

## **MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL - Debbie Hammann**

September is a time for endings as we say farewell to summer and all its joys and welcome many new beginnings as our children move forward in their learning. The ELGS community is embarking on many exciting opportunities this year as we work collaboratively to increase the use of technology with robotics, engaging our students in building and programming robots in exploratory classes, robotics club and in our makerspace areas. We added another makerspace area in the library along with the makerspace room in the middle school. These places allow students to have an opportunity to explore their own interest; learn to use tools and materials, both physically and virtual; and develop creative projects. All K-8 science teachers are developing curriculum around the Next Generation Science Standards with new printed and online resources so students develop abilities to analyze complex text and develop scientific and engineering practices.

I want to say thank you to all parents for acknowledging the importance of a strong home-school connection. Please continue to contact your child's teacher first whenever there is a concern or matter that needs attention. The teachers at ELGS are an important partner in dealing with any situation that arises. Communication starts with parent and teacher collaboration. The teachers and parents have done an excellent job of keeping me informed about the many wonderful things going on in our school. I completely support the use of email to assist in communication between home and school; however, you should be aware that my expectation of teachers is that their priority is teaching and learning. If you email your child's teacher, please be mindful that a same day response will not always be possible. **If there is something that requires immediate attention (e.g., pick-up, drop-off, essential notes, emergencies, etc.), you should send a note in with your child or contact the main office.**

Conferences are an excellent way to reflect on our students' successes and make plans and goals to work towards in the coming months. I feel very strongly that it is the responsibility of all parents and teachers to establish a strong home-school connection in order to help all children realize their potential. I look forward to seeing all parents during the JK-grade 8 Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 4:30-7:30, and Thursday, November 16, 2:00-4:00 and 5:00-8:00.

The school year is off to a great start! If you would like the daily announcements emailed to you, contact the school office. You

can always access the announcements on the school website, [www.elgs.k12.wi.us](http://www.elgs.k12.wi.us). Also remember to utilize the school website for other things as well. Many of the teachers have links to their websites with items such as their upcoming activities, schedules, and contact information.

On a final note, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for all of the cooperation that we have received for student drop-off in the morning and pick-up after school. Students and parents have been crossing streets at the corners. The front of the building is reserved for curbside bus drop off only, and cars are not permitted in the front for student arrival or departure. I truly appreciate the consideration taken to help ensure the safe arrival/departure of our students.