1401 Veterans Drive Elkhorn, NE 68022 402.289.4239

March Newsletter 2018

From the Principal..... Dan Radicia

National News and Elkhorn High School

Recent national news of the school shootings in Florida has provided me opportunities to talk with members of the community about EHS safety plan, which incorporates the Standard Response Protocol that has been endorsed by Douglas County Law Enforcement and Omaha Police Department.

THE STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL: A critical ingredient in the safe school recipe is the uniform classroom response to an incident at school. Weather events, fires, accidents, intruders and other threats to student safety are scenarios that are planned and trained for by school and district administration and staff. Historically, schools have taken this scenario-based approach to respond to hazards and threats. It's not uncommon to find a stapled sheaf of papers or even a tabbed binder in a teacher's desk that describes a variety of things that might happen and the specific response to each event.

The Standard Response Protocol is based not on individual scenarios but on the response to any given scenario. SRP demands a specific vocabulary but also allows for great flexibility. The premise is simple – there are four specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these actions, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive". Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders.

- 1. Lockout is followed by the Directive: "Secure the Perimeter" and is the protocol used to safeguard students and staff within the building.
- 2. Lockdown is followed by "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight" and is the protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep students quiet and in place.
- 3. Evacuate is always followed by a location, and is used to move students and staff from one location to a different location in or out of the building.
- 4. Shelter is always followed by the hazard and a safety strategy and is the protocol for group and self protect tion. These specific actions can act as both a verb and a noun. If the action is Lockdown, it would be announced on public address as "Lockdown! Locks, Lights, Out of Sight." Communication to local Law Enforcement Agency would then be "We are under Lockdown."

As a part of an ongoing safety plan, Elkhorn High School in conjunction with Omaha Police Department and Douglas County Sheriff's Department will be scheduling a practice lockdown drill second semester. I asked the Omaha Police Department to supervise the second lockdown drill so we can continue to practice Standard Response Protocol.

National Day of Student Protest to Violence in Schools

National conversations are calling for students to walk out of classes to protest school violence. There are specific dates which include March 14, March 24, and April 20. EPS staff is aware of planned protests in Omaha/Lincoln area school districts.



National Day of Protest continued

Please know that we believe that our students have a voice, and we want to listen to them. However, the school district will not plan events of protest. We will continue to listen to our students and guide them to take this outside of the school day. We believe that your voice carries weight and we would appreciate your conversations with students as well.

We make every attempt to ensure the safety of our students at EHS and this includes protecting the learning environment from disruptions. Students are expected to attend all classes during the school day. Please talk to your students about the expectation to come to school, ready to learn, while also listening to their concerns about school violence. If your student would like to discuss his/her thoughts on the national protest day, please encourage your student to visit with me.

EHS REGISTRATION for 2018-19 is almost complete.

Thank you EHS parents for being part of the extremely important decision of selecting your student's courses for next year. I value your input in making the best decision for your child with the variables presented. The academic counselors met with each student to develop a 4 year plan and to discuss curricular offering. Selected teachers had the opportunity to provide input in the process as well for placement purposes to ensure that we were deliberate and thoughtful on our recommendations for parents to discuss with their child and eventually, sign the courses requested sheet so that the school can begin building next year's master schedule.

We still need more students to turn in the course selected parental signed sheets that were mailed home after parent teacher conferences. If you attended conferences, then you already turned in the sheet before leaving conferences.

2018-2019 Course registration for 8th graders are underway and the counselors are meeting with the middle school students on February 28 and orientation is Monday, March 5, at 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. We are expecting over 355 freshmen next year which will make the 9th grade class the biggest in the building.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Our February Parent-Teacher conferences allowed me an opportunity to listen to the parents as they talked about their student's academic progress, participation in extra-curricular activities and the upcoming events. The conversations were very helpful because it gave me another opportunity to meet parents and understand their core beliefs and values. EHS embedded registration for 9th, 10th and 11th graders with two presentations each night so that our parents could understand more about our curricular offerings. Despite the beautiful weather, 56% of our parents showed up for parent-teacher conferences. If you were not able to attend conferences, EHS sent home a progress report showing the first 5 weeks of the 2nd semester. If you feel that you need to contact a teacher regarding your student's progress, please log on to EHS's PowerSchool, locate the staff's link and find the teachers' name with a hotlink and email them.

AP TESTING DEADLINE is FRIDAY, March 2.

AP testing window for students in May 7 - 17. Registration to sign up to take the test is due this Friday, March 2. The Elkhorn Schools Foundation is paying \$40.00 for each test; therefore, the cost of each test for the parent is \$54.00.

I appreciate the Elkhorn Foundation supporting our students and parents by believing in our results that they want to financially support each test administered. I know that our parents appreciate the financial partnership with the Foundation.

ACT for Juniors is April 3, at EHS-Prepare by Practice

College placement tests: ACT and SAT are two standardized tests that colleges and universities use to select

and sort students for scholarships and admissions. The admission officers analyze course rigor, grade point average, class rank and involvement with co and extra-curricular activities and clubs and the ACT score. There is a direct correlation between academic rigor and higher achievement scores on the ACT.

In fact, EHS students who take AP level course work, chemistry and physics, four years of math have scored 4 or more points higher than students who take the college prep course work. It is better to have a transcript that illustrates rigor than to take classes that are less difficult in order to inflate the grade point averages. Grade point averages have variables that universities cannot control: different grading scales among school districts, class rank for a graduating class of 38 compared to 305 or even 520 students. AP courses have to be approved by a national standard; therefore, admission officers tend to default to course rigor by means of AP coursework and the ACT/SAT scores.

Historically, the majority of EHS juniors takes the ACT for the first time in April and retakes the assessment the fall of their senior year before admissions and scholarships are due in January. Please encourage your student to practice taking the ACT before the April test so he/she feels comfortable taking close to a four hour exam. Practice tests are online at the ACT website and ACT resources and CD are sold at bookstores in the reference sections.

9th and 10th grade ACT practice test is April 3

Our 9th and 10th graders will be engaged in the practice ACT test the same day the 11th graders are taking the ACT. We will have a schedule that reflects the testing day environment with no seniors reporting on April 3. Students will be dismissed after testing around 12:30. Juniors will be dismissed later because they will finish with the writing section of the ACT.

Winter and Spring Activities 2018

The winter activities are almost over; the spring activities are beginning to emerge. Our girl's basketball team begins their title quest on Thursday morning at 9:00am. Around the school, spring activities are beginning their conditioning for the end of the school year. Thank you to all of our students, coaches, sponsors, parents and fans for your support and interests in our programs. The staff at EHS appreciates your help in creating a positive environment with our students. I look forward to seeing you at the various upcoming spring activities.

EHS Prom is Saturday, April 7th

The junior-senior prom will be held on Saturday, April 7, at Elkhorn High School from 9 p.m. to midnight with coronation at 11 p.m., parents are welcome to the coronation program. Our prom sponsors, Ashley Bock and Barb Schmidt, along with their Junior Class Boards, are working hard to make this a memorable social experience for our students. Prom is a formal affair, so the dress must be semi-formal to formal. The invitations should be received in the mail by the middle of March. Tickets can be purchased for \$20.00 during lunch starting on Monday, March 5th. Doors for prom will close at 10 p.m. Senior parents will be valet parking and the high school administration is requiring that all students partake in the valet parking. All students will be breathalyzed upon entering the dance. The use of breathalyzers reminds our students and parents of the district's position of zero tolerance on the use of alcohol and creates a safe environment for all students. On the evening of Prom, staff will be using alco-sensors to check students as they enter the commons. The alco-sensors will only be used by trained staff members and if positive results are obtained from the breathalyzers, the student will be subject to discipline and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified immediately. After-prom will be held at Elkhorn High School and a special thanks to the many junior parents who are working hard to create a safe, fun, parent-sponsored post-prom celebration.

Guest Speaker on Friday, March 9, in the EHS Gym

DeMoine Adams' hard work is not limited to the playing field of Memorial Stadium as a member of the Blackshirts. In the classroom, he received his third first-team Academic All-Big 12 honor in 2002, after also receiving the honor in 1999 and 2000. Adams graduated in August of 2001 after just three years on campus. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and five minors. His academic achievements indicate only part of the dedication Adams has displayed throughout his career. His message to EHS students will be, "Heart over Hype."

Take care, Principal Dan Radicia



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Make-up Days for Missed School Days

As a reminder, EPS students will have regular classes on Thursday, May 24 & Friday, May 25.

These two days were built into the school calendar to account for the first two missed school days due to inclement weather. There are no other make-up days scheduled at this time.

NO SCHOOL Friday, March 16th ~ Teacher In-Service

NO SCHOOL March 19th - 23rd ~ Spring Break

Summer Activity Camps

Each summer Elkhorn coaches and sponsors offer a variety of sports/activity camps for students of all ages.

Available camps will be posted online at elkhornweb.org/antlers and elkhornweb.org/storm by April 1, 2018.

Parents can go online to browse camps and download registration flyers.

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



ATTENTION SENIORS

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A few reminders:

↑ 1. For those that have not yet ordered your cap & gown for graduation, please do so immediately!
↑ Please go to Jostens/School Traditions located at 12100
↑ West Center Rd. Suite 901 (behind Nobbies, 120th & Center) to place your order.

2. All product/announcement orders previously placed, will be delivered on Friday, March 2nd during lunches. Please remind students to visit the Jostens table during their lunch period, to pick up their items.

(this EXCLUDES cap/gown orders. Those will be picked up on the last day for seniors, May 16)

☆ 3. Mr. Radicia will be mailing out a 'Senior Letter' the
 ☆ first week of April. This letter will include very important
 ☆ details about graduation, as well as preparing for the
 ☆ final days at Elkhorn High School.





COUNSELING CENTER STAFF (402) 289-4239, Ext. 2

Desiree Merrihew A - E
Martha Dowd F - K
Theresa Crnkovich L - Rom
Makalla Fritz Ron - Z

Tracy Frevert, Counseling Center Admin Assistant

WEBSITE:

www.elkhornweb.org—>EHS—>Counseling Center

College Entrance Testing: For Juniors

- A common question from junior parents this time of year centers around when juniors should take the ACT. Most students test twice—once junior year and once senior year. All juniors will take the ACT on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at EHS. They will register at EHS for this test.
- ACT test dates are: April 14, June 9, and July 14. Register online at www.actstudent.org. Registration deadlines are approximately one month prior to the test date and are found at ACT's website.
- SAT test dates are: March 10, May 5 and June 2. Register online at sat.collegeboard.org. Registration deadlines are approximately one month prior to the test date and are found on the registration website.

NOTE:

- ***Students with disabilities might possibly receive test accommodations. See your special education case manager for more information.
- ***Fee waivers are available to students on Free/Reduced Lunch. See your counselor for information.

Important note about score reporting: It is the student's responsibility to submit test scores to their college of choice. Upon registration for the test, students can select up to 4 colleges to receive their test scores. To avoid paying to send your scores at a later date, please ensure that you have selected 4 colleges of your choice at the time of registration.

TEST PREP RESOURCES

Full length practice tests can be picked up in the Counseling

Center. Visit the Counseling Center website or see your counselor for more information on test prep resources/classes.

Juniors have access to free online test prep at onlineprep.act.org

Senior Reminders

Senior Future Plan Sheets:

Senior Future Plan sheets will be mailed home with Quarter 3 report cards. **Every** senior needs to return this to the Counseling Center. Information about sending final transcripts and scholarships is on this sheet.

Forms are due no later than Friday, April 13th.

Scholarship Information:

*Check Naviance regularly for scholarship updates. Individual colleges are the source of the most scholarship dollars, so apply early and meet with the Office of Financial Aid on your college visits to ask specific questions unique to your student and your family.

*Visit the scholarship link on Educationquest.com for local scholarships and reputable national scholarship searches.

*Complete the FAFSA form as many scholarships and grants require this to be submitted.

AP Test Registration

If your student is currently in an AP class, they will have the opportunity to take the AP Test in May. Based on the score of this test and the college they attend, they have the potential to earn college credit.

In order for your student to take the AP test, they must register for the test by March 2, 2018. An AP Test registration form was mailed home to you in February. Registrations are due to the counseling center by March 2nd. Late registrations will be accepted March 5th to March 9th, but there will be a \$25 PER TEST late fee assessed. If they do not plan on taking an AP test, they still need to return the registration sheet.



Exploring

Omaha Career Exploring Opportunities for Teens

Exploring is a career education program for young men and women ages 14 through 20 under the Learning for Life organization. Race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status and citizenship are not criteria for participation. Exploring's adult volunteer leaders give their time and expertise in order to provide real-world career experiences for young adults. The Exploring program is not about lectures and slide shows – it's about gaining practical, hands-on experience in a career field – resulting in a program full of activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, build character, and develop life and job skills.

Explorer posts can specialize in a variety of career skills. Exploring programs are based on five areas of emphasis: career opportunities, life skills, citizenship, character education, and leadership experience.

There are new exploring opportunities now. To see what is
 available now and possibility for next year, visit the directory
 on http://www.omaha.exploring.org.





EHS Tutoring Program:

Peer-tutoring is available for students struggling in classes. Students can sign up in the Counseling Center.

College & Military Reps Visiting EHS:

During the spring semester, juniors and seniors are able to visit with the college reps that come to EHS. Watch the bulletin or look on Naviance account for upcoming visits.
Juniors and seniors must sign up at least 1 day in advance to be excused from classes. Students sign up online through their Naviance account.

EducationQuest is a free college planning service provided to all students in Nebraska. They have a monthly email service that offers tips and advice to high school students and parents. To sign up to receive these emails, visit www.educationquest.org.

Important Websites:



http://www.elkhornweb.org/schools/ehs This site contains information for all students.

http://connection.naviance.com/ehsne Naviance is our college and career planning tool, complete with personality inventories, career information, college search tools, and more. **All Elkhorn 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders have access to the program provided free to them by the school district.**

Student logins are the same as their school computer logins. See your counselor with any questions.



FROM THE DESK OF THE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR Mark King

ELKHORN SPORTS/ACTIVITIES ARE ON THE WEB!

Patrons of the Elkhorn school district may now access the most current information as related to high school and middle school athletics/activities, by logging on to: www.easternmidconference.org to navigate your way to the Elkhorn High School page, and select the sport/activity, level and gender of your choice. You will also have access to the most updated calendars, game information, and even maps and driving directions to many of the schools we participate against.

SPORTSMANSHIP! Can't Play Games without it!

The 2017 Spring Sports season will begin with the 1st practice on February 27th at Elkhorn High School. These activities include boys and girls track, boys soccer, girls soccer, baseball, boys golf, and girls tennis. Parents should note that the dates and times of spring sports sometimes need to be rescheduled after the printing is completed on these schedules. Please be advised that the most current information is available through your son's/daughter's head coach.

Something to ponder:

This excerpt is from an on line article about Sarah Pavan (former UNL Volleyball All American)
Sarah said that she wasn't always the best teammate when she was young and didn't become a great teammate until she realized the following.

You may be the most talented, impressive athlete on your team or in your entire age division, but if you are always putting yourself above the best interests of the team, or if you constantly make fun of the weaker players in the group, no one will care how good you are. The only thing your teammates will remember about you down the road is that you made them feel like they didn't matter. Why? Because people don't remember who scored the most points, or who got the most awards, or who had the most scholarship offers. People remember how you made them feel.

TECH SAVVY PARENT TIPS

MARCH 2018

'Cookies' and Targeted Advertising

The ads you see when you search the web aren't by chance—your browser is using your cookies, or bits of data sent from the websites you visit, to collect and store data about you. Websites also track your search history, purchase history and profile information you provide to send targeted advertising as you browse the web. It is important to periodically clear your cookies, cache and search history from your browser to ensure your device is running as fast and secure as possible.

Time Savers

For students, procrastination generally takes on the form of "multitasking", which often leads to distractions and wasted time. In order to curb this occurrence prior to it becoming a bad habit that will move with them into adulthood, take a look at a few options for apps and plug ins that help reduce the instances of this current trend.

<u>RescueTime</u>: this plug-in tracks how much time is being spent on specific sites and generates reports showing the results. By reviewing these reports, you and your child can see exactly where the majority of their time is being wasted.

<u>Work Mode</u>: Work Mode blocks access to all social media feeds during any time frame that the plug-in is turned on. What better way to ensure your child is focused solely on the task at hand than by making the distractions they typically default to inaccessible during the time they need to be focusing on other important things?

For more information on these and other time saving apps & plug-ins, please visit www.commonsensemedia.org.

Elkhorn Public Schools Policy 507.13—Internet Safety Policy was written in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act. Tech Savvy Parent tips are intended to inform and educate parents of technology that may be available to their students. Tips may feature apps that are educational as well as those that may be a cause for concern to parents.



EHS HALE HAPPENINGS

HALE is Elkhorn Public Schools' High Ability Learner Education. Visit the HALE Activity link from the Elkhorn High School website to learn more about services and to keep track of upcoming opportunities via the online HALE calendar.

Robotics

Congratulations to Nerdfighters as they qualified for Heartland Regionals which will be held on March 2-3 at Cross County High School. Good luck! The 2018-2019 game will be announced in April.

Olympus Club

The annual Lock-In will be held at Common Ground on Saturday, April 28 from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. This is an opportunity for students from both high schools to form new friendships as they play dodgeball, basketball, volleyball, air hockey, board games, and go swimming. The Iron Mind Competition tradition will continue as students from both schools try to win the traveling trophy.

Quiz Bowl

The quiz bowl teams will compete at Bellevue University on March 2. This June, the varsity team is traveling to Washington D.C. to compete at the National Academic Championship. We practice daily during lunch in room D107. New members are always welcome.

Nebraska Now

High ability students who are ready for college rigor and have time next fall to take an online college class, should consider enrolling in UNL's Nebraska Now program. The cost is drastically lower than UNL's regular tuition and allows high school students to complete general education credits for a UNL degree. For more information, see https://admissions.unl.edu/specialized-information/nebraska-now.aspx

Summer Opportunities (Apply now as deadlines are approaching)

All Girls Math - Summer Mathematics Camp for high school girls. http://www.math.unl.edu/programs/agam

http://raikes.unl.edu/summerworkshops-Students - "Innovate: The Raikes School Way" and "Girls Who Innovate: The Raikes School Way"

http://architecture.unl.edu/high-school-camps- The College offers four summer high school camps: the Career Explorations in Architecture, Interior Design and Landscape Architecture Workshop; the Discover Landscape Architecture Workshop; the Western Nebraska High School Workshop; and the Adventures on the Niobrara River - Discover Landscape Architecture camp.

Joyce Ivy Foundation Summer Scholars program – scholarships for female leaders (grades 10 and 11) - http://www.joyceivyfoundation.org

Kaneko Open Space for Your Mind – www.thekaneko.org

Creative Writers - http://finelines.org/

Duke Tip - Duke TIP Summer Studies Programs <u>www.tip.duke.edu/summer</u>

UNL Summer Academic Summer Camp - http://4h.unl.edu/4hcamps/bigredcamps

UNO Internships in Information Technology - https://
https://

PKI Academies - <u>https://pki.nebraska.edu/new/pages/outreach/holland-academy-of-excellence/</u>

Most Universities and Colleges offer summer opportunities for high school students, for example:

Purdue University - Engineering https://engineering.purdue.edu/Honors/future-students/STEP

University of MO-Kansas City- Design Discovery http:// info.umkc.edu/aupd/design-discovery-program/

KU - Engineering Camp, Project Discovery - https://engr.ku.edu/camps#Summer

Northwestern Universitysps.northwestern.edu/program-areas/summer/highschool-programs/

Washington University

http://summerexperiences.wustl.edu/scholars

University of Chicago-

https://summer.uchicago.edu/high-school

Cornell University-

https://www.sce.cornell.edu/sc/

NYU-

http://www.nyu.edu/admissions/high-school-programs.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 – Bellevue University Quiz Bowl
March 2-3 - Heartland Robotics Regionals
April 3 - ACT test (11th grade); Pre-Act (9th-10th grade)
April 28 – Olympus Club Lock In at Common Ground



EHS *Dance* Tryouts for 2018-2019 season

A mandatory meeting will be held for all parents and interested students (currently in 8th-11th grade) on Monday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the EHS lecture hall.

Dance team tryouts March 26th-31st.

Email <u>alamb@epsne.org</u> or check out the Elkhorn Dance Team site for information.



EHS *Cheer* Tryouts for 2018-2019 season

A mandatory meeting will be held for all parents and interested students (currently in 8th-11th grade) on Monday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the EHS lecture hall. If your parents can not attend, but you would still like to try out please speak with Barb Schmidt.

Tryout prep clinics will be April 2nd through April 4th, with tryouts on Thursday April 5th at 4:00. All tryout clinics will be held in the main gym.

Please see practice schedule below:

Monday, April 2nd: 6:30-7:30 a.m. AND 3:45-5:15 p.m.

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

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

Thursday, April 5th: TRYOUTS begin at 4:00 p.m., please arrive at 3:30 p.m.

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

Barb Schmidt, Anna Beard and Cindy Pecquet Elkhorn High School Cheer Coaches

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION - EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Elkhorn Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national origin, marital status, age, disability or any other basis prohibited by state and federal law in admission or access to, or treatment of, or employment in, its programs and activities.

It is the intent of the Elkhorn Public Schools to comply with both the letter and spirit of the law in making certain discrimination does not exit in its policies, regulations, operations or employment practices. Grievance procedures have been established for anyone who feels discrimination has been shown by Elkhorn Public Schools. These procedures can be obtained by the Assistant Superintendent.

Inquiries concerning the application of the Elkhorn Public Schools' policy of nondiscrimination should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent, 20650 Glenn Street, Elkhorn NE 68022, (402) 289-2579.



silent auction + raffles + complimentary appetizers + desserts

April 5 6-9PM Noah's Event Venue

Tickets \$20 Advance \$25 At Door

QTEGO.NET/QLINK/EPS

register your phone fREE to bid remotely by clicking the pink 'REGISTER FOR AUCTION' button at website above!

SHOP • EAT • MINGLE • SUPPORT

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

Elkhorn Public Schools

Career Awareness Program

Click above to navigate to the website.

March Career Tour: DLR Group Engineering, Architecture, and Marketing Career Clusters



Friday, March 16, 2018: Career clusters of interest will include engineering, architecture, and marketing. Access tour details and the registration link here! You must be logged into your school Gmail account to access the registration form.

Deadline to register is at noon on Friday, March 9th!



Explore. Connect. Learn. Succeed

Contact Dana Buurman for more career awareness opportunities such as career camps, fairs, exploring programs, job shadowing, job opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and more! Email: dbuurman@epsne.org - Phone: EHS: 402.289.4239 - ESHS: 402.289.0616





Scholarship winners will receive an invitation to the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation's Scholarship Recognition Breakfast mid-April. Elkhorn South High School's breakfast will be held Wednesday, April 25th

and Elkhorn High School's breakfast will be held Thursday, April 26th. More info can be found here:

www.elkhornfoundation.org/scholarships



Mark your Calendar: Bids 4 Kids will be held on April 5 at Noah's Event Venue from 6-9PM. Join us for a fun evening of silent auction bidding! We are grateful for any and all donations. For donation or sponsorship information, please contact Stacey Selk at sselk1@epsne.org.

Tickets now available for purchase at

www.elkhornfoundation.org/bids-4-kids



We are now accepting nominations for teachers, alumni, volunteers and community partners for our 2018 Hall of Fame event! To submit a nomination, or to view all past honorees, please visit our website www.elkhornfoundation.org/hall-of-fame-nomination-form