

Welcome (or welcome back) Edgewood Families!

This summer, dozens of faculty and staff members have worked countless hours to prepare for the special challenges of education during a pandemic. We have practiced meeting remotely, attended trainings and workshops, developed plans for virtual and in-person instruction, and committed to strengthening our culture in a summer of civil unrest. Our Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa guide us with their values, and the value of community especially underlies our work this complex year.

Education in a pandemic brings unforeseen challenges and can be unpredictable, but whether we're working with your students virtually or in masks, socially-distanced in an every-other-day in-person instructional model, or when the pandemic passes, back together at full steam, we deeply value relationships in service of learning. In these difficult days, civility and listening, even when perspectives vary vastly, are at the heart of a Dominican education and are what colleges and employers seek from our students.

Honoring each other's worth is also laid out at the core of the Edgewood Anti-Racism Standard of Excellence, created by Edgewood's steering committee on diversity and equity. Comprised of Board members, parents, faculty, alumni and representation from the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, the committee cites this statement which will guide us through contentious times, "All human beings have transcendent worth and value that comes from God; this dignity is not based on any human quality, legal mandate, or individual merit or accomplishment. Human dignity is inalienable – that means it is an essential part of every human being and is an intrinsic quality that can never be separated from other essential aspects of the human person." (Summary of the Catechism teaching by Sr. Katherine Feely, SND).

Entering my 28th year as an educator, I have been part of communities confronted by difficult, sad, even tragic, challenges. Children's resilience in the face of difficulty is inspiring beyond words. Our school's resilience has been tested over her 130-year history. In whatever format we are together, we are excited about learning with and from your children--it is our joyful privilege. Here's to fortitude and growth, together, this school year.

Beth Steffen
Principal