

# CEO Report

## Educating the Next Generation



Celebrating the freedom of a people and the opportunity to achieve one's full potential...

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**June 17, 2021**

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## **2020 – 2021 End of the Year Report**

### **End of the Year Report**

The 2020 – 2021 school year will be remembered for the effects it had on students, and the inequality that exist in education. A time when our poorest students were disproportionately affected the most by the lack of internet connectivity, parents out of work, the availability of educational resources, and access to the mental health services provided through schools. It is an unfortunate fact in our society, that many of our poorest students receive almost exclusively their mental health services through school.

While the fight in Public Education for many, may be focused on money, Rise like many other charter schools are focused on making sure students who return, make it back to school more than just physically. Presently, the school prepares to complete State testing and close out the school year.

Plans are already under way for helping our students recover as much as possible. We are building and reestablishing relationships with our families, as we help students, and families recover from the trauma of the Pandemic. This will be necessary to prepare students for the work that will need to be done academically.

An increased focus on assessment testing and CFU's and exit tickets will be needed to locate students and ensure the extra help needed is provided. The variability in learning levels between students is expected to be greater than normal. This process will begin even during testing for the non-testing grades and continue during the summer session for students already identified.

Particular attention will be given to differentiating instruction for students impacted the most by the pandemic. The lessons learned from the pandemic and all of the changes needed resulting from the changes in leadership will be used to improve instruction. Further changes are on the way, but like this year, they are expected to further improve instruction and position the school to make the educational gains needed. Further details concerning the school's academic plan will be outlined by the Principal.

The school is requesting a review of a student disciplinary Report in executive.

# Academic Updates

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ERIE RISE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

ERLACS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 6/17/2021

## **Participation/Attendance Update**

Erie Rise Leadership Academy Charter School has been continuously improving its participation/attendance since the first day of school. Due to targeted communication and support efforts, ERLACS has improved its participation/attendance from September to present whole-school.

The teachers and administration will continue to support students and parents/families to the best of their ability to further increase participation/attendance.

## **Upcoming PSSA Testing**

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing begins Monday, June 14 and will conclude on Wednesday, June 23, with make-up testing dates available Thursday, June 24 through Wednesday, June 30 (the last day of school). All students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will complete the PSSA in Math and English, and all students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will additionally complete the PSSA in Science.

Students who have been attending in-person instruction will continue to come to school during their regularly scheduled session (K – 4<sup>th</sup> 7:45am – 11:45am, 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 11:15am – 3:30pm) to complete testing.

ERLACS teachers and administration recognize the importance of full participation in PSSA testing to collect the most accurate data in representation of our school in meeting the yearly goals outlined in our Charter. Students whose parents who chose to remain virtual were contacted and strongly encouraged to attend school during the testing window to complete the PSSA; the majority of our parents agreed to allow their students to attend.

Although students in Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade do not complete the PSSA, students will still be attending school Monday, June 14 through Wednesday, June 30. Because of the COVID-19 extended school closure, teachers will continue to provide students with instruction to best prepare them to enter into the next grade level using the recommendations gathered from benchmark assessment data presented at the April Board Meeting.

## **Summer Programming and Looking to 2021-2022**

ERLACS teachers and administration are committed to the on-going success of our students. The administrative team is currently reviewing a variety of benchmark and practice testing data as well as report cards grades to identify which students are in need on-going support and what types of support and resources we can implement to ensure our students and our school can reach our goals.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century After-School Program will be hosting a Summer Session Monday, July 12 – Thursday, August 19, Monday – Thursday from 8:00am – 1:00pm. The program will be in-person for students in Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. The Summer Program will be used to specifically target our students who are in need of additional support to best prepare them to enter the next grade level. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Director and the Administrative Team have been researching various curriculum programs, intervention resources, and more, for our teachers and students to utilize, including Evan Moore Summer Intervention workbooks and STEM programs. Students will also have opportunities to tour college campuses, visit Presque Isle and Asbury Park, explore the Erie Zoo, and more. Additionally, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Summer Program will include a Book Club; each student will be receiving two books to complete novel studies throughout the summer.

As we look to the next school year, the Administrative Team is planning to implement a variety of initiatives to further support our students. The pandemic and sense of urgency to prepare our students for the PSSA caused us to postpone Specials classes during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter to use the extra time for intervention; although Specials will be reinstated in the fall, we plan to adjust our daily classroom schedules to keep a 30 – 45-minute Enrichment Block. Students who are in need of extra support will receive intervention during this time from their classroom teacher and/or our Title 1 department in Reading and/or Mathematics depending on individual student need. Conversely, our students who are excelling will also be targeted during this block of time to receive enrichment to further their progress.

ERLACS is implementing new Math and Science curriculums for the 2021-2022 school year as well to better meet the individual needs our students. Historically, we have used Pearson enVision for Middle School Math and Pearson Realize for K – 8 Science; over the summer we will be providing teachers with professional development for the implementation of McGraw Hill Reveal Math for Middle School and McGraw Hill Inspire Science for all grades, which provide more intervention and differentiated instruction materials and hands-on learning experiences.

Furthermore, ERLACS is working on creating and instituting a Parent Contract to increase parent engagement and involvement in our school and their student's education. In

addition to regular RFO meeting, we also would like to host regular Parent Training opportunities to educate parents on topics such as Google Classroom, ELA and Math concepts, homework help, and more. Only together can we ensure that each and every one of our students will succeed.

### **Upcoming Graduation Events**

Kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation events will be held on Wednesday, June 30, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in the gymnasium. Kindergarten Graduation will take place during the school day while 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation will take place in the evening. More details and information as well as invitations will be sent out next week. We would like to welcome all of our Board Members to attend these special events!

**May 20, 2021**

## **Human Resources/Compliance Report**

As the school year comes to a close, Human Resources is already preparing for next year at the same time. Talks with our current staff to ensure staffing levels are at full capacity have begun. Vacancies are in the process of being filled and Human Resources is aggressively working to put in place the best instructional and support team possible. Competition for talent with many teachers retiring due to the Pandemic is expected to continue. The ability to staff vacancies at current wages with individuals qualified to teach in the fields needed will continue to be a challenge.

Human Resources will again this year be asking the Board for some flexibility in salaries in order to fill positions that are in particular high demand (Math, Science, English, Language arts). More information will follow as candidates are identified. HR will be working closely with the Academic committee on high level candidates.

Rise will also be looking to improve its support staff in key positions. HR welcomes the opportunity to discuss personnel issues with the Board, and is very thankful to the help given by the Finance Committee, the Board Chair and Mr. Hooks and Mr. Hilliard and Dr. Smith in meeting these needs, as we compete in a tight market for qualified talent.

Human Resources is requesting approval of the school's reimbursement policy.

**Erie Rise Leadership Academy Charter School**  
**Rise Family Organization Update**  
**June 17, 2021**

**Special Programs/Activities:**

- **The PSSA Window for Grades 3 -8 is June 14<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- The RFO is encouraging Families, Teachers, Board Members and the Administration to submit Box Tops to the Rise Office.
- We received one application for the Erie Rise Leadership Academy Alumni Scholarship. The applicant is Antone Christofer Carthon, who graduated from Erie Rise in our second 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in 2017. Antone is a 2021 graduate of Charter School of Excellence Skills Center. He will be attending Cleveland State University majoring in the Science of Exercise. His goal is to be an athletic trainer, support other young people who have ambitions to attend school. He also plans to open a program that supports single mothers who are in abusive relationships. Provide soft skill training, employment and housing opportunities to families of domestic violence.
- Parents requested information about the extended school year; the Summer Session and inquired about students returning to a full day in-school schedule in the fall.
- The RFO has tickets available for Waldameer. Tickets are \$ 25.00, they can be used during the rest of June and then after August 23, 2021 until Labor Day.

**Upcoming Events**

- Parents are encouraged to continue submitting Box Tops to benefit the RFO Activity Fund
- Requesting Antone Carthon receive the Erie Rise Leadership Academy Alumni Scholarship. The RFO and the Board of trustees would each provide \$ 500.00 towards the \$ 1,000.00 scholarship.
- Social Services is working with Kindergarten and Middle School Teachers to finalize plans for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Kindergarten graduation

<b>Erie Rise-Rise Family Organization Treasurer's Report</b>						6/13/2021
<b>Savings Account</b>						
Adjusted Beginning Balance 3/31/21						\$2,538.40
5/31/2021	<b>Dividend</b>		N/A			
Ending Balance						\$2,538.40
6/13/2021						
<b>Erie-Rise Family Organization Treasurer's Report</b>						
<b>Checking Account</b>						
Adjusted Beginning Balance						\$2,780.03
5/7/2021						
<b>Funds Received:</b>						\$0.00
6/13/2021						
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Ending Balance						\$2,780.03
6/13/2021						