

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the exciting 2009-10 school year at Eagle Ridge Middle School, where ***LEARNING IS OUR BUSINESS!***

Whether your child is a student returning to ERMS for the new 8<sup>th</sup> grade or entering for the first time as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, you'll find that middle school is a time filled with academic, social, and emotional challenges and adventures. Our goal is to help your student build increasing responsibility, confidence, and independence.

We seek to provide a variety of rigorous learning opportunities based on your child's specific needs. From Eagle Ridge Middle School you may expect:

- **Standards-based curriculum** and learning activities, with progress monitored through on-going assessment
- **Cutting edge learning technology** in each classroom: SmartBoards, document cameras, and digital projectors
- **Classroom Performance Systems** (CPS, or "clickers") in each math classroom to provide immediate feedback for students and teachers
- **Behavior systems** designed to minimize disruption and maximize safety and learning
- **Best Practice Learning Strategies** for writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading in each classroom so that students are well prepared for advanced studies
- **"Flex" classes** designed to help students reach proficiency in reading, writing, and math, or to enrich the curriculum for students who are already proficient or advanced
- **Teaching Teams** (Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Math Teachers) working to ensure that no child "falls through the cracks"

As a parent, you are the single most important factor in your child's academic success. To help you ensure that assignments are completed and turned in, we provide:

- **Voicemail** for each teacher with nightly assignments and directions
- **Student Agendas** with homework assignments listed for each subject
- **Teacher Web Pages** with information, assignments, due dates, and curriculum links
- **Regular progress reports** – every two weeks
- **Parent Conferences** for viewing achievement data twice per year
- **Parent Portal** (coming in October) through which you may view real-time grades, attendance, and discipline

In addition, we provide after school sports and activities in conjunction with the New Mexico Athletics Association (NMAA). Watch for upcoming announcements!

Welcome! Dive right in! The LEARNING IS GREAT!

Sincerely,  
Principal Debby Morrell