

NEWSLETTER

March 2017
Volume 2, Issue 6

ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENTS OF CURRENT 7TH GRADE STUDENTS -

In recent years we have heard from parents that students are spending more and more time at home doing school work with their family computers. As part of the EPS 5-Year Instructional Technology Plan approved by the school board this past October, next year's 8th grade students (current 7th grade students) will receive an individual Chromebook for educational use next fall. The district is finding that much of our educational content requires access to technology, and Chromebooks allow us a cost-effective way to assure that students have this access when it is needed. Next steps of this plan will include Chromebooks for high school students beginning in the fall of 2018. Much work is being done for this initiative and more information will be sent as we get closer to next fall.

As part of this initiative, Parents of 2017-18 eighth grade students will need to attend an orientation either during Back to School 101 or Open House in August. The exact dates for these orientations are not yet set, but the district wanted to begin communication with 7th grade parents. We are very excited about providing every 8th grade student with a computing device next school year.

STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TESTING AT EMS

Students at EMS will have an important stretch of standardized testing beginning April 3rd. ALL students will be taking the state reading test (NeSA-ELA), state math test (NeSA-M), and a series of tests known as MAP. Eighth graders will also be taking the state science test (NeSA-S). The following is a summary of the testing schedule:

April 3–6: ALL students at Elkhorn Middle School will take the state reading test (NeSA-ELA). The state reading test consists of two sections.

April 10 –13: ALL students will be taking the state math test (NeSA-M). The state math test consists of two sections.

April 17–20: 8th Grade students will take the state science test (NeSA-S). The state science test consists of two sections.

May 1–4 and May 8–11: All students will take MAP. This is the second administration of the MAP test this year and will show the growth of each student from fall to spring.

These are all very important assessments that truly allow us to measure the academic growth of each student. Please assure that your child is getting plenty of sleep and eating breakfast each morning. If you have any questions regarding these assessments please contact Mrs. Garrison or Mrs. Owens.

CLIMATE SURVEY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Our school benefits from a very supportive community with strong parent involvement. Because continuous improvement is a large part of our mission, we are seeking your input in order to help us assure strong student achievement and a positive culture that enhances learning for all.

Please take a few minutes prior to Thursday, March 16, 2017 to follow the link and participate in our school climate survey. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school.

<https://goo.gl/S5ZDk8>

PROGRESS REPORTS

Parent/Teacher conferences were held on Wednesday, February 15 and Thursday, February 16. Mid-quarter progress reports were shared with parents. If you did not attend conferences, upon your request, your child may bring their portfolio home for your review. Should you have questions about your child's progress, please call the school, 289-2428 and ask to speak to the teacher for clarification.

Parent/Teacher conference attendance:

6th grade student led 79%

7th grade student led 64%

8th grade student led 72%

END OF THIRD QUARTER

Thursday, March 16 marks the end of third quarter. Report cards will be mailed home during the week of March 27th.

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school for students on Friday, March 17, due to a teacher in-service day. There will also be no school for students on March 20-24, 2017. School will resume on Monday, March 27, 2017.

SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

Each summer Elkhorn coaches and sponsors offer a variety of sports/activity camps for students of all ages. Available camps will be posted at elkhornweb.org/antlers and elkhornweb.org/storm by April 1, 2017. Parents can go online to browse camps and download registration flyers.

Please Note: Elkhorn Public Schools only posts summer camp information for camps hosted by an EPS coach or sponsor as related to his or her duties within the school district.

MAKE-UP DAYS FOR MISSED SCHOOL DAYS

As a reminder, EPS students will have **regular classes on Wednesday, May 24 and Thursday, May 25, 2017**. These two days were built into the school calendar to account for the first two missed school days due to inclement weather. There are no other make-up days scheduled at this time.

THANKS PARENTS!

A huge thank you goes to the following families for their donations during the February Parent/Teacher Conferences: Stacy Schutte, Tiffany Brasch, Kim Carbee, Callie Vavra, April Cook, Brynn Andersen, Meghan Doiel, Jennifer Ninete, Kelly Anderson, Erin Thomas, Heather Witt, Beth Sufficool, Jill Richmond, Heather Traynor, Shannon Hoegh, Robin Nelson, Michelle Burkman, Cary Hendricks, Heidi Steskal, Sara Lange, Tami Levra, Heather Oestmann, Tammy Bowes, Gigi Jensen, Chris Verhage, Becky Wieneke, Amy Love, Renee Gebeke. Everything was delicious and much appreciated!

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE A.D. MARK KING IS THE GAME ON OR OFF TODAY?

Steps the A.D. Office will follow for inclement weather: Postponements/Cancellations will be posted on www.easternmidconference.org. **MS Track Practices will be determined by 1:30 pm in case of inclement weather.**



EMS BOOSTER CLUB

Next Booster Club meeting
is Thursday, March 2nd,
at 3:45 pm in the
Media Center.



LIBRARY NEWS

Ms. HARTMAN

Thank you to all who generously supported our February book fair. Students are already benefiting from the additional titles were able to add to the library.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL 101

Please mark your calendars for our pre-registration day for *Elkhorn Middle School* students August 10, 10am - 7pm . It is extremely important that all students come for registration. Please mark the date on your calendar and look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

EMS BOOSTER CLUB

Next Booster Club meeting is Thursday, March 2nd, at 3:45 pm in the Media Center.

We are looking for a volunteer to take over SNACK PACKS next year. This is a fun, cookie-cutter effort for someone to take over. Community Service hours for a high school student, too.

Our concessions stand continues to raise funds to serve our school, teachers, students and families. We have been in a pinch a few times without someone to work a shift. Please take a look at the signup when it is released and commit to one shift. It is fun and easy!

DANCE TEAM TRYOUTS—EHS

A parent informational meeting for 8th grade girls interested in trying out for Elkhorn High School Dance will be held on Monday, March 13th, 2017, at 6:30 pm in the Elkhorn High School lecture hall. Dance team prep clinics and tryouts will be held April 10th –13th from 3:30-5:00 pm at EHS. Any questions, please contact Abbie Lamb at alamb@epsne.org.

EHS CHEER TRYOUTS FOR 2017-2018 SEASON

Elkhorn High School Cheerleading tryouts are just around the corner! The information below will help prepare you for the tryout process.

There will be a mandatory informational meeting for all parents and interested students (currently 8th –11th) on Monday, March 13th at 6:30 pm in the Elkhorn High School lecture hall. If your parents cannot attend, but you would still like to try out please speak with Barb Schmidt. Tryout prep clinics will be April 3rd through April 6th, with tryouts on Friday, April 7th at 4:00 pm (please arrive at 3:30 pm). All tryout clinics will be held in the main gym. Please see practice schedule below:



Monday, April 3rd: 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4th: 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5th: 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 6th: 3:45-5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, April 7th: Tryouts begin at 4:00 p.m., please arrive at 3:30.

Feel free to call Barb Schmidt at Elkhorn High School 402-289-4239 with any questions. We are very excited about the upcoming season and hope to see you cheering on the Antlers!

Barb Schmidt & Anna Beard

WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

It's not too late to sign up for the Washington DC trip, October 11-14, 2017.

Contact Mr. Glover for more information at dglover@epsne.org



6TH GRADE NEWS

MRS. CRAWFORD, MRS. GRAGERT, MR. PREISSLER, MRS. YOUNG, MRS. CHANDLER, MRS. GOEHRING, MS. MEIER, MRS. MEYSENBURG

In Language Arts, students are in the midst of practicing District Text Dependent Analysis. After spring break, we will begin a mechanics unit that focuses on capitalization, quotation marks, and commas. Students who want additional writing practice can continue to use the "Writer's Corner" and "Learn at Home" sections of Mrs. Young's website to find writing contests and activities.

Sixth grade math students will be working with integers. After that they will be working with 3D images.

Pre-Concept students will be graphing linear and nonlinear equations as well as determining slope.

Reading students are studying the elements of fictional and nonfictional genres. They will review story elements and continue to work on identifying and explaining why authors use literary devices.

Social studies students will study Geography, focusing on the Five Themes of Geography and then move onto Urban Geography and the study of the history of Omaha.

In science we will be learning about the different Kingdoms of the living world. Students will learn what type of organisms are in each Kingdom and their niche in their ecosystem.



7TH GRADE NEWS

MR. BEARD, MRS. HINGORANI, MS. LUTES, MRS. PIKE, MRS. WELLS, MRS. MATUELLA

In Science, 7th graders are beginning the Motion and Forces unit. In this unit, we begin studying speed, velocity and acceleration. We will also investigate the 3 Laws of Motion, gravity and friction.

In Language Arts we will end 3rd quarter and begin 4th quarter with a research project. Students will be writing persuasive essays about living legends and defending them in a class debate. This project will focus on research, paraphrasing, and persuasive writing skills.

Seventh grade math classes have just finished all operations of fractions as well as using formulas for finding area and perimeter of many shapes. Next, we will be preparing for our last district common assessment, which covers all operations of fractions and decimals. We are also preparing for our NeSa-M tests which will begin in April.

Pre-Algebra classes have just finished a graphing unit. We will be starting a unit on Geometry and also preparing for NeSa-M tests.

We will finish up the Middle Ages, and then move on to the Renaissance and Reformation.

In Reading we are finishing our unit on figurative language before moving into some NeSA review after spring break. AR goals for the third quarter are due on Friday, March 10th.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

We are so close to our BOXTOPS goal of \$1000, so please keep sending them in with your kids! Mrs. Stenglein's class won last quarter's BOXTOPS contest. They loved the Donut Party! January's \$10 cash winner was Addie Karre! March BOXTOPS contest: Bring in 10 (or more) BOXTOPS with your name and your Hi-5 teacher in a baggy or envelope, and you get a chance in a \$10 CASH drawing!

8TH GRADE NEWS

MRS. BAUMERT, MS. GUTSCHOW, MRS. GRISHAM, MR. HULTMAN, MRS. COLLINGSWORTH, MRS. HOLLMAN, MRS. VALASEK

Student Led Conferences were a success. Thank you for your continuing support with our students. March is here, and we are all heavily into State Standards. Our students will be encountering them on a daily basis for the rest of the year. The end of the quarter is the March 16th, and the office will mail third quarter grades home the week of March 27th.

In Language Arts students will be preparing and giving speeches over their research (A Moment in Time That Changed the World). This will lead us into spring break, and from there we will work on our grammar unit: Capitalization and Punctuation.

In Science, the students just finished the genetics and heredity unit. We will be starting our final unit of the year, chemistry, and preparing for the NeSA Science.

In History we will be finishing our Civil War unit and begin our Progressive Era unit.

In Reading students will be working on NeSA prep and completing figurative language study.

In Pre-Algebra we will be starting our probability unit and reviewing for the State Test in April.

In Algebra we will be solving quadratic equations and reviewing for the State Test in April.



FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE: FALL 2017-2018

Save the Dates for the BACK TO SCHOOL process:

Students will pick up a registration packet during the day Friday, July 28th or Monday, July 31st. Students will return packet on Friday, August 4th between 12:00-6:00. On this day, students can pick up class schedule, take a tour, get school picture taken, put money in lunch account, hand in athletic forms and more. Watch for details in a summer mailing.



MARCH—TECH SAVVY PARENT TIPS

MARCH 2017

SchoolMessenger—Are you up-to-date?

EPS uses a parent messaging system called SchoolMessenger to send emails and phone calls to parents, including information about school closings for snow days. If you did not receive the phone and email messages on Thursday, February 23 announcing the school closing due to snow, please contact the office to let them know and ensure your contact information is correct.

BAND NEWS

MR. EDWARDS



Concert Attire- Please note that for the following events students are to be in “concert attire.” This includes red EMS Music polo shirt (tucked in), black pants (no leggings, sweat pants, or yoga pants), black socks, and all black shoes. Simply stated we are asking for “black from the waist down.” We hope this more detailed information will be helpful to parents and guardians as you plan for our remaining 2017 performances. Please contact Mr. Edwards if you have questions and thank you for helping our band look as uniform as possible.

March 7th Concert – On Tuesday, March 7th, the EMS 7th grade band and chorus students, as well as the Show Choir and Jazz Band, will be performing a concert. The concert will take place in the EMS gym at 6:30 pm. Students will need to report by 6:00 PM. Dress is concert attire.

March 14th Concert – On Tuesday, March 14th, the EMS 6th grade band and chorus students, as well as the Show Choir and the Jazz Band, will be performing a concert. Joining us at the 6:30 PM concert will be the 5th grade students from Arbor View, Hillrise and Westridge elementary schools playing their recorders. The concert will take place in the EMS gym. Students will need to report by 6:00 PM. Dress is concert attire.

EMC Middle School Band Festival – On Thursday, March 9th, the 7th & 8th Grade Bands and the Jazz Band will be traveling to Waverly for the 7th Annual Eastern Midlands Conference Band Festival. Our bands will be performing for and rated by, a set of three judges. Bands will receive ratings, comments, plaques, and a follow-up clinic with one of the judges. Performance times are 12:25 PM for the 7th Grade Band, 1:45 PM for the 8th Grade Band and 2:45 PM for the Jazz Band. Dress is concert attire. **ON THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 9th, ALL STUDENTS SHOULD REPORT TO SCHOOL IN CONCERT ATTIRE.** Jazz Band students should plan to report to the gym at 7:00 am, 7th Grade Band students should report to the gym for a 1st period rehearsal, and 8th Grade Band students should report to the gym for a 2nd period rehearsal. We will load buses and leave for Waverly at 10:00 am. We will return to EMS by 4:30 PM. Students will need to bring money for lunch (or a sack lunch) and snacks. **We need parents to ride the buses and help with supervision. If you can help, please contact Mr. Edwards at nedwards@epsne.org.**

Blair Middle School Honor Band – The Blair Honor Band is one of the premier honor bands for middle school students in this state. This year’s event will take place on Saturday, April 1st at Otte-Blair Middle School in Blair, Nebraska. The event consists of over 200 band students from over 40 schools divided into two concert bands. Students rehearse all day and then give a performance at 4:00 PM. Students are selected through nominations from their directors and these selections are usually based on instrumentation needs. We have nominated a long list of 8th grade students and the following were accepted: Abbie Zymola, Aby Acevedo, Dalton Burkman, Trevor Haugen, and Ryan Akey. Congratulations!

Big Band Jazz Night – On Saturday, April 29th, the Elkhorn Public Schools will be hosting the 13th annual Elkhorn Big Band Jazz Night. The event will be held at Elkhorn High School with times TBA. The Jazz Band from EMS, the Grandview Middle School Jazz Band, and both EHS jazz bands will be performing that night on a rotating basis. In addition to the playing of the bands, there will be a dance floor and concessions available. This event serves as a benefit for the Elkhorn Jazz Bands with all proceeds going toward purchasing jazz music for future performances. Ticket prices are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and \$1 for seniors over 65. A meal will again be offered with details TBA. Please mark this date on your calendars, polish off those dancing shoes, and start those swing dance lessons right away! See you then!

The 4th annual EMS/-Grandview Middle School Summer Band Program will be held at Grandview this year on Mondays through Fridays from June 5th – 9th and June 12th -16th, Monday through Wednesday from June 19th– June 21st and a concert on Thursday, June 22nd.

This program was very popular with students the last three years. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Edwards will again team teach the band and jazz band classes and this year we will be joined by Mr. Auman from Valley View and Mr. Dreessen from ERMS. We plan to play popular music selections similar to those that students have enjoyed in past years. High school band students will assist again this year. The program will include concert band and jazz band classes for 8th graders in the morning and concert band and jazz band classes for 7th graders in the early afternoon. There will be opportunities for morning lessons for 8th graders who would like to audition for the All–State Band in the fall or just improve their playing skills. There will be opportunities for late morning/early afternoon small ensembles for 7th graders or lessons for those who would like to improve their playing skills.

BAND NEWS— CONTINUED

MR. EDWARDS

The 4th annual EMS/-Grandview Middle School Summer Band Program will be held at Grandview this year on Mondays through Fridays from June 5th - 9th and June 12th -16th, Monday through Wednesday from June 19th- June 21st and a concert on Thursday, June 22nd.

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The tentative schedule:

8:00–8:45 am - 8th Grade All-State Preparation/Lessons

9:00–10:00 -am 8th Grade Concert Band

10:15–11:15 am- 8th Grade Jazz Band

11:45 am -12:15 pm - 7th Grade Small Ensembles/Lessons

12:30-1:30 pm 7th Grade Concert Band

1:45-2:30 pm 7th Grade Jazz Band



This is a great opportunity for students to keep playing their instruments in the summer and get to know students who may be in band with them in high school. There is no cost for the program and students may miss some days if they have conflicts. Please contact me if you have any questions.

We hope that getting this information out to you now will enable you to make advance plans so your child can participate this summer! Registration forms will be available soon.

CHORUS NEWS

MRS. WORTMAN



Upcoming performance reminders:

Tuesday, March 7th – 7th Grade Band and Choir Concert at 6:30 pm in the EMS gym. The Jazz Band, Show Choir and 7th/8th grade voice lessons will also be featured at the concert.

Tuesday, March 14th Grade Band and Choir concert with 5th grade recorders from Arbor View, Hillrise and Westridge at 6:30 p.m. in the EMS gym. The Jazz Band and Show Choir will also be featured at the concert.

Congratulations to the “Classics” Show Choir for receiving 2nd place and to Ben Hastreiter for receiving Best Male Soloist at the Westside Battle of the Show Choirs on February 25, 2017.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

Track meeting will be on March 10th. All 7th and 8th grade boys and girls are invited to attend/participate. **All participants need to make sure they have their physicals and athletic fees turned in prior to the first day of practice.** A complete practice and meet schedule will be handed out at the first meeting on March 10th. Mark your calendar:

March 10th Meeting for all 7th and 8th grade girls and boys participating
 ** Full Season Calendar will be handed out, including meets and practices.



March 30th Parent Meeting @ 5:00pm

Contact Beth Collingsworth (ecollingsworth@epsne.org) and/or Molly Wells (mwells@epsne.org) if you have any questions.



The Fun has just Begun Starring the Class of 2021

We're rolling out the red carpet for the Elkhorn Middle School 8th graders

Please join us as we usher you onto high school and celebrate all
your
middle school accomplishments

SATURDAY EVENING

Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm

- ★ Reserve your ticket by Friday, March 24, 2017. Admission ticket: \$25.00 (make checks payable to Class of 2021).
- ★ This is a parent sponsored & funded event. Advance reservations are required for planning purposes.
- ★ As part of the celebration you will view a video slide show of 8th grader's "then & now" pictures. Please submit a baby photo and a current photo to ems8babypix@gmail.com by March 17, 2017.
- ★ Students must adhere to the dress code stated in the EMS student handbook
- ★ Students will not be allowed to leave before 8:00 pm without a parent escort.
- ★ We'd love for every 8th grader to attend, but if for some reason you are unable to pay the ticket price, please circle complimentary. (this information will be kept confidential)



ENTERTAINMENT

- ★ Special Guest Star: Mr. Ryan Chandler as "The DJ" and "The Old Market Magician"
- ★ Pizza, Drinks, Snacks, Party Treats
- ★ Mementos: Commemorative T-shirt, Video Slide Show DVD



 YES! My child _____ will attend the 8th Grade Celebration (please print student name).
 T-shirt size: (adult sizes) S M L XL XXL

SORRY! My child _____ will not be able to attend the 8th Grade Celebration.

I will make an extra donation of \$_____ toward this star studded event or as a student scholarship above the \$25.00 admission price.

Parent/Guardian _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 (I'm giving my student permission to attend)

Cash \$_____ Check #_____ Complimentary _____ Total amount: _____

***** PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 *****

EHS Cheer Tryouts 2017-2018 season



A mandatory meeting will be held for all parents and interested students (currently in 8th-11th grade) on Monday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the EHS lecture hall. If your parents can not attend, but you would still like to try out please speak with Barb Schmidt or Anna Beard.

Tryout prep clinics will be April 3rd through April 6th, with tryouts on Friday April 7th at 4:00 p.m. All tryout clinics will be held in the main gym. Please see practice schedule below:

Monday, April 3rd: 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4th: 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5th: 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 6th: 3:45-5:15 pm

Friday April 7th- Tryouts begin at 4:00 p.m., please arrive at 3:30

Feel free to call Barb Schmidt at 402-289-4239 with any questions.

We are very excited about the upcoming season and hope
to see you cheering on the Antlers!

Barb Schmidt & Anna Beard, Elkhorn High School Cheer Coaches

Interested in Elkhorn Dance Team ?

**→ Parent Informational
meeting Monday March
13th at 6:30 pm in the
EHS Lecture Hall**

**→ Tryouts April 10-13th 3:30-
5:00 @ EHS**

**→ Email alamb@epsne.org with
any questions!**

5TH ANNUAL
LADIES
NIGHT OUT
FUNDRAISER

BENEFITING MATH & READING
INTERVENTION PROGRAMS IN
ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bids
4
Kids

silent auction + raffles + complimentary appetizers + desserts

April 6 | 6-9PM | Noah's Event Venue

Tickets \$20 Advance | \$25 At Door

ELKHORNFOUNDATION.ORG/BIDS-4-KIDS

register your phone FREE to bid remotely

SHOP • EAT • MINGLE • SUPPORT

For more information contact: sselk1@epsne.org 402-289-1727

March 2017



Elkhorn Middle School

The "Classic" One

Home of the Antlers

3200 North 207th Plaza

Elkhorn, NE 68022

Phone: 402-289-2428

Fax: 402-289-1639

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Wrestling: 4:15 pm MS Triangular @ Waverly Booster Club Meeting 3:45 p.m.	3	4 Wrestling: MS Invitational @ Westside 8:30 am
5	6	7 EMS 7th Grade Concert/Show Choir, Band/Jazz Band 6:30 p.m.	8	9 7/8 Bands @ EMC Middle School Bands Festival @ Waverly 7th/8th Grade Track Mtg 3:30 pm	10	11 Wrestling: MS Tournament @ NE City 9:00 am
12	13 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm	14 EMS 6th Grade Concert/Show Choir, Band/Jazz Band 6:30 p.m. with Arbor View, HR & WR 5th grade	15	16 END OF 3rd QUARTER	17 *NO SCHOOL* TEACHER IN- SERVICE	18
19	20 SPRING BREAK	21 SPRING BREAK	22 SPRING BREAK	23 SPRING BREAK	24 SPRING BREAK	25
26	27	28	29	30 Track Parent Meeting 5:00 pm	31	