



ELIZABETH FORWARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Trisha Martell
Principal

January 15, 2019



Dear EFMS Families:

We are very proud to announce that Elizabeth Forward Middle School was again recognized for re-designation (2) this year, for the 2018-2019 Don Eichhorn: Schools to Watch distinction as one of the top middle schools in the nation. This prestigious honor is given each year to high-performing middle schools that meet the rigorous standards of the Schools to Watch program.

The **Don Eichhorn: Schools to Watch** recognition is one of the highest honors that a middle school can receive. Their goal is to recognize schools achieving academic excellence based on a 37 step criteria established by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Forum members believe that three things are true of high performing middle schools: *academically excellent* and challenge all students to use their minds well: *developmentally responsive* and are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence: *socially equitable* and are democratic and fair, providing every student with high quality teachers, resources, and supports.

Our school has made incredible strides over the past several years to become one of the top middle schools in the country, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the administration, staff, parents, and students of the district. The middle school is recognized as a high-performing school that establishes norms, structures, and organizational supports to sustain trajectory toward excellence. Elizabeth Forward Middle school has a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decision-making.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, parents, and community on earning this recognition. Please plan to join us in the Spring for a school-wide celebration. We will send the information home at a later date. See attached the schools to watch release.

Sincerely,

Dr. Trisha Martell