

## **Welcome Back to School Letter**

Dear Edgewood Students and Parents,

I would like to welcome, with great pleasure, our new and returning families to the Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation for the 2023-2024 school year!

The 2023-2024 registration window begins today, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Please go to the following link for registration: [Harmony](#)

School for K-12 students will start on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> with a full day of school. See the following link for Meet and Greet or Open House dates and times: [Edgewood Schools](#)

Edgewood Early Childhood Center will host Meet and Greet Sessions on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Small group 90 minute class sessions will be scheduled for pre-school students on either August 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>. EECC's regular class schedule will begin the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that August 9<sup>th</sup> is not a Delayed Start Wednesday.

For families new to RBB, on Wednesdays only, school will start 30 minutes later. The purpose of Delayed Start Wednesdays is to provide important weekly teacher training sessions and opportunities for collaboration for our teachers and principals in order to meet the academic needs of our students.

Delayed Start Wednesdays will begin on the second Wednesday of the school year (August 16<sup>th</sup>) in all Edgewood Schools.

One of the most anticipated days of the year is the 'First Day of School'!

As a new school year approaches, we dream about the possibilities of what students will learn, accomplishments that will be achieved, how much students will grow, the new friends they will make and the memories students will talk about for the rest of their lives.

I encourage the Edgewood family to focus our students' attention on the excitement of the 'First Day of School'. The start of any race is critical to a successful outcome. Getting students off to a good start to the school year means so much to their overall success.

As school begins on August 9<sup>th</sup>, please be assured that you are sending your children to a premiere school corporation that has all the ingredients for continued success. In my thirty-six years in education, I have learned that successful school communities such as the Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation have the following three ingredients:

Respectful students with positive attitudes who understand that success is achieved through hard work.

Parents who value the importance of a positive relationship with their child’s school and who are dedicated to actively participating in their child’s education at home and at school.

School staff, teachers, and principals who value the importance of a positive relationship with their students’ parents and who are dedicated to providing an environment where innovative learning abounds with great success.

### **Changes to the 2023-2024 School Calendar**

During the 2022-2023 school year, RBBCSC received a Flexibility Waiver from the State of Indiana that allowed our school corporation to track required instructional time by minutes instead of days. We were able to dismiss school early on four different days and still exceed the state’s required number of instructional minutes.

Our 1003 Flexibility Waiver application for the 2023-2024 school year asked the Indiana State Board of Education for permission to once again track required instructional time by minutes.

However, instead of dismissing school early on four days, Edgewood Schools will dismiss school on two full days. These two full days will be called Flex Days.

Edgewood students will be able to come to school 178 days instead of 180 and still far exceed the number of required instructional minutes.

The Indiana State Board of Education approved RBB’s 1003 Flexibility Waiver application.

RBBCSC also increased the number of required teacher workdays from 183 to 185 days.

As a result, the following changes have been made to the 2023-2024 school calendar:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Type of Change</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>August 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Added	Added as a Teacher Work Day before the start of the school year. (Staff Only, No Students)
<b>November 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Revised	Revised from a regular school day to a Flex Day (Staff Only, No Students)
<b>February 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Added	Added as a Teacher Work Day (Staff Only, No Students)
<b>April 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Revised	Revised from an eLearning Day to a Flex Day (Staff only, No Students)

A new Teacher Work Day is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup>. The additional work day will give teachers more time to work in their classrooms in preparation for the new school year.

August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will be Teacher Work Days. August 9<sup>th</sup> will be the first student day.

Flex Day #1 will be November 7<sup>th</sup>. We will use November 7<sup>th</sup> for Parent-Teacher Conferences and professional development activities.

Flex Day #2 will be April 8<sup>th</sup>. We will use April 8<sup>th</sup> for professional development, Professional Learning Communities, data analysis, and general teacher instructional planning/collaboration time.

February 19<sup>th</sup> is the second Teacher Work Day added to the calendar. The purpose of the February 19<sup>th</sup> Teacher Work Day is to provide teachers with time for professional development, Professional Learning Communities, data analysis, and general teacher instructional planning/collaboration time.

I want to thank you, our parents, for the wonderful support you give our teachers.

Those who feel called to be a teacher understand that most of their work day requires direct engagement with their students, resulting in many after work hours spent on grading and planning.

Our hope is that the additional Teacher Work Days and the Flex Days will provide teachers with uninterrupted time to more fully concentrate on planning for instruction, collaborating with colleagues, data analysis, professional development, grade level/department meetings, and more time to work in their Professional Learning Communities.

Have a great school year,

Dr. Sanders

Your 'Friendly' Superintendent