



Eastland Preparatory Academy
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August 14, 2020

Dear Eastland Preparatory Academy/Eastland High Families,

Welcome back Panther Families! We are excited to announce our official rollout of our **Eastland Athletics** division. We value the important role that athletics play in contributing to college preparatory education. We welcome all students to participate in our interscholastic sports program. Sports involvement is an excellent way to grow our students emotionally and physically.

Our exciting sports news is followed by our present COVID-19 crisis. This pandemic continues to present significant challenges for student athletics nationwide. Eastland Preparatory Academy (EPA) has decided it was in the best interest of our students, faculty, and staff to suspend traditional fall sports. This decision was based on the assumption that health and safety concerns will not sufficiently improve to allow the close contact that volleyball, soccer or cross country require. EPA is **NOT** dropping volleyball, soccer, or cross country, this is solely a safety measure for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic school year.

The status of winter/spring sports—basketball and track & field is uncertain at this time. We are hopeful that the development of a vaccine and efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will succeed and allow EPA students to safely train and compete in traditional winter/spring sports.

We believe, in due time, that our students will be able to get back to a traditional academic school year where they will be able to flourish in and out of their classrooms. Please understand my commitment to our students, families, faculty, staff, and the community that we serve. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me via phone or email.

Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Raterious Walker

Raterious Walker, *Athletic Director*
Eastland Preparatory Academy/Eastland High
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The difference between ordinary and **extra**ordinary is **ALWAYS** the little **EXTRA**..