



# HIGHLIGHTS

**ELKHORN**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2015

Elkhorn schools anticipate welcoming more than 7,800 students on August 10, marking the 29<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.



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## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE

**Monday, August 10, 2015**

**Elementary, Grades K-5**  
8:15 a.m. - 3:06 p.m.

**Middle School, 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.

## CONSTRUCTION, UPDATES CONTINUE DISTRICT-WIDE



The ramp and landscaping have been removed at Elkhorn Middle School to prepare for the new gymnasium and front entrance remodel.



Construction continues on an additional entrance at Elkhorn South High School.  
Continued on next page

## CONSTRUCTION, UPDATES CONTINUE DISTRICT-WIDE



In May, the Elkhorn Board of Education announced the Arbor View Elementary Core Team. Back row, left to right: Lori Graves, Josh Snyder and Kathy Weber; Front row, left to right: (Principal) Troy Sidders, Janelle Nielsen and Angie Mundil.

Throughout the spring and summer, crews have worked on construction and maintenance projects across the District as part of the \$63.1 million bond issue passed by voters in November 2014.

### **Elkhorn South High School**

Construction is underway on a classroom wing to accommodate an additional 500 students, the project is set to be completed by fall 2016. An additional entrance will help traffic flow at Elkhorn South as well. The new road, opening this fall, will create an additional entrance/exit from the east lot onto Blue Sage Parkway.

### **Elkhorn High School**

The Elkhorn High School kitchen and servery areas have been completely remodeled and will be ready for students this fall.

### **Elkhorn Middle School**

The Elkhorn Middle School remodel project began in May with

a target completion date of fall 2016. The school will get a new gymnasium and fitness center, remodeled bathrooms and a complete safety and security remodel to the front entrance.

### **Hillrise, Skyline and Westridge Elementary Schools**

Hillrise, Skyline and Westridge Elementary schools are undergoing safety and security remodels to be completed for the 2015-2016 school year. Upgrades include moving main offices to the front of buildings to create secure entrances, closing off any open-concept areas and updating flooring, mechanical, lighting and restrooms.

### **Arbor View Elementary (Elementary #10)**

Construction began in June on Arbor View Elementary, near 204th and Fort Streets. The school is slated to open next school year and will enroll students from the northwest part of the school District.

### **Elementary #11**

The District is working to secure land on the southwest side of the District for elementary #11, which is scheduled to open fall 2017.

### **High School #3—Site Selection**

Several potential sites for the District's third high school have been identified and are now being evaluated by architects, engineers and District officials. All of the identified sites are north of Maple Street.

### **Other Projects**

Elementary schools across the district were outfitted with rubber playground surfacing this summer. Schools previously operating on point-to-point network connections were equipped with fiber cabling to ensure a faster, more reliable connection. Routine track resurfacing was completed at EHS and Elkhorn Ridge Middle School. Mechanical upgrades are nearing completion at the Student Services Building (formerly Elkhorn City Hall) and the District will begin constructing a warehouse near 207th and Glenn Streets later this year.



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION**

EPS middle schools will host middle school pre-registration (Back-to-School 101) for all middle school students on Monday, Aug. 3 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 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.

### **ELEMENTARY BACK-TO- SCHOOL 101**

**On Monday, Aug. 3 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 will also have their photo taken (please dress appropriately).

Elementary open houses will be held on **Thursday, Aug. 6.** Start and end times vary by building, look for detailed communication from your school's principal.



## NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION



New Student Registration will be held at all Elkhorn Schools on **Monday, July 27 and Tuesday, July 28, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Please call your school office the week prior to set up a new student registration appointment. If you are unsure of your school assignment, visit [elkhornweb.org](http://elkhornweb.org) or call the EPS Administration Building at (402) 289-2579.

### 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 six 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).



## CURRICULUM UPDATES

Science, Health and Physical Education curriculums have gone through the renewal process and will be updated for 2015-2016. Curriculum adoption is a systematic process, which takes place over two years. Elkhorn teachers review research and take materials through an evaluation process before making a selection.

Beginning this fall, Elkhorn 7th graders will only be allowed to register for one study hall per day. As a result, students who are not enrolled in Reading or Math Support classes will be required to register for band, chorus or Spanish. This change will extend to the 8th grade beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

## 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).

## 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 [janderson1@epsne.org](mailto:janderson1@epsne.org).



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

### **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 third 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.

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

The 2015 U.S. News and World Report list of “America’s Best High Schools” named Elkhorn High School No. 1 in the state. Rankings were based on state test scores, AP data and school diversity from the U.S. Department of Education. Only three high schools in the state were named to the list, others included No. 2 Chadron and No. 3 Lincoln East.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated government and private data for more than 21,000 public high schools across the country. The report ranked 6,517 schools across the nation – and schools were given a badge status of “gold,” “silver” or “bronze” depending upon the strength of their national ranking. Elkhorn High School received a silver badge.

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

## EPS TO ROLL OUT NEW LUNCH, BREAKFAST PROGRAMS



Beginning the 2015-16 school year, EPS will contract with Sodexo Food Services to provide school breakfast and lunch. Funds currently in lunch accounts from 2014-15 will roll over in to the new school year with no action required and all students will maintain the same lunch numbers.

Sodexo will offer expanded lunch options at all levels. District elementary students will have two hot lunch choices, one cold lunch choice and a sack lunch option. Students will also be able to choose items off the fruit and vegetable bar. Middle school lunch will have five different stations featuring different types of menu items at each. At the high school level students will have 18 or more entrée options as well as a (before and after school) c-store and coffee corner.

Regular lunch prices for 2015-16 are as follows:

- Elementary lunch—\$2.35
- Middle School lunch —\$3.15
- High School lunch —\$3.35

All K-12 students will have the option to purchase breakfast at school. Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. at all elementary and middle schools and 7:15 a.m. at the high schools. Students who receive free or reduced priced lunch also qualify for free or reduced priced breakfast. Regular breakfast prices for 2015-16 are as follows:

- Elementary Breakfast—\$1.45
- Middle School Breakfast—\$1.65
- High School Breakfast—\$1.85



## 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.

### ATTENTION BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In order to maintain focus on instructional time, 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-5. 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.

## 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 \$76.35 for round trip, or \$43.40 one-way for students living within the four-mile limit. Discounts of \$5 for the second child, \$10 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.



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.

## CONTACTS 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 Soupier ..... (402) 289-0362

#### **Fire Ridge Elementary School**

Deb Knutson ..... (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 Colvet ..... (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

### **Lunch**

Contact Sodexo Food Services ..... (402) 289-0443

### **Activities/Athletics**

Contact Activities Directors

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

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

### **Student Enrollment/Assignment, Transportation, High Ability Programs**

Contact Director of Student Services

Anne Doerr ..... (402) 289-2579

### **Special Education**

Contact Director of Special Education

Kendra Schneider ..... (402) 289-2579

### **Facilities and Building Maintenance**

Contact Director of Business Support Services

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

### **Human Resources**

Contact Director of Personnel

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

### **Personnel**

Contact Assistant Superintendent

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

### **Curriculum/Assessment**

Contact Associate Superintendent

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

### **District/Board of Education**

Contact Superintendent

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

### **General District Information - Contact**

Elkhorn Public Schools

20650 Glenn Street, Elkhorn, NE 68022

Ph. (402) 289-2579

FAX (402) 289-2585

TDD/Voice All Schools

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