



# HIGHLIGHTS

**ELKHORN**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 2016 • Volume 30, Issue 1

## EPS PLANS FOR GROWTH, EYES THIRD HIGH SCHOOL



**This year's kindergarten class is the largest in District history with more than 750 students.**

Elkhorn Public Schools welcomed nearly 8,400 K-12 students on August 17, marking the 30th consecutive year of enrollment growth. Although enrollment will not be official until the end of September, preliminary numbers show more than a 7.5 percent increase from last year. This fall, Steve Baker will visit school and community groups to address the District's rapid growth and provide a forecast for the future.

The District's master facility plan shows EPS as a district of approximately 18,000 students, when fully developed. That figure translates to about four high schools, seven middle schools and

### CURRENTLY:

Elementary Schools	4,132 Students	10 Schools
Middle Schools	2,010 Students	4 Schools
High Schools	2,241 Students	2 Schools

\*Elkhorn Public Schools will operate 11 elementary schools by 2018

### PREDICTED:

Elementary Schools	8,367 Students	19 Schools (18.6)
Middle Schools	4,184 Students	7 Schools (7.0)
High Schools	5,578 Students	4 Schools (3.7)

19 elementary schools. Today EPS is made up of two high schools, four middle schools and 10 elementary schools—with another to open in 2018.

"In 2008, we predicted that EHS and ESHS would eventually be very close in enrollment," Said Superintendent Steve Baker. "We are seeing that happening in the next few years." Ultimately, enrollment on the north side will top that at Elkhorn South High School (ESHS). Even without growth, Elkhorn High School (EHS) reaches its capacity in about six years.

"Once you factor in modest growth, your timeline shifts dramatically," Baker said. Accounting for about a 3 percent growth, EHS would be at capacity in just four years. These numbers will help shape the timeline for the District's next bond issue, Baker said. "People are always asking me about the timeline for a third high school," he said. "My answer now is—these students are in the pipeline."

In 2006, voters passed a more than \$96 million bond issue to fund the construction of ESHS along with West Dodge Station Elementary and Elkhorn Valley View Middle School (EVVMS). ESHS opened to grades 9-11 in 2010 and the senior class was added the following year. Using ESHS as a model, the timeline for a third high school could be reduced by one year.

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## EPS PLANS FOR GROWTH, EYES THIRD HIGH SCHOOL

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Baker's presentation also addresses middle school space, noting that one of the main challenges will be at Elkhorn Grandview Middle School (EGMS), along the fast-developing Maple Street corridor. One solution may involve adding additional classroom space to EGMS, EVVMS and Elkhorn Ridge Middle School (ERMS).

With new developments popping up across the District, EPS continues to see a surge of new families. "There was a time we had to convince our community that Elkhorn was growing," Baker said. "That's not the case anymore."

### UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS:

- October 3 at 6:00 PM Manchester Elementary
- October 3 at 7:00 PM Arbor View Elementary
- October 4 at 6:30 PM EGMS
- October 6 at 6:30 PM EMS
- October 11 at 1:30 PM ERMS
- October 12 at 10:00 AM EVVMS
- October 24 at 6:30 PM Sagewood Elementary
- November 7 at 6:00 PM West Bay Elementary
- November 7 at 7:00 PM Hillrise Elementary

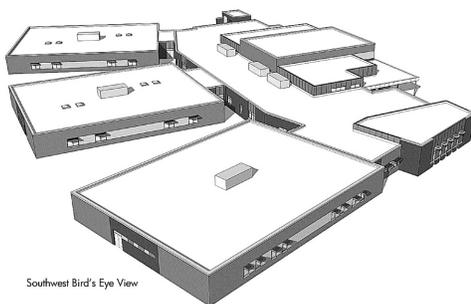


## ARBOR VIEW ELEMENTARY OPENS, PLANS FINALIZED FOR ELEMENTARY #11

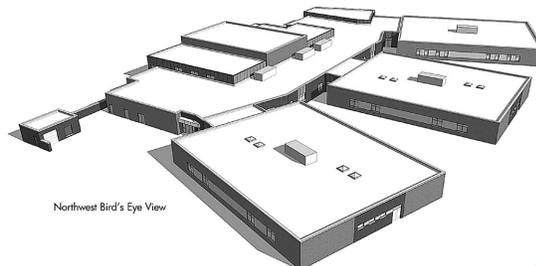
As the District worked to put the finishing touches on Arbor View Elementary this fall, plans were already in the works for elementary #11—slated to open in 2018. EPS has built seven elementary schools since 2000 using virtually the same design. Elementary #11 will have a completely new design. "It's time



to change it up," said Director of Business Support Services Ryan Lindquist. Lindquist, who works closely with architects, said the new design would align with changing building and energy codes and create a space that reflects how learning has evolved in the last 15 years.



Southwest Bird's Eye View



Northwest Bird's Eye View

# DISTRICT GROWTH



## ADDITION IS COMPLETE AT ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL



## ARBOR VIEW ELEMENTARY

Arbor View Elementary opened near 208<sup>th</sup> and Fort Streets and enrolls about 275 students from the northwest part of the District in its first year. As the neighborhoods around the school continue to develop, the school is expected to grow.

## ELEMENTARY #11

The District's 11<sup>th</sup> elementary school will be located near 216<sup>th</sup> and F Streets. The area surrounding the school site will see an influx of residential and commercial development over the next several years. More than 1,100 residential lots have already been approved in the area. The new school will provide relief primarily to Skyline Elementary. This year alone, Skyline's enrollment was up nearly 80 students.

# DISTRICT PLANNING



## STRATEGIC PLANNING PROVIDES A GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE

Over the summer months; a group of EPS parents, teachers, administrators and Board members met to review and revise the District's Strategic Planning goals, last set in 2011. The group identified four priority goals to focus on in the coming years.

### **Goal #1 (Ongoing Goal) Planning for Growth**

Elkhorn Public Schools will develop and maintain plans for ongoing examination of and reaction to enrollment growth. This has been an ongoing objective since 1991. As part of this goal, the District will continue to focus on a positive relationship with the community, smaller schools, smaller class sizes and more opportunities for students. The District will provide purposeful principal development to ensure strong leadership for the future.

### **Goal #2 - (Ongoing Goal) High Levels of Learning for All Students**

Elkhorn Public Schools will continuously implement and utilize instructional best practices related to 21st century learning competencies and teaching standards, while using assessment data to ensure high levels of learning for all students. In short, the District will maintain a culture that focuses on high levels of achievement and continuous improvement. Through this goal, the District will affirm high levels of learning as its core mission; with continuous improvement as our most important goal, our culture, and our expectation.

### **Goal #3 – Extended Learning Opportunities**

EPS will implement extended learning opportunities for all students. This goal includes the implementation of a summer



enrichment program with focus areas such as the arts, drama, science, math and career exploration.

### **Goal #4 – Skills for a Global Workspace**

EPS will align curricular learning goals to provide students with skills to succeed in a global workspace. Community members, teachers and parents alike stressed the importance of career awareness, employability and life skills for students as they graduate high school and transition to adulthood.

In addition to the four identified goals, the District will maintain a communication plan to inform community members about progress and specific outcomes related to Strategic Planning.



## BILL 1067 ELIMINATES LEARNING COMMUNITY COMMON LEVY

Last spring, lawmakers passed LB 1067 to restructure the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Major changes include eliminating the Common Levy, moving Open Enrollment back to Option Enrollment and funneling more State aid to districts with high poverty.

### WHAT THIS MEAN FOR EPS?

**The Common Levy**—Since the Learning Community was formed in 2008 as a product of the “One City, One School” proposal, a Common Levy of 95 cents per \$100 of valuation went into pool, which was then divided amongst the 11 Learning Community school districts. With the new legislation, that money will no longer be pooled, but sent directly back to the District. Taxpayers won’t likely notice a difference in their school property taxes, because the new legislation doesn’t change the levy—only the way it’s distributed.

Under LB 1067, the Learning Community Coordinating Council still has authority to levy up to 2 cents for Elementary Learning Centers, focus school programs and early childhood education programs for poverty students.

**Open Enrollment vs. Option Enrollment**—Open Enrollment will be phased out over the course of the next school year

and Option Enrollment will be reinstated. Open Enrollment was unique to the Learning Community, whereas Option Enrollment is the common practice among districts across Nebraska. All students accepted through Open Enrollment will become Option Enrollment students and will be permitted to stay through graduation. Option Enrollment will officially replace Open Enrollment on May 26, 2017. For more information on Option Enrollment visit: <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/OrgServices/EnrollmentOption/>. Specific Option Enrollment eligibility questions should be directed to Director of Student Services, Anne Doerr at 402-289-2579.



## ARE YOU AN ELKHORN GRADUATE?

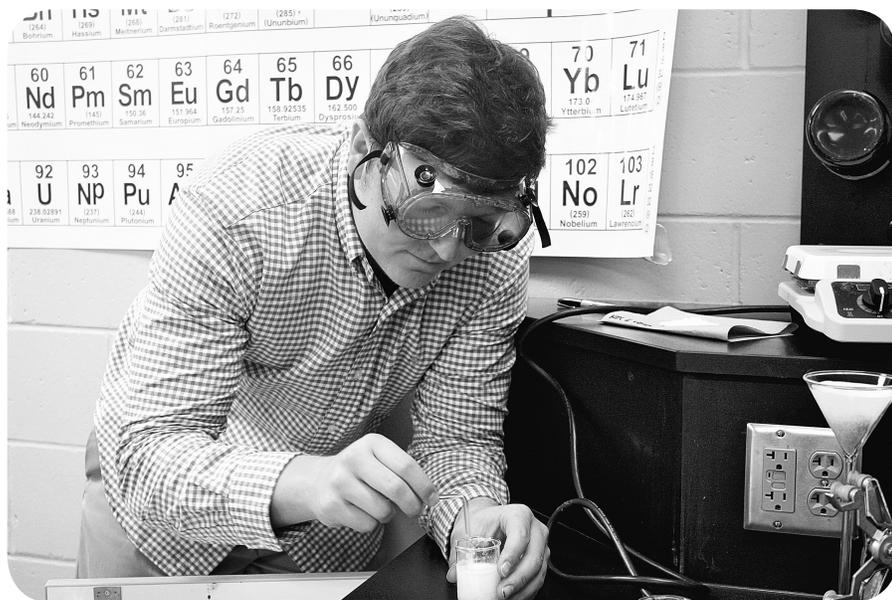
The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation is in the final stages of creating an Elkhorn Alumni Program. This program will continue the legacy of successful graduates who make a lifetime impact on our community and the world. The Alumni Program will provide support for over 8,000 graduates all over the world by offering alumni news, providing reunion support, and helping to keep connected. Are you a graduate of Elkhorn Public Schools? Fill out your alumni record at <http://www.elkhornfoundation.org/alumni/>. Interested in learning more? Email [alumni@elkhornfoundation.org](mailto:alumni@elkhornfoundation.org). You can also follow and connect with other graduates on the Elkhorn South High School Alumni and Elkhorn High School Alumni Groups on Facebook!

## ABOUT THE HIGHLIGHTS

Elkhorn Public Schools distributes the *Highlights* approximately three 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 [janderson1@epsne.org](mailto:janderson1@epsne.org).



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



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

The 2016 *U.S. News and World Report* list of “America’s Best High Schools” named Elkhorn South No. 1 and Elkhorn High School No. 2 in the state. Rankings were based on state test scores, AP data, graduation rates and demographic information from the U.S. Department of Education. The two EPS high schools were the only schools in the state to make the list.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated government and private data for more than 19,900 public high schools across the country. The report

ranked 6,200 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 silver badges.

“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. 650 and EHS was ranked No. 1,785. Schools at the top of the national list generally included charter schools, schools for the gifted 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 fourth year in a row. Across the state, only six

high schools earned a spot on the list.

The list recognizes schools that have high levels of participation in rigorous coursework. Nationally, just 11 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 only participate in AP Testing.

## ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TOPS ACT SCORES

ACT results from the class of 2016 show Elkhorn students above state and national averages. At EHS, the average score was 23.6 and at ESHS a 25.6, compared to the state average of 21.4 and the national average of 20.8. The District average was again the highest in history at 24.7.

When comparing averages on the ACT Test, it is important to note the number of graduates tested. Elkhorn consistently tests a larger percentage of graduates than both the state and national

averages. Of the 2016 Elkhorn graduates, nearly 94 percent took the test.

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of four main subject area tests in: English, Mathematics, Science and Reading, with an optional writing test. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student’s composite score is the average of the four test scores. Results from the 215-question, multiple-choice test, are accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the U.S.

## 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.



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

**ECRWSS  
ELKHORN, NE 68022**

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.

## C O N T A C T S

### **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

### **Arbor View Elementary**

Troy Sidders..... 402-289-1007

### **Fire Ridge Elementary**

Deb Knutson..... 402-289-0735

### **Hillrise Elementary**

Deb Madden..... 402-289-2602

### **Manchester Elementary**

Amy Christ..... 402-289-2590

### **Sagewood Elementary**

Jan Peterson..... 402-289-9078

### **Skyline Elementary**

Andy Luebbe..... 402-289-3433

### **Spring Ridge Elementary**

Laurinda Petersen..... 402-637-0204

### **West Bay Elementary**

Jen Coltvet..... 402-289-9045

### **West Dodge Station Elementary**

Pam Wahl..... 402-289-2773

### **Westridge Elementary**

Ryan Broshar..... 402-289-2559

### **Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation**

Stacey Falk..... 402-289-1727

### **Before/After School Kids Campus**

Amy Whorlow..... 402-289-1727

### **Activities/Athletics**

Contact Activities Directors

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

Mark King (EHS)..... 402-289-4239

### **Open/ Option Enrollment and Gifted Programs**

Contact Director of Student Services

Anne Doerr..... 402-289-2579

### **Special Education**

Contact Director of Special Education

Dr. Kendra Schneider..... 402-289-2579

### **Human Resources and Teacher Vacancies**

Contact Director of Personnel

Dr. Don Pechous..... 402-289-2579

### **Personnel**

Contact Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Bary Habrock..... 402-289-2579

### **Curriculum and Assessment**

Contact Associate Superintendent

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

OR Director of Instruction and Learning

Angie Wright..... 402-289-2579

### **District Information and Board of Education**

Contact Superintendent

Steve Baker..... 402-289-2579

### **Buildings/Grounds and Purchasing**

Contact Director of Business Support Services

Ryan Lindquist..... 402-289-2579

### **General District Information**

Contact

Elkhorn Public Schools

20650 Glenn Street

Elkhorn, NE 68022

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TDD/Voice All Schools