

NEWSLETTER

November 2017

Volume 3, Issue 3

ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL

MAKEUP DAYS FOR SNOW DAYS

As we approach the winter months, it is important to remind parents of the district snow day policy. 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).

If there are missed school days students will have makeup days on **May 24 and 25, 2018**. These days will become vacation days if there are two or fewer missed days, moving the last day of school to 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.



BOOSTER CLUB MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 at 3:45pm

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Attendance:

6th grade: 92%

7th grade: 82%

8th grade: 75%

Thank you to everyone who attended conferences. We hope that you found them to be informative and enjoyable.

EARLY DISMISSAL-WED., NOVEMBER 22

School will be dismissed one hour early at 2:20 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 22. This is an update from the printed District calendars. There will be no school on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

MITTEN TREE PROJECT

Womenade of Elkhorn is, once again, planning for the annual Celebration of Giving Project. If you feel your family could benefit from assistance during the Holiday season, please contact Mrs. Owens (guidance counselor) at 402-289-2428 or email her at gowens@epsne.org. Applications are due by Thursday, November 2, 2017. There are also extra applications available in the office.



DAILY BULLETIN ON-LINE

The daily bulletin that is read to students is available on-line for parents to read. From our middle school webpage, click the link at the bottom of the page entitled "Daily Bulletin". Hopefully, this will help you stay informed of the events and activities at EMS.



DISTRICT SPELLING BEE



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:

[Elkhorn Middle School Staff Directories and Email Addresses](#)

POWERSCHOOL

If you did not attend Parent/Teacher Conferences, you may still pick up your username and password information from the office. This will give you access to your child's grade book for each class. District policy states that parents/guardians must personally come in to the office to sign and pick up this confidential information. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to mail or send this information home with students. Please take advantage of this powerful tool.

BOARD / ADMINISTRATOR WORKSHOP

On November 27, all district administrators will meet with the Board of Education at 3:30 p.m. to discuss relevant topics to the district. The Board and administrators meet once in the fall and once in the spring each year.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be mailed home on Wednesday, November 15.

EPS FALL WRITING ASSESSMENT

All 8th grade students at Elkhorn Middle School will participate in the Elkhorn Public Schools District Writing test on November 6-8 in both reading and Language Arts classes.

While the Department of Education has suspended the state writing test in January, Elkhorn Public Schools will continue to assess text-dependent writing for all 8th grade students in the fall. We ask parents to make sure your child is getting plenty of rest and eating a good breakfast before they come to school. This is a three-day assessment that will take place in Language Arts and reading classes only.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION MENTORING

The school year is fully underway and Partners in Education is extremely lucky to have the mentors that we do. We would like to send a special thank you to our returning mentors: Patti Franz, Jennifer Pospichal, Susan McShane and Michelle Pope. We appreciate all the time they give to the students at EMS!

DISTRICT SPELLING BEE

Recently we had grade level spelling bees at EMS. Each grade level sent two students to the district wide competition. The district spelling bee was held at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School on Wednesday, October 25th. Representing 6th Grade were McKenzie Carlson and Peyton Heitritter, 7th graders were Rylan Melcher and Madison Moore, and for 8th grade it was Alex Basso and Cecelia McCaslin.

Congratulations to Cecelia McCaslin who won 1st place at the EPS Middle School Spelling Bee.



6TH GRADE NEWS

MRS. CHANDLER, MRS. CRAWFORD, MRS. GRAGERT, MS. MEIER, MRS. KLUENDER, MR. PREISSLER, MRS. WELLS, MRS. YOUNG, MRS. MEYSENBURG

Reading students will begin studying Greek and Latin roots. All students need to continue to read AR books at home and test at school.

Math 6 students are working on Ratios and Proportions. They have learned how to find unit rates and equivalent ratios. They will do graphing next to finish up the unit!

In Pre Con we are finishing up the integers unit and will move on to fractions, decimals and percents next.

Social studies students will be finishing up a unit over the Federal Government and they will also start studying State and Local Governments.

In Science, 6th graders will be learning how the living things in an ecosystem interact with other living things and nonliving things.

In Language Arts, we have been working on creative paragraph projects. We will end our paragraphs unit with a district assessment. We will then move our focus to essay writing.



7TH GRADE NEWS

MR. BEARD, MRS. HINGORANI, MRS. HOLLMAN, MRS. KLUENDER, MR. KMENT, MS. LUTES, MS. MEIER, MRS. PIKE, MRS. WELLS, MRS. MATUELLA

In Science, 7th graders are learning about continental drift, layers of Earth, and plate tectonics, then we will move into natural disasters before taking our Earth Science District Common Assessment. Our next science unit will be human body. Students will continue to have mini-Friday quizzes covering the topics of the week.

Our focus in November in Language Arts is drafting a complete essay. We will begin the month writing descriptive essays about important places and will end the month beginning to write analytical pieces about what we read. This is a heavy writing month, please ask your students to see their drafts throughout the process. They are always saved in Google Classroom.

Math classes have started a unit on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. At the end of this chapter we will complete another district common assessment involving all operations with fractions.

Pre-Algebra recently finished Equations.~ Students have learned to simplify algebraic expressions and solve one-step and two-step equations involving all operations.

In World History are currently working on Ancient India, then Ancient China followed by Ancient Greece and Rome.

In 7th grade reading, we will finish The Westing Game before ending our semester-long fiction unit. AR goals are due on Monday, December 18.



8TH GRADE NEWS

MRS. BAUMERT, MRS. COLLINGSWORTH, MRS. GRISHAM, MS. GUTSCHOW, MRS. HOLLMAN, MR. HULTMAN, MS. MEIER, MRS. VALASEK

Thank you to all who attended conferences. It was good to see you support your students.

Progress Reports will be mailed home on November 15th. Please mark your calendars and watch for these.

November is a big writing month in Language Arts! We will be taking the District Text-Dependent Analysis assessment the week of November 6th. We encourage the students to work hard and do their very best! From there, we will move onto research and research-based writing tasks.

In Reading we will be working on Analysis of fiction until mid November. The remainder of the quarter will involve the Characteristics and Features of nonfiction. New AR goals have been set and are due December 11/18.

In American History we will be studying Manifest Destiny.

In Science we are beginning our Earth History unit. During the Earth History unit, students will be learning about the rock cycle, Earth's layers, and the geologic time scale.

In Pre-Algebra we will be solving equations and inequalities. In Algebra we will be solving and graphing multi-step inequalities, compound inequalities, and inequalities with absolute value.

8TH GRADE CAREER DAY:

The counseling center is looking for volunteers for our 8th grade career day. If you are willing to donate 30 minutes of your time to speak to 8th graders about your career, please contact Ginny Owens in the counseling center. The tentative date is January 26, 2018.

DISCOVERY CENTER

MS. HARTMAN



Thank you to everyone who supported our fall Scholastic Book Fair. Special thanks goes out to our student volunteers who donated their time and energy to make this fair a success. As always, money raised will be used to purchase new books requested by students and teachers, and to update our collection.

Upcoming events at the EMS library will include a "reading in the dark" activity and the Sphero robot challenge.

CHORUS NEWS

MRS. WORTMAN

All 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Chorus students, along with the "Classics" Show Choir and the new 6th grade "Noteworthy" Show Choir are busy preparing for their first concert on Tuesday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m. We hope all of you can join us for our first show of the year. The performance will be in the EMS gymnasium.



BAND NEWS

MR. EDWARDS



November 14th - Concert @ EMS – On Tuesday, November 14th, all the band and jazz band students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade will be performing their first concert of the year. The concert will take place in the EMS gym and starts at 6:30 PM. All students should arrive at EMS by 6:00 PM for warm-ups. Some concert reminders:

1. The uniform for performances is **EMS Band Polo tucked into black pants** (no jeans, yoga pants, leggings, athletic pants, sweats, torn or faded pants), with **solid black socks** and **solid black dress shoes** (non-white soles and black laces). **Only white t-shirts may be worn under the polo shirts, please.** The pants and socks should be long enough to cover all leg skin (no anklets or short socks, or pants that are too short). We are asking any girls who wear black “flats” to be sure to wear black socks. Simply stated we are asking for “black from the waist down.” Please contact Mr. Edwards if you have any questions.

2. Please communicate any conflicts with Mr. Edwards **well in advance** of the required event. Dance, piano, art classes, parties, etc. are not accepted as excuses to miss a performance. **Non-EMS sports** practices and games are also **not excusable**. **Students who miss a performance will only be eligible for partial credit.** We have made every effort not to schedule performances that conflict with EMS after-school sports. If a **school sports** conflict occurs, the EMS coaches and Mr. Edwards will work it out. **Please attend to encourage your students and enjoy the concert!**

January 5th - 6th Grade Pep-Band at EHS – On Friday, January 5th, the 6th grade band has been invited to perform with the EHS high school band at a varsity basketball game. More details will be sent home with the students as we get closer to the event, but students should plan to report to the EHS Auditorium by 6:15 PM. Students will be dismissed at 8:30 PM. Participating students will be admitted to the game free, but parents and siblings will need to pay normal admission or show their Elkhorn activity passes. Dress for this event will be jeans, tennis shoes, and the red EMS “Noteworthy” polo shirts (tucked in). This is always a fun evening for the students, so please put it on your calendar!

6th Grade Instrument Switchers and Doublers – We are nearing that time of the year where we are looking for 6th graders to switch to some of the “color” instruments of the band. These instruments include French horns, tubas, double reeds (oboes and bassoons), bass clarinets, and tenor and baritone saxophones. While limited in number, these instruments play a vital role in every quality band program. These instruments help add tone quality and depth to support the sounds produced by the instruments we already have, including flutes, clarinets, alto saxophones, trumpets, trombones, baritones, and percussion. Over the coming weeks, after the November concert, we will be letting interested students try these instruments to see if they are a good match. Interested students should talk to their parents about the possibility of switching, demonstrate a desire to practice often and plan to continue into high school band, and excel at their current instrument. For those interested, it is possible for students to double (play two instruments) rather than switching to the new instrument and discontinuing the current instrument. In 7th and 8th grade, this would mean playing one instrument for concert band during school and another instrument for jazz band before school. In many instances, there are school instruments available, although the quantity is limited. Please feel free to contact Mr. Edwards at school by email or phone if you have any questions. Parents will be contacted personally before any decisions are made. Our intention is to have the entire process completed by winter break. Thanks again to all parents for their continuing support of music in our schools.

Private Lessons – At Elkhorn Middle School, we try to provide every student with as much time and individual attention as possible to make them the best musicians they can be. However, for those students that either desire more intense musical pursuits or need that extra attention to continue improving their skills, seeking a private instructor for your student is an excellent option. Besides guaranteed one-on-one instruction on a regular basis, usually weekly, private instructors are experts on their individual instruments and can bring that professional expertise to your student. While most private instructors teach out of a studio at a music store or their home, some will drive to your home to provide the lessons. There are many private teachers available with varying personalities, areas of emphasis, and years of experience so matching your student with the right teacher is very important. If you are interested in private instruction for your student, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Edwards at any time.



BAND NEWS (CONTINUED)

MR. EDWARDS

Practice Records – An extremely important portion of every student's grade is based on regular home practice. With the limited amounts of contact time we have with each student, it is vitally important that every student reserve some time at home to practice their instruments and improve their skills. The amount of time per day suggested will vary by the grade, but we strongly suggest daily 10-minute sessions a week for 6th grade students. To record this home practice, we supply every 6th grade student with a weekly practice report form.

6th graders should record all their times on this form, circle the "Practice Strategies" they used that week, and have parents sign this form at the end of every weekend. Weekly reminder emails include a practice report in case your child has lost or misplaced the copy given to them. All reports are due at the student's first band class of the week and five points a day are deducted if the report is late,

7th and 8th graders should practice at least three 20-minute sessions a week all year. 7th and 8th graders who do not practice enough will probably not do well on their playing tests or be able to play their concert music at an acceptable level 7th graders (every other week) and 8th graders (once a month) will have their parents/guardians submit their practice on a Google form. For all grades, before or after school practice will be assigned to those students who do not turn in practice records or have them submitted by parents/guardians. We also encourage parents to listen to their students when they practice and encourage them in their musical pursuits.

The Booster Club would like to send a BIG thank you to all the volunteers who have helped things run smoothly this quarter!



Thank you to Kerry Benes who is making birthdays special for our wonderful teachers and staff.

Thank you to Callie Vavra who is updating the EMS Booster Club Facebook page. Like us!

<https://www.facebook.com/ems.boosterclub.52>

A special thank you to Amy Love for organizing both days of tasty Teacher/Staff Conference Meals.

Also, thank you to all who donated money and food items: Brynn Andersen, Susan Anderson, Andrea Bashara, Jessica Becker, Rachel Betz, Sara Beyer, Lori Brunner-Buck, Michelle Burkman, Hilarie Calek, Kate Carlson, Becky Childers, Kresha Connolly, Kayla Engel, Lisa Fedde, Brenda Gamerl, Lori Graham, Jackie Hartman, Jennifer Hatten, Cary Hendricks, Shannon Hoegh, Mary Huard, Brenda Jennings, Lyndsy Johnson, Erika Kieckhafer, Theresa Kimmell, Traela Kloster, Kim LaGrange, Sara Lange, Sarah Larson, Debra Masters, Jennifer Mehaffey, Vicky Miller, Jen Ninete, Heather Oestmann, Alison Rasmussen, Maria Rath, Misty Reverts, Jill Richmond, Laure Schaerr, Melissa Schiessler, Judi Schnoor, Shannon Schultz, Stacy Schutte, Jen Sharar, Beth Sufficool, Erin Thomas, Kim Tobin, Christy Todd, Heather Traynor, Callie Vavra, Jen Waldo, Melinda Walters, Darbi Warden, Renee Welch, and Amy Zamora.

BOX TOPS: Thank you to Angela Sherrill who continues to get the BOX TOPS cut, counted and submitted. Every box top is 10 cents for our school. Each month, any child who submits 10 Box Tops to their Hi-5 Teacher in an envelope with the student's name on it, will get a chance to win \$10 CASH. So please bring in 10 Box Tops per month!

CONCESSIONS: A huge thank you to all concessions volunteers during football & volleyball. You have made a huge positive impact on our kids and our school by helping us raise Booster Club funds. Plus, it is a fun way to meet other parents! Please click the link to sign up for a shift during the basketball season. We need you!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eaba722aafd0-emswinter1>

Danielle Witt is coordinating our Holiday Hurrah again this year. Look for details in this newsletter.

APPAREL: Great Holiday Gift Idea! EMS Booster Club is excited to offer another apparel order! Some of the same items + NEW items, too! **This link will be open for orders NOV 6, and will close NOV 26.**

<https://cishirts.com/go/qmq4>

Items will be distributed to the students during school lunch before winter break.

**Is your order a surprise gift? Forward your order confirmation email to WendyMooreOmaha@aol.com to arrange delivery by an elf!

***Everyone is invited to the next Booster Club meeting on Thursday, November 2nd at 3:45 pm in the Media Center. ***



Holiday Hurrah 2017

The EMS Booster Club Elves are rolling out another year of *Holiday Hurrah!*

Holiday Hurrah is an opportunity for EMS families to recognize all of the EMS staff with special holiday cheer. (administrative, food service, janitorial, teachers, teacher assistants)

The “*Hurrah*” includes individual cards signed by students for each staff member. A monetary gift is included with each card and enclosed in a festively-wrapped, personalized envelope.

How does this magic happen?

1. On Thursday, November 30, an envelope will be sent home with students.
2. You choose the amount of your gift, **100%** of the gifts received will go to the EMS staff! The amount enclosed in each card is determined by equally dividing monetary gifts received from families.

Return your gift in the envelop provided to the “Hurrah Box” located in the EMS office by Tuesday, December 12th.

3. The Booster Club Elves will have **students sign cards** during lunch on Wednesday, December 6th.
4. On Wednesday, December 20th, the staff will receive their card/gift and enjoy holiday desserts in the teacher lunchroom.

Thank you for sharing in this special holiday tradition. Email questions to hartman32@cox.net or chad_heatherwitt@hotmail.com.

Happy Holidays

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.

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.





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!

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



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

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Health Screening 1:00—3:00 pm Chess Club- Rm 107 3:20-4:15	2 8 BB vs ERMS 4:15pm 7 BB @ ERMS 4:15 pm Booster Club Meeting 3:45 pm	3	4
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends TURN CLOCKS BACK	6 8BB vs Bennington @ 4:15 pm 7BB @ Bennington 4:15 pm	7 EMS 6th-8th Grade Vocal Concert 6:30 pm Computer Club- Group A 3:20-4:30	8 Chess Club- Rm 107 3:20-4:15	9 8 BB @ Waverly 4:15 pm 7 BB vs Waverly @ 4:15 pm	10	11
12	13 8 BB @ Blair Otto 4:15 pm 7 BB vs Blair Otto @ 4:15 pm	14 EMS 6th-8th Grade Band Concert 6:30 pm Computer Club- Group A 3:20-4:30	15 PROGRESS REPORTS MAILED HOME Chess Club- Rm 107 3:20-4:15	16 8 BB @ EGMS 4:15pm 7 BB vs EGMS 4:15 pm	17	18
19	20	21 Computer Club- Group A 3:20-4:30	22 One Hour Early Dismissal 2:20 pm	23 THANKSGIVING BREAK	24 THANKSGIVING BREAK	25
26	27	28 Computer Club- Group A 3:20-4:30	29 Chess Club- Rm 107 3:20-4:15	30 8 BB vs Norris 4:15 pm 7 BB @ Norris 4:15 pm		



Elkhorn Middle School

The "Classic" One

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