



Every Child Has Opportunities Charter School

101 Rocket Avenue
Echo, MN 56237
Phone 507-925-4143
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August 4, 2020

Greetings, ECHO Charter Families!

While waiting for many weeks for the *Safe Learning Plan* from the Governor's office, the staff at ECS has been working diligently to plan for all three reopening scenarios that have been much discussed over the summer. Having studied the State's plan and using its benchmarks, ECS School Board met on August 3 and adopted the school's reopening plans, as follows:

- **K-1-2 will return to in-school programming Monday through Thursday beginning August 24.**
- **Grades 3-12 will do Distance Learning during Quarter 1, which ends on October 22, 2020.**

There are still several weeks until school starts and the COVID situation can change (and has changed) on a daily basis. While we hope that the state of COVID will improve, we acknowledge that it may not.

Well before the end of Quarter 1, the school board will meet to assess the COVID situation and announce plans for Quarters 2 and beyond. While we realize that Distance Learning is no substitute for "normalcy", the prolific and dangerous spread of the COVID virus renders normalcy impossible at this time. Please know that Distance Learning for grades 3-12 will look different this fall with much more interaction with teachers. For students lacking computer and hot spot access, we will provide this. More information on this will be shared.

K-1-2 All Day, Every Day:

Pursuant to guidance from the Minnesota Departments of Education (MDE) and Health (MDH), along with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Countryside Public Health, ECHO Charter School will practice a strict protocol for gaining entry to school buses and the school building. Each morning, parents of K-1-2 must pre-screen their child using the screening form provided by the school. Children who do not meet *all* of the required

ECHO Charter School is authorized by Innovative Quality Schools which is responsible for providing oversight of our school. For information about IQS go to www.iqsmn.org The website will also provide you with names, phone numbers and email addresses.



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conditions will not be allowed to attend school on that day. (Much more detail on this process will be posted on our website soon and mailed to K-1-2 families.)

As more information is available, we will continue to update families about school plans. For now, everyone stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,

Helen Blue-Redner, Director/7-12 Science, ECHO Charter School

ECHO Charter School Board of Education:

Deb Eakes, Chair

Judy Miller

Nikki Hildahl-Schwartz

Lynn Standfuss

Eric Kester-Mabon

Katie Gullickson

Michell Harder