



# HIGHLIGHTS

**ELKHORN**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fall 2014 • Volume 28, Issue 1

## ELKHORN GRANDVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PREPARES TO WELCOME STUDENTS

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The District's fourth middle school—Elkhorn Grandview Middle School will open its doors to students on August 11. EGMS located at 17801 Grand Ave, near 180<sup>th</sup> and Fort Streets.

New Middle School boundaries for students residing north of Dodge Street will be effective August 2014, with the opening of Grandview Middle School. Students residing in the Sagewood, West Dodge Station and Manchester attendance areas will attend Grandview Middle School. Students in the Hillrise and Westridge elementary attendance areas will be assigned to Elkhorn Middle School. To view a map or to look up boundary assignments by neighborhood, visit [elkhornweb.org](http://elkhornweb.org).

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2014



Elkhorn schools anticipate welcoming more than 7,300 students on August 11, marking the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of enrollment growth. This back-to-school edition of the Highlights includes information about student registration, calendar, District boundaries, activities and student services. The EPS Board of Education and staff are grateful for the support of a warm community and invite you to join us at school activities throughout the year.

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE

#### Monday, August 11, 2014

##### Elementary Grades K-5

8:15 a.m. - 3:06 p.m.

##### Middle Schools Grades 6-8

8:10 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

##### High School, Grades 9-12

###### Modified First Day Schedule

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 8:10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 12 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

###### Regular Schedule

8:10 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Buses will run regular schedules for elementary and middle school students. High school bus routes will run on the regular schedule with an additional drop off when freshmen are dismissed at 11:45 a.m. Students in grades 10-12 who ride the bus will need to make alternate arrangements to arrive at school by 12 p.m.



## NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

If you are new to the District and have not yet registered for school, please call your school office to set up a new student registration appointment. If you are unsure of your school assignment, please call the EPS Administration Building at (402) 289-2579 or visit [elkhornweb.org](http://elkhornweb.org).

### The following items are required for registration:

1. Birth Certificate (all grade levels)
2. Proof of District residence (all grade levels)
3. Immunization record – immunizations for poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B (all grades) and two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) are required for all students. A new state requirement also mandates that students must provide proof of two varicella (chicken pox) immunizations or proof that they have had the disease. The [varicella immunization form](#) can be obtained here. **PLEASE NOTE: proof of immunization is required before attendance is allowed.**
4. Current physical examination and visual examination documentation (within 6 months) is required for all kindergartners and seventh graders; this is also mandated for all students who enroll from out of state.
5. For foster children or wards of the state or court, court documents and pertinent school records must be provided prior to admission.
6. School records from previous school (all grades).

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION



EPS middle schools will host middle school pre-registration (Back-to-School 101) for all middle school students. At pre-registration, students and parents will complete student information cards, pre-pay for yearbooks, deposit lunch money, update health forms, purchase activity passes/turn in activity forms and have their school pictures taken. Dress code applies for school pictures; students are reminded to dress appropriately.

### Elkhorn Middle School and Elkhorn Grandview Middle School Pre-Registration:

Monday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Elkhorn Ridge Middle School and Elkhorn Valley View Middle School Pre-Registration:

Thursday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## ELEMENTARY BACK-TO-SCHOOL 101

**On Monday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.** all Elkhorn elementary schools will host Back-to-School 101.

At Back-to-School 101 students and parents will receive classroom assignments, set up lunch accounts, order yearbooks and receive PTO information. Students may also have their photo taken (please dress appropriately).

Elementary open houses will be held on Thursday, August 7. Start and end times vary by building, look for detailed communication from your school's principal.





An addition to Elkhorn South would create enough classroom space to accommodate 500 more students—bringing total capacity to 1,500.

## EPS BOARD CONSIDERS BOND ISSUE

In July, the Elkhorn Board of Education received an updated Master Facilities Report from Superintendent Steve Baker. Baker spent five months presenting to elementary PTO and middle school booster groups to gather feedback. The revised plan outlined the need for renovations at the District's five oldest schools, an addition to Elkhorn South and safety and technology upgrades district-wide. The proposed plan also calls for two more elementary schools over the next three years. If approved by the Board of Education, all projects would be part of a \$63.098 million bond issue on the ballot this fall.

The District has always taken a conservative approach at growth predictions. In 2006, enrollment was predicted to reach 6,208 students in 2013-14. Actual enrollment for that year was 6,798—a difference of 590 students. An up tick in development throughout the District has made for record enrollment figures. Last year, EPS enrolled more than 520 new students and projections for the 2014-15 school year are expected to be similar. "In the past we have anticipated about 1,000 new students every three years," Baker said. "At the current rate, we'll be growing by 1,000 students in just two years."

## PROPOSED PROJECTS:

**Elkhorn High School**—Updates to the school's kitchen and servery area are planned as well as a remodel to science classrooms and an updated elevator.

**Elkhorn South High School**—A classroom wing would be added to accommodate an additional 500 students. Currently, the school has classroom space for 1,000 students—enrollment in 2014-15 will surpass desired capacity.

**Elkhorn Middle School**—An addition including an auxiliary gym and classrooms would be added to create a space similar to other District middle schools. Locker room, weight room, restroom and main office renovations are also included.

**Skyline Elementary**—Safety and security updates would direct visitors through the main office and allow classrooms to be locked down during emergencies. Updates would also be made to the school's restrooms.

**Hillrise Elementary**—Safety and security updates would direct visitors through the main office and allow classrooms to be locked down during emergencies. Updates would also be made to the school's restrooms.

**Westridge Elementary**—Safety and security updates would direct visitors through the main office.

**Elementary Schools #10 and #11**—Two new elementary schools would be constructed, opening in 2016 and 2017.

**Other Projects**—The proposed bond issue would also include land for a third high school (*to be built with a future bond issue*), gymnasium air conditioning at Fire Ridge and Manchester; Data cabling upgrades, track resurfacing at ERMS, playground resurfacing at all elementary schools, the addition of a central warehouse, a remodel of the District's cafetorium (*currently Early Ed Center*) and updates at the student services building.

## BREAKFAST & LUNCH PRICES

EPS contracts with Taher Food Services for the District's school breakfast and lunch programs. Parents can view menus and make payments online by clicking on the school lunch tab under "District Information" at [www.elkhornweb.org](http://www.elkhornweb.org). Beginning the 2014-15 school year school lunch prices will be as follows:

Elementary—\$2.25  
Adults—\$3.35

Middle School—\$2.50  
Milk—\$0.45

High School—\$2.50

Breakfast is served from 7:35 to 7:55 a.m. daily at all Elkhorn elementary schools and all elementary students are invited to participate in the breakfast program.

Student Breakfast—\$1.45

Adult Breakfast—\$1.75







## EHS, ESHS EARN HIGH RANKINGS IN TWO NATIONAL REPORTS



### **US News and World Report—America’s Best High Schools**

The 2014 *U.S. News and World Report* list of “America’s Best High Schools” named Elkhorn South No. 1 and Elkhorn High School No. 3 in the state. Rankings were based on state test scores, AP data and demographic information from the U.S. Department of Education. Only four high schools in the state were named to the list, others include No. 2 Chadron and No. 4 Lincoln East.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated government and private data for more than 19,400 public high schools across the country. The report ranked 4,700 schools across the nation – only those that the data indicated were exemplary. Ranked schools were given a badge status of “gold,” “silver” or “bronze” depending upon the strength of their national ranking. Both Elkhorn and Elkhorn south received a silver badge.

“This is not an award we applied for,” said Superintendent Steve Baker. “This is an award that honors schools with high levels of achievement and rigorous coursework.”

Nationally, ESHS was ranked No. 860 and EHS was ranked No. 1,176. Schools at the top of the national list generally included charter schools or those with academic magnet programs.

### **Washington Post—America’s Most Challenging Schools**

EHS and ESHS were also named to the “Washington Post’s” list of America’s Most Challenging High Schools for the second year in a row. Across the state, only seven high schools earned a spot on the list.

The list recognizes schools that have high levels of participation in rigorous coursework. Nationally, just 9 percent of approximately 22,000 U.S. public high schools met the requirements to be ranked on the list.

Rankings are determined by participation in AP testing, International Baccalaureate programs and Advanced International Certificate of Education Tests compared to number of graduates. Out of the three tests considered, Elkhorn students participate in only AP Testing.

## CURRICULUM UPDATES



Math curriculum has gone through the renewal process and will be updated for 2014-15. Curriculum adoption is a systematic process, which takes place over two years. Elkhorn teachers review research and take materials through an evaluation process. At the elementary level, teachers piloted materials and evaluated student achievement data. As part of this process, the District attended to student and parent feedback as well.

### **Elkhorn will continue to align with Nebraska State Standards, as well as supplement curriculum to meet District objects.**

Nebraska is one of four states that have not adopted Common Core Standards. Since a vast majority of states do use Common Core standards, most recent copyrights from major publishers will be marketed as Common Core materials. Although new materials may have “Common Core” printed on the cover, Elkhorn teachers will adapt materials to assure continued alignment with Nebraska Standards. Other materials will also be used to supplement the curriculum as needed. Teachers will use the new math curriculum to increase student conceptual knowledge, increase problem solving and perseverance skills, and assure college ready rigor.

In addition to the new math curriculum, new high school courses were approved for the 2014-15 school year: Advanced Placement Psychology, Advanced Placement Government and expanded career internship course options.

## ABOUT THE HIGHLIGHTS

Elkhorn Public Schools distributes the *Highlights* four times throughout the school year in order to keep our community informed about important things taking place in our schools. We encourage you to read the *Highlights*, participate in activities in your neighborhood school, and offer feedback on information you would like to see included in the *Highlights*. Questions or comments can be directed to the District Administration Office, (402) 289-2579 or email at [jbrock@epsne.org](mailto:jbrock@epsne.org).



## ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT #10 DOUGLAS COUNTY

The Elkhorn Public School District consists of 15 schools over 48 sq. miles and is currently the seventh largest school District in the state. New students must reside in the District with a legal parent or guardian in order to attend Elkhorn Public Schools.

Through the Learning Community's open enrollment program students may opt to apply to attend any school within the 11 Learning Community School Districts. Open enrollment capacity is calculated each year and students apply annually in March.

Learning Community school districts include: Elkhorn Public Schools, DC West Public Schools, Gretna Public Schools, Westside Community Schools, Millard Public Schools, Bennington Public Schools, Ralston Public Schools, Papillion La-Vista Public Schools, Springfield-Platteview Public Schools (formerly South Sarpy District #46), Bellevue Public Schools and Omaha Public Schools.

Students living within the Learning Community who would like to attend a school district outside the learning community must apply for option enrollment with the District they wish to attend. Example: An Elkhorn student could option enroll to Blair Public Schools because Blair is not located within the Learning Community; however Elkhorn students must open enroll to an Omaha Public School because the OPS District is located within the Learning Community.

For more information on the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties please visit the organization's website, [learningcommunityds.org](http://learningcommunityds.org). Any questions regarding open or option enrollment should be directed to the office of the superintendent, (402) 289-2579.



### BUS SERVICES

EPS contracts with Chief School Bus Service for route transportation. Buses will run the first day of school on all regular routes. To obtain bus routes and schedule information, please call Debbie Kafka at the EPS Administrative Office, (402) 289-2579, or check route information on the District website under "Bus Information" under the District information tab. Bus service will be provided in accordance with state law and district policy. Families living in the district and beyond the four-mile limit will be provided free bus transportation.

Prices for bus transportation per child per month are \$74.15 for round trip, or \$42.15 one-way for students living within the four-mile limit. Discounts of \$5.00 for the second child, \$10.00 for the third child, and no charge for the fourth child riding the bus from the same family are available. Transportation costs may be waived in cases of financial need; contact the district office for additional waiver information. For specific pick-up questions, families can also contact Chief School Bus Service at (402) 392-2144.

Completed bus applications may be sent to the District Administration Offices at 20650 Glenn St., Elkhorn, NE 68022, or emailed to [dkafka@epsne.org](mailto:dkafka@epsne.org). **Completed applications must be received before a student can ride the bus.**

### DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Elkhorn Public Schools unites students, families, educators, and the community to ensure a challenging and enriching academic environment that inspires students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners.





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The Elkhorn Public Schools publishes the *HIGHLIGHTS* for the sole purpose of informing district residents of the programs, procedures, and progress of the school district. Questions or comments should be addressed to: Superintendent Steve Baker, 20650 Glenn Street, Elkhorn, NE 68022, (402) 289-2579

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The Elkhorn Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, marital status, age or disability in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities.

## CONTACTS

### Enrollment Information/Building Use

Contact Building Principal

#### Elkhorn High School

Dan Radicia ..... (402) 289-4239

#### Elkhorn South High School

Mark Kalvoda ..... (402) 289-0616

#### Elkhorn Middle School

Deb Garrison ..... (402) 289-2428

#### Elkhorn Grandview Middle School

Mike Tomjack ..... (402) 289-9399

#### Elkhorn Ridge Middle School

Kevin Riggert ..... (402) 334-9302

#### Elkhorn Valley View Middle School

Chad Soupir ..... (402) 289-0362

## CONTACTS

### Fire Ridge Elementary School

Anne Doerr ..... (402) 289-0735

### Hillrise Elementary School

Deb Madden ..... (402) 289-2602

### Manchester Elementary School

Amy Christ ..... (402) 289-2590

### Sagewood Elementary School

Jan Peterson ..... (402) 289-9078

### Skyline Elementary School

Andy Luebbe ..... (402) 289-3433

### Spring Ridge Elementary School

Laurinda Petersen ..... (402) 637-0204

### West Bay Elementary

Jen Coltvet ..... (402) 289-9045

### West Dodge Station Elementary School

Pam Wahl ..... (402) 289-2773

### Westridge Elementary School

Troy Sidders ..... (402) 289-2559

### Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation

Stacey Falk ..... (402) 289-1727

### Before/After School Kids Campus

Amy Whorlow ..... (402) 289-1727

### Early Education Center

..... (402) 289-2579

### Activities/Athletics

Contact Activities Directors

Roger Ortmeier (ESHS) ..... (402) 289-0616

Mike Zeplin (EHS) ..... (402) 289-4239

### Special Education/Gifted Programs

Contact Director of Special Services

Lee Frye ..... (402) 289-2579

### Human Resources - Teacher Vacancies

Contact Director of Personnel

Don Pechous ..... (402) 289-2579

### Personnel/Open Enrollment

Contact Assistant Superintendent

Bary Habrock ..... (402) 289-2579

### Transportation and Facility Use Information

Director of Business Support Services

Ryan Lindquist ..... (402) 289-2579

### Curriculum/Assessment

Contact Associate Superintendent

Dr. Cindy Gray ..... (402) 289-2579

### District/Board of Education/Enrollment Option

Contact Superintendent

Steve Baker ..... (402) 289-2579

### General District Information - Contact

Elkhorn Public Schools

20650 Glenn Street, Elkhorn, NE 68022

info@elkhornweb.org

Ph. (402) 289-2579, FAX (402) 289-2585

TDD/Voice

All Schools

Web Site: [www.elkhornweb.org](http://www.elkhornweb.org)



## NOTICES

### CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

#### [www.elkhornweb.org](http://www.elkhornweb.org)

The Elkhorn Public Schools website contains valuable, up-to-date information for staff, students, parents, District homeowners and other interested parties. The site includes the Annual Report, Board of Education information, Learning Community news, general District information, maps, calendars and much more. For additional information about the District or any other public school district in Nebraska, visit the Nebraska Department of Education website at [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov).

### ATTENTION BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Distribution of individual fliers, handouts and advertisements to students through the schools is not permitted. In place of this practice, the Elkhorn Public School District publishes the *Elkhorn Express*, a monthly publication distributed to all Elkhorn students in grades K-8. The *Elkhorn Express* features advertisements, notices and messages that may be of interest to Elkhorn students and their families. For a schedule of publication dates and advertisement costs, please contact Mike Overmann at the *Douglas County Post-Gazette*, (402) 289-2329.