 440-284-8203, or email us at [ask@elyriaschools.org](mailto:ask@elyriaschools.org).

The district also will host a **parent meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2020, from 7 to 8 p.m.** at Northwood Middle School to provide details of the plan for new schools and to answer questions.

Thank you for your support of Elyria Schools.

Kindest Regards,

Amy Higgins

Director

Communications and Organizational Strategy

Elyria City School District

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