

# ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

17880 Marcy Street  
Omaha, NE 68118  
(402) 334-9302

November 2017



## PARENT COMMUNICATION/BOOSTER MEETING

Our next Parent Communication/Booster meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM. Time is set aside during these meetings for parents to address concerns and ask questions about our programs. If this time does not work into your schedule and you have questions or concerns, please call Mr. Riggert to discuss those issues. The Parent Booster group is open to all middle school parents. We believe parent involvement is critical to the success of our children's education and invite all of you to become involved.

## WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

When weather conditions exist that would jeopardize the safety of students traveling to or from school, information about closing will be broadcast over stations KFAB (AM 1110), KETV, KMTV, WOWT, and KPTM. If school is to have a delayed start or be cancelled, announcements will begin on those stations at approximately 6:00 a.m. regarding early dismissals due to bad weather. The district has adopted the Alert Now Notification Service which will also be used to notify parents of school closings and cancellations.

## MAKE UP DAYS FOR MISSED SCHOOL DAYS (SNOW DAYS)

As we approach the winter months, it is important to note a change to the EPS calendar from past years. The Elkhorn Board of Education has built in two makeup days to the calendar in the event that school is canceled due to inclement weather (snow days). Those two days are May 24 and 25.

If there are two or more missed school days prior to April 1, students will have school on these two days making the last day of school May 25. If no snow days the last day of school is May 23.

The first two missed days will be made up; in the event of three or more snow days the administration will reevaluate the calendar at that time.

## EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY, 11/22

School will be dismissed one hour early at all Elkhorn Schools on Wednesday, November 22. This is an update from the printed District calendars.

## EPS STAFF DIRECTORIES AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Parents - as a reminder, please always double check the email address of any staff member you are attempting to contact, as some email addresses include a number in them. If you are not sure of the correct address, you can find all addresses and email all staff members directly by clicking their name on the following "Staff Listing" page on our website: <http://www.elkhornweb.org/erms/teacher-sites/staff/>

Elkhorn Ridge Middle School is committed to supporting all of our students in ways that allow them to grow as learners, and as people. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are expected to complete homework on a daily basis. If students fall behind on homework, the reason may be that they need more specific help or support from the appropriate teacher.

We have several interventions in place to assist students with the help they need. This additional time and support may be offered through our guided study program, before / after school time. It is the belief of the Elkhorn Ridge Middle School Staff that all students can learn, and thus time is provided for students needing additional academic assistance. If you have questions about these learning opportunities, please give us a call.

402-334-9302

Kevin L. Riggert

Principal

## FREDDY'S FAMILY NIGHT

Our next Family Fun Night will be held, Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at Freddy's Steakhouses on 180<sup>th</sup> and Center from 4 p.m. – 10 p.m. Hope to see you there!

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

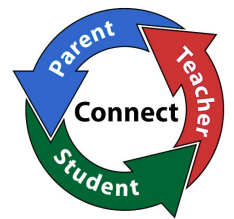
Parent/Teacher conferences were held on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turnout. Thanks for being involved in your child's education!

## ATTENDANCE BY GRADE

6th Grade 90%

7th Grade 91%

8th Grade 81%



## CONFERENCE DINNERS

The middle school staff would like to thank all of the parents who put together the dinners for our parent/teacher conferences. The meals were great! We appreciate all you



## Need financial assistance with holiday season?

Do you need financial assistance with the holiday season approaching? Have you encountered medical or financial hardship recently? If so, please contact Jodi Klein (Guidance Counselor) or Kevin Riggert (Principal) at 334-9302. We have organizations that would like to help families in need.



## 6th Grade News

Mr. Ebers, Mrs. Finks, Mrs. Mitteis,  
Ms. Niebaum, Mrs. Ottens,  
Mr. Phelps, Mrs. Randall, and  
Ms. Stromgren

### **SOCIAL STUDIES - Mr. Ebers and Mrs. Randall**

Social Studies students have been learning about the 3 branches of the Federal government as well as how the government works at the state and local levels. In November, we will start an intro to economics unit where we will focus on needs/wants, supply/demand, and economic decisions in our society.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS - Mrs. Randall and Ms. Stromgren**

The sixth grade language arts students have been busy! October ended practicing using commas correctly. The beginning of the month will have students working on creating powerful paragraphs and writing them using different modes: descriptive, persuasive and narrative. The rest of the month will be spent working on refining details in writing and identifying adjectives and pronouns in sentences. Don't forget that spelling tests are on Thursdays. Always watch teacher websites if you need to find an assignment.

### **MATH - Ms. Niebaum**

It was a pleasure getting to meet parents at student led conferences and see the great support the students have at home! In math, we have completed Chapter 1 and the unit on number theory. We are well on our way with Chapter 2. The students are working on converting between fractions, decimals, and percents. They can tell you how much an item on sale at the store will cost. Next, we reviewed finding least common multiple with a set of whole numbers. The whole numbers then changed to fractions and we learned to find the least common denominator so we could then compare and order the fractions. Comparing and ordering decimals was found to be easier for the students to do. Now they can compare fractions, decimals, and percents. We are now working with all the operations with decimals. A review of adding and subtracting fractions was done before multiplying and dividing. Next, students will use integers, absolute value, and graphing on the coordinate plane to solve real-world problems.

### **PRE-CONCEPTS - Ms. Niebaum and Mrs. Ottens**

We were happy to share in your conferences with your child. They are eager to learn and continue to work hard! We finished the unit on converting between fractions, decimals, and percents. The students can also tell you what an item on sale, with a certain percentage off, will cost. Calculating a tip on your dinner out can also be done by your child. We had a lively discussion on financial literacy while calculating simple interest and learning about principal and mortgage. Next, we will dive into integers. The students will use and justified the rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers.

**READING - Mrs. Finks and Ms. Stromgren** During the month of November, we will be adding a heaping scoop of "main idea" to our plate of higher-level reading skills. To expand our knowledge, along with our main idea, we will be gobbling up a healthy serving of text-dependent analysis (TDA) as we dig deeper into expository text. Students will continue studying Greek and Latin roots with vocabulary word lists. In the middle of November, students will choose a fiction novel to read as part of a literature circle that will carry over into December.

These books can be used for their AR reading minute/page logs, which will contribute towards their AR grade. NOTE: Students should read these books outside of class, so that students can engage in collaborative activities together. The AR goal will be due DECEMBER 18.

### **LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE - Mrs. Espinoza and Ms. Garrison**

Students are learning French as the second quarter begins. Please read the first 3 pages of the syllabus and sign the absence policy. If you are absent, remember to highlight the absence date on your syllabus and speak with your teacher the day you return at 8:00 or during home team. This will help you stay on track. The syllabus has helpful information for you to find success. Please note that there will be 2 parent signatures this quarter. In French we will focus on basic greetings, questions, numbers, colors, days, months and clothing. Please double check that your student has a single subject notebook and a folder for use in Language Experience only. They will also need notecards to make their flashcards over our French vocab. Studying daily helps students learn the material well.

### **SCIENCE - Mr. Phelps and Mrs. Mitteis**

Who eats whom? We'll soon find out! Sixth graders will examine how organisms are connected to each other and to the environment. They will discuss the way the environment is organized, how energy moves through an ecosystem, and how an ecosystem is changed by the disappearance of organisms.

Each student will be working on a long range project on an ecosystem that they want to find out more about. We will also be getting ready for our first video conference with the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium in Australia, which will be held on a school night because of the time difference. Stay tuned for more information on the conference because parents are invited.



## 7th Grade News

Mrs. Bradford, Mr. Breikreutz,  
Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Klein,  
Mrs. Mitteis, Mrs. Nelson  
Mrs. Ottens, and Ms. Pawoll

### **LANGUAGE ARTS - Mrs. Nelson and Ms. Pawoll**

The month of November will have students finishing expository writing pieces. Parts of speech will continue to be reviewed and practiced throughout the quarter. Students will also practice text dependent writing in preparation for the district writing assessment. Encourage your child to work on proofreading, applications of grammar, and studying for tests and quizzes. Please remind your child to utilize the resources available to him/her like the homework calendar.

## READING - Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Bradford

Seventh grade students will be diving into *The Westing Game* in November as we begin our class novel mystery unit. There will be reading assignments both in and out of class time. It is very important to keep up on reading with the class, so that the discussion can be meaningful. Students usually really enjoy this unit as they try to make sense of the clues and figure out just who will win the Westing game. Our vocabulary words will be from the book as well, so there will be a slight change in our vocabulary format for the month. I would encourage you to find a copy and read along with your child. You will enjoy it!

## SPANISH 1 - Ms. Garrison and Mrs. Espinoza

Students are currently studying chapter 1B which includes adjectives that describe people. They are creating sentences about themselves and other people. Your student should be able to complete these sentences:

Yo soy \_\_\_\_ y \_\_\_\_.

No soy ni \_\_\_\_ ni \_\_\_\_.

Mi amiga es \_\_\_\_\_ y mi amigo es \_\_\_\_\_  
Please have them study their questions in syllabus packet pages 27 and 28. You can ask these questions to your student because they should have the question, translation and how to answer it in their notes.

### How to Improve Spanish Grade:

Vocabulary: Students should know how to pronounce the word, spell it correctly.

On-line book: Students know how to access the book at Pearson Realize

Listening Comprehension: If your student is struggling, he/she needs to listen to the audio activities posted on Moodle or Google Classroom

Notebook and syllabus packet: **Students should study all of their notes a little bit each day.**

## PRE- ALGEBRA - Mrs. Ottens and Mrs. Klein

Students completed the unit on real numbers, and have been getting ready to solve equations. They have been using the distributive property and combining "like terms" in order to prepare for eventually solving multiple-step equations. This is a main area of focus for being prepared for Algebra I next year. Students have weekly assignments online (ALEKS), which can be worked on at school or at home. If your child wants extra math practice, the Learning Path on ALEKS is a great tool to help him/her be more successful in math.

## MATH 7- Mrs. Klein

Students just completed the Ch. 2 test which covered using percents to calculate proportions, tips, taxes and discounts. Please ask your students to calculate how much the tax and tip are next time you go out! Next we will be calculating with integers. Please ask your students about integers – what are they? After computing with integers, we will be working with rational numbers (fractions). Students have weekly assignments online (ALEKS), which can be worked on at school or at home. If your child wants extra math practice, the Learning Path on ALEKS is a great tool to help him/her be more successful in math

## WORLD HISTORY - Mrs. Bryan and Mr. Breitreutz

In World History, we will finish exploring Ancient Greece. We will then move on to Ancient Rome!



## SCIENCE- Mr. Breitreutz and Mrs. Mitteis

During the last half of November students will be wrapping up the Earth Science unit on layers of Earth, plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes. This *Inside the Earth* unit will conclude with a district common assessment (DCA). We will then transition into our Life Science unit of Human Body Systems. In this unit students will explore all the systems that make up the complex human body and how they interact to maintain our health and balance. This unit will most likely not conclude until after Winter Break. During the Human Body Systems unit, students will complete a STEM lab designing casting systems for broken bones. We need your help collecting chicken wing bones. Please send the bones (clean, please) in a baggie with your student any time before December. In the past we've asked the deer hunters among us to save, bag, freeze, and donate the harvested deer heart to our Science classes. The teacher will perform the dissection for the kids to observe. We're asking for 8 deer hearts total. If you can, please donate as soon as legally possible.

## 8th Grade News

Mr. Barry, Mr. Breitreutz, Ms. Christie,  
Mrs. Hultman, Mrs. Kammerer,  
Mrs. Ottens, Ms. Pawoll, Mrs. Semin,  
and Ms. Stromgren

## MATH - Mrs. Semin (Algebra and Pre-Algebra) / Mrs. Leavitt (Long Term Substitute and Mrs. Ottens (Pre-Algebra)

**Algebra:** Students have been learning the different forms of linear equations: standard form, slope-intercept form and point slope form. They have also been using the different forms to solve and graph linear equations. We finished a DCA on graphing linear equations and will be moving on to solving and graphing inequalities.



**Pre-Algebra:** Students are continuing to learn about Number Sense as we are currently discussing exponents, scientific notation, and converting between fractions, decimals, and percent. We will then continue with discussing ratios, proportions, and square roots. The students are doing a great job of making sure to show their work and discussing how to relate what we are learning to their lives outside of school. Feel free to email us with any questions!



## SCIENCE - Mrs. Kammerer and Mr. Breitreutz

The students have just completed and presented their Science Inquiry projects and we are starting our next unit, Rocks and Earth's History. In this unit students will be exploring how to use rock layers and fossils to play history detective and figure out what happened to Earth's surface millions of years ago. This unit will end with a district common assessment by the end of the month.

## AMERICAN HISTORY - Mrs. Hultman and Mrs. Semin

This month in 8th grade American History, we will continue studying different aspects of the U.S. Constitution. We will finish up a unit on the Duties & Responsibilities of American Citizens. There will be a district common assessment over this material. We'll then focus on the different branches of government, checks and balances, the Bill of Rights, other amendments, and the amending process. Next, we'll begin looking at the first three presidents and their accomplishments and struggles as well as how the U.S. gained different land portions of what we call the U.S.A. today! As always, don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

## SPANISH 1- Ms. Garrison and Mrs. Espinoza

Students are currently studying chapter 4B which includes sports and accepting/refusing invitations. Students will work with the irregular verbs called boot verbs this chapter. They can master conjugating these verbs by using pig quiz. Your student should be studying his/her packet/flashcards (Quizlet) about 10 minutes each night. Also, please have them study and memorize their important questions (as well as the answers). These are in their packet pages 27-29. You can ask these questions to your student because they should have the question, translation and how to answer it in their notes.

### How to Improve Spanish Grade:

Vocabulary: Students should know how to pronounce the word, spell it correctly.

On-line book: Students know how to access the book at [Pearson Realize.com](http://Pearson Realize.com)

Listening comprehension: If your student is struggling, he/she needs to listen to the audio activities posted on [Moodle](#) or [Google Classroom](#): Study your Notebook and syllabus packet:

Notebook and syllabus packet: **Students should study all of their notes a little bit each day.**



## READING - Ms. Christie and Ms. Stromgren

During November, we will be reading our whole class post apocalyptic dystopian science fiction novel, *The City of Ember*, through Literature Circles and in-class reads. During this unit, students will practice using the elements of fiction, introduced during the first quarter, for literary and sociopolitical analysis. We will also continue our study of Greek and Latin roots. The vocabulary final for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the district is cumulative, so please remember to take advantage of Quizlet (found in Moodle or Google Classroom) to reinforce former units and practice current units of study. Finally, the AR deadline for this quarter is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## LANGUAGE ARTS- Mr. Barry and Ms. Pawoll

The month of November will be a nice change of pace. We will begin focusing, once again, on becoming better writers. The District Wide Writing Assessment will take place this month as well. Please check the homework calendar for dates, and be sure to ask your student when he or she will be taking it. To prepare for the assessment, we will be using creative ways to help sharpen our skills with using sensory details. Also, students will begin gaining more knowledge about verbs, adverbs, conjunctions, and interjections.

## YEARBOOK - Mr. Phelps

Taking photos this year? At the game, the musical? Share them by using **Community Upload!** When you submit your amazing photos to the yearbook staff via **Community Upload**, your pictures have a chance to be featured in the yearbook. Submit your photos now with **Community Upload**:

- Go to [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com) or download the Yearbook Snap mobile app from the App Store or Google Play.
- Enter our school's name (it will populate), select our school. Under **Community Upload**, enter access code **storm** and click **Enter**.
- Click **Upload Photo** to begin uploading your photos.

We are also accepting videos that you'd like us to attach to your student's portrait. Compile a video movie shorter than 100 MB and we will attach it to their class photo. Send it by flashdrive and we will view it to make sure it is appropriate. Remember, everyone can view your video.

As an adult, you know how important school memories become. Don't let your student's memories fade; make sure they get a yearbook! For only \$40, your student will have a book that will be enjoyed now and 20, 30 or even 50 years from now. Yearbook orders are at an all time low for this time of year. 209 orders as of Oct. 4. We usually sell around 450 books. We switched to online sales this year so sales has been slow. Be aware that the price increases October 20th to \$45. Go to [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com), enter our school name, and follow the instructions to order your copy.

## P.E. - Mr. Everingham and Mrs. Finn

Every student needs to have a change of clothes to wear during class. A T-shirt, shorts and tennis shoes are all they need. They are issued a locker in the gym to put their clothes in. If your student misses a day of PE you will see a "0" in PowerSchool. All they need to do is come get a PE Homework slip from me, complete the exercises, turn the form back into me within 7 school days of the absence, and they will get their full points. I talked to the students at the beginning of school and they know where the slips are located.

## ERMS ATHLETIC NEWS:

Following are our event dates for November.

### **Thursday, November 2- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball (BBB) vs. Elkhorn Middle**

Thursday, November 2- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB @ Elkhorn Middle

### **Monday, November 6- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB vs. Gretna**

Monday, November 7- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB @ Gretna

Thursday, November 9- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB @ Valley View

### **Thursday, November 9- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB vs. Valley View**

### **Monday, November 13- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB vs. Gretna Aspen Creek**

Monday, November 13- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB @ Gretna Aspen Creek

Monday, November 13- Intramural Games- Aux Gym @3:45.

### **Thursday, November 16- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB vs. Waverly**

Thursday, November 16- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB @ Waverly

### **Thursday, November 16- Intramural BB Games –Aux Gym @3:45**

Monday, November 20- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB @ Bennington- High School Aux Gym

### **Monday, November 20- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB vs. Bennington**

### **Tuesday, November 28- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB vs Blair**

Tuesday, November 28 -7<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB @ Blair

Thursday, November 30- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB @ Grandview

### **Thursday, November 30- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BBB vs Grandview**

**Thursday, November 30- Intramural Games- Aux gym @3:45**

**Home games are in bold and all games start at 4:15**

## CAREER DAY- Mrs. J. Klein

Middle school parents interested in speaking at our 8th grade Career Day on January 26, please contact Mrs. Klein, Guidance Counselor ([jklein@epsne.org](mailto:jklein@epsne.org)). The career session is 30 minutes in length with 15-20 students. Date and time in January TBD.

## HALE—Mrs. Cohen / Mrs. Stenglein (Long Term Substitute)

The Quiz Bowl teams continue to practice on Wednesdays for the district competition which is coming up at the end of November. Team members are developing strategies for how to maximize success by drawing on each other's strengths in mathematics, geography, literature and science.

HALE students are being encouraged to consider participating in the 2018 History Day competition. On October 11-12, 7th grade students were given an introduction to the 2018 History Day theme, shown examples of various presentation methods, and advised about the criteria expected when preparing a process paper and an annotated bibliography. Mrs. Cohen will collaborate with Mrs. Bryan to prepare students interested in participating in the Nebraska NHD competition held annually at Omaha's Durham Museum during March.

Ten of ERMS' 8th grade math students have qualified for the American Mathematics Competition 8 exam which will be given here at ERMS by Mrs. Cohen on November 14. Mrs. Stenglein met with these students in October to provide information about the competition and offer suggestions for how they might practice for the exam. These students will compete with hundreds of students from around the United States. Answer sheets are scored at a central location in Maryland and schools are notified of the results within 30 days of the exam date.

In October the 7th grade HALE students participated in a two-week Notable Nebraskans biography/autobiography project that culminated in a wax museum presentation. Students read biographies and did additional research about a specific Nebraskan. They then prepared a written report that provided the basis from which they constructed a display board depicting the life of their Nebraskan. On the last day of the unit, each HALE student presented an oral report about their Notable Nebraskan, dressed in character and speaking in first person, to invited guests.

**Mrs. Cohen returns on November 6th.**

## POWERSCHOOL/HOMEWORK ACCESS

Parents have the ability to view child's academic progress through the internet. Parents/guardians have a username and password for each child which allows you to track homework completion and see current grade status. Teacher expectations are to keep Powerschool updated generally every two weeks. If you do not have Powerschool access and would like it, please call the office and we will be happy to get you set up.

Another way of accessing your child's homework is to go to the district web page [www.elkhornweb.org](http://www.elkhornweb.org), under the the Schools tab find ERMS and then click on Homework on the left side of the page. You will then see all teachers and their homework. If you have questions please call us at 402-334-9302.

## STUDENT COUNCIL - Mrs. Bradford

Student council has been working hard selling pastry puffins. We will also celebrate an ERMS spirit week in November. Keep tuned in to school messenger and posters around the building for the details.



## CHORUS-Mrs. Ballou, ERMS Vocal Music Instructor and Mrs. Foley, Accompanist

Congratulations to all three grade level choirs on a great first concert! I'm proud of the way all groups sang and of the student's concert etiquette. Next concerts are...

**8th Grade:** Feb. 1 at 7 PM at Elkhorn South High School

**7th Grade:** March 12 at 7 PM at ERMS

**6th Grade:** March 13 at 6 PM at ERMS

In November, choir students will be focusing on music reading skills. They will be learning how to read, count, write and dictate rhythmic notation. We will also be working on sight singing. 6th and 7th grade will then work on a solo/ small group project while 8th grade starts music for their next concert in December.

Show Choir News: If you have not received an email from Mrs. Ballou with show choir info please let her know asap. All communication from Mrs. Ballou comes via email.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC - Mr. Dreessen

Congratulations to all of our 8th Graders who auditioned for the NSBA 8th Grade All-State Band. They all put together very strong auditions and we should know results in mid-November. Congratulations, and respect earned! Our first concert is Nov. 14th and 7:00pm in the ERMS Gymnasium. This concert will feature our 6th grade band, 7th grade band, 8th grade band, and the Stormin' Jazz Ensemble. Students should plan to arrive at ERMS between 6:30-6:40pm in their band concert attire.

If you or your aspiring musician are interested in Private Lessons please ask Mr. Dreessen for a list of recommended instructors. Private lessons can benefit every musician and are a great way to foster your student's musical development.

## WHEN IS MY CHILD TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

Proper care in the early stages of an illness can reduce recovery time for the ill child and reduce the possibility of spreading the illness to others. Proper diet, adequate rest, and good personal hygiene (especially frequent handwashing) can assist the body's ability to fight infection.

The following are guidelines to assist you in deciding when your child should stay home from school:

**Irritability, poor appetite, tiredness, achiness** are vague symptoms. Changes in a child's normal behavior can often signal the beginning of an illness.

**Fever of 100 degrees or higher.** Take your child's temperature if he is complaining of feeling tired, headache, sore throat or stomach ache. **A child should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school.**

**Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.** Keep your child at home for the duration of these symptoms. No vomiting or diarrhea for the past 24 hours is recommended. Be sure your child is able to tolerate food without difficulty before returning.

**Nasal secretions and coughing/sneezing** spread respiratory infections easily when these symptoms can't be controlled.

**Suspected communicable conditions** such as undiagnosed rashes, pink eye, ringworm, or chickenpox. A child must be sent home until identified symptoms are evaluated and conditions for return to school are provided by a health care provider.

VNA School Nurse

## Elkhorn Ridge Middle School Booster Club Meeting October 10, 2017

President Jenny Haase called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The September 2017 minutes were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Laura Sartore presented the current financials. She reported that she completed the 990 form required by the IRS.

**Old Business:** President Jenny Haase reported that the current profit from the No Sale Fundraiser is \$8,328. Students who participated in the fundraiser will receive a treat from the Booster Club.

**New Business:** Vice President Teresa Svoboda reported GOAL meeting updates. The Booster Club approved the \$345 payment for the Anti Bully Presentation by Respect that will be conducted on October 17, at 1:15 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend. Also, a motion was approved to spend up to \$1,500 on the refurbishment of the front office. Mr. Riggert requested assistance acquiring cubbies for various areas in the school hallways for kids to place their backpacks, Chrome books, etc. Jenny Haase will follow up with a lead at next month's meeting.

**Parent Communication:** Mr. Riggert reported that NESAP and MAP test results will be provided along with the student's report card at Parent/Teacher Conferences.

### Committee Reports:

**Apparel-**Jenny Haase reported the apparel orders had a profit of \$815.49 instead of the previously stated profit of over \$1,300.

**Landscaping-**Mr. Riggert and Jenny Haase will meet with the landscaping committee to discuss Lanoha's bids as well as other options.

**Box Tops-**Collection will run through October 27. The library, cafeteria, and office have collection boxes. For every 10 box tops a student turns in, their name will be entered in a drawing. One winner will receive a prize from the Booster Club.

**HyVee Receipts-**Jenny Haase reported that all HyVee receipts dated September 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> can be turned in to the ERMS office, High Five teachers, or the box labeled ERMS at HyVee. This includes grocery, pharmacy, liquor and gas receipts.

**Directory-**The directory went live on September 29. If you didn't get an email with the link, please notify the Booster Club.

**Concessions-**The Sign-Up Genius for basketball will be emailed to parents soon.

**Family Fun Nights-**Oscar's profited \$200. October 10 will be Jersey Mike's.

**Kindness-**Staff will have Chipotle and Valentino's during conferences. There will be no requests for parental donations at this time. In February, donations will be asked for both conference meals and staff appreciation week.

**Student Recognition-**Laura Sartore will organize the giving of a small treat from the Booster Club for first quarter honor roll students.

The October meeting of the ERMS Booster Club was adjourned at 3:11 p.m. The next Booster Club meeting will be held November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ricci Nisley, Secretary.



## BOOSTER CLUB

I am pleased to announce that we collected \$,8328 for the "No Sell" Fall Fundraiser! Thanks to all of the families that donated, we exceeded our goal of \$7,500 which is awesome! All students who participated in the fundraiser received a treat from the Booster Club. Letters went out to parents as well during home team. We have already started to put the monies to good use! Keep an eye out for some landscaping improvements to be done by both entrances. Also, our front office is going to get a small "make-over", the anti-bully presentation in October was funded by the Booster Club and research is being done for storage for the student's items by both the chorus and band rooms. When students are in chorus and band, most of their belongings are on the floor outside the room. Instead of having them on the floor, we are looking into shelving that they can place items in and out of the way.

It's hard to believe but Thanksgiving is right around the corner and there is no better time to thank the many generous volunteers; your time and hard work is MUCH appreciated! Thank you Kim Lehl and Amy Parks for your work on the ERMS directory. Thanks to Deb Schuiteman, Stacey Haussler, and Lora lossi for working on the Fall apparel sale. Thanks to Mindy Foral and Lori Doyle for counting all of the Box Tops -- Thanks also to all who sent in their Box Tops, we will let you know how we did soon. Thanks to Nikki Kirshenbaum for keeping our concessions supplied with all the goodies. Thanks to Jamie Hoskinson for planning our Family Fun Nights. Thanks to Jodi McShannon & Carolyn Henry for heading up our new'ly created Landscape Committee. . A huge thank you to our kindness committee, Melanie Nielsen and Christy Croom, I know the staff really appreciates the food provided on conference evenings. Thanks to the Booster Club Executive Board for all of your efforts this year; Teresa Svoboda, Laura Sartore and Ricci Nisley. Of course we would like to thank the teachers, administrators and all of the ERMS staff for all of the work you put in each and every day, for our children! We are fortunate to have such a great staff at ERMS!

Thank you to all of the volunteers that stepped up to help with the volleyball concessions. Basketball is around the corner and we will continue to need volunteers. You do not need to have a basketball player in your family to volunteer. Remember, the booster club shares the profits from the concession stand with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade celebration at the end of the year. We need everyone's help to make sure that we can operate a concession stand at each of the home basketball games.

Lastly, our apparel committee is busy putting together new apparel items for our holiday sale. Keep an eye out for an email soon. Apparel items make perfect gifts! Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 14th at 1:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

Jenny Haase

Booster Club President



## HYVEE RECEIPTS

The **Hyvee "Cash for Students"** Program continues until December 31. Please save those Hy-Vee receipts - grocery, gas, pharmacy, coffee - and submit in the box at the **180th and Pacific** location.

Forgot to drop it on your way out? Please send to school with your student. They can submit to their Home Team teacher or drop at the office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Questions? Contact Jen Athy 402-250-1565






# NOVEMBER 2017

ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
17880 MARCY STREET  
OMAHA, NE 68118

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 8 BBB @ EMS 7 BBB vs EMS	3	4
5	6 8 BBB @ Gretna MS 7 BBB vs Gretna MS	7 Health Screening 1 PM - 7th and new 6th / 8th Grade	8	9 End of Rotation #2  8 BBB vs. EVVMS 7 BBB @ EVVMS	10 Start Rotation #3	11 *** ALL GAMES AT 4:15 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED***
12	13 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm 8 BBB vs Gretna AC 7 BBB @ Gretna AC	14 6th – 8th Band Concert 7 pm  Parent Booster Meeting 1:30 pm	15 Mid-Quarter Reports Sent Home	16 8 BBB vs Waverly 7 BBB @ Waverly	17	18
19 /	20 8 BBB @ Bennington 7 BBB vs Bennington /	21 /	22 Early Dismissal 2:20 pm /	23 NO SCHOOL /	24 NO SCHOOL	25 
26	27	28 8 BBB vs Blair Otte MS 7 BBB @ Blair Otte MS	29	30 8 BBB vs. EGVMS 7 BBB @ EGVMS		





# Elkhorn Public Schools FOUNDATION

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Considering an end of year gift? A tax-deductible donation to the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation will help further our mission in 2018 and beyond. Thank you for your continued support in enriching the education of our Elkhorn Public Schools students!

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Mark your Calendar: Bids 4 Kids will be held on April 5, 2018. Join us for a fun evening of silent auction bidding! We are grateful for any and all donations! For donation information, please contact Stacey Selk at [sselk1@epsne.org](mailto:sselk1@epsne.org)

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Elkhorn Kids Campus is hiring! Are you bright, energetic and creative? Do you like working with children? Then EKC is for you! Stop in to the foundation office for an application, or download it online at <http://www.elkhornfoundation.org/ekc/ekc-application/>. Email your completed application to [awhorlow@epsne.org](mailto:awhorlow@epsne.org)

# UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

As Elkhorn Public Schools expands access to technology for instructional purposes, the district is also aware of the need to define digital citizenship and promote the importance of students being good digital citizens. In addition to providing information to students, we believe it may also be helpful to share resources with families. This brochure explains the components of digital citizenship as well as some best practices for being a good digital citizen. The following information is from Common Sense Media; to learn more, visit [www.commonsensemedia.com](http://www.commonsensemedia.com).

## INTERNET SAFETY AND PRIVACY

Several topics are vital to ensuring full understanding of the importance of safe Internet practices:

- \* Identify risky online situations and explain the importance of alerting an adult immediately
- \* Secure all devices, both hand-held and stationary and develop high quality passwords
- \* Understand the dangers of downloads and how they are used as part of your digital footprint
- \* Identify appropriate information that can be shared

Most importantly, those using the Internet should always remember there is no such thing as total privacy online.

## DIGITAL FOOTPRINT, COMMUNICATION AND REPUTATION

Individuals utilizing the Internet and social media must understand that all online activity leaves a digital footprint in the form of information that exists about an individual as a result of their online activity. Because this information is easily linked to a specific individual, it can oftentimes be used to harm a person's reputation, even outside of the cyber world. Individuals should remember that what they are putting out there today will still be available for years to come. Being aware of this may be the difference between being hired for your dream job, or being passed over due to unflattering information that was discovered from one's use of an online platform earlier in life. For those wanting to clean up their digital footprint and move forward with creating a positive one, the following steps should be considered:

- \* Review all social media accounts and delete anything that you wouldn't want a future employer to access, but remember that even "deleted" posts can still turn up in searches so always think twice before posting anything; once that step is complete, turn all settings to private and monitor the settings regularly, as sites often update their settings and some things could change without your knowledge.
- \* Delete abandoned accounts and unsubscribe to mailing lists that might be considered undesirable or that you no longer find relevant.
- \* Post about topics you're passionate about and explain why you feel that way; find positive things happening around you and share those instead of today's most viral video.



## **CREATIVE CREDIT AND COPYRIGHT**

There are several ways to ensure proper credit is given and copyright is protected when using information gathered online; the most important of those being correctly citing sources, avoiding plagiarism, and always checking any images used for creator's rights.

## **INFORMATION LITERACY**

Information literacy is a term often associated with understanding the tools used to gather information and knowing where that information is coming from. Individuals utilizing the Internet for research should always be sure that the information they are collecting is accurate and reliable by verifying the credibility of any website utilized in the information collection process.

## **BALANCING TECHNOLOGY USE**

Parents often look for new ways to create a balance between learning and using technology appropriately, and participating in other activities that are essential to a child's development. Finding that balance between the two can be the difference between a healthy relationship and an unhealthy reliance. Several strategies exist to ensure that a healthy relationship with technology is built beginning with the early stages of use. The following information is from research done by Michigan State University Extension; to learn more, visit <https://goo.gl/bMC2a3>.

## **UNDERSTAND YOUR PATTERN OF USE AND CREATE BOUNDARIES**

Most people don't realize the amount of time they spend using technology unless it is pointed out to them. Take an inventory of your family's use and understand when, why, and how you're using technology. Is all of it necessary? Are you and/or your family benefiting from that time spent with technology? Understanding your pattern of use is the first step in creating boundaries that both you and your family can stick to.

## **BE INTENTIONAL IN DETERMINING DOWNTIME**

Being constantly connected can hinder active learning, as one becomes passive in taking in new information because he or she is constantly "learning" new things. Taking a step away from technology and the absorption of information allows one's brain a needed break and creates an active learning environment. By being intentional in determining technology downtime, you are giving your brain that break to be able to focus on other things.

## **BE THE EXAMPLE AND SET THE EXPECTATION**

Kids learn by following an example - following the same technology use rules you set for your children is the best way to show them a healthy relationship with technology. Setting usage time limits, creating intentional face-to-face opportunities, and implementing device-free zones are all ways to ensure too much time isn't spent on technology for entertainment purposes.

