

July 31, 2009

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Elkhorn Middle School! I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer. The staff at EMS is ready for an exciting school year.

We want to welcome all new students and staff. This year we welcome new staff members: Molly Reese-7th grade, Ryan Chandler-Industrial Technology and Theresa Schaefer-Counselor.

One of our goals every year is to get you, the parents, involved in your child's education. Middle School is not a time to be pulling back. In fact, research will show that it is a critical time for parents to be involved and active in their child's life. They may act like they are pulling away from you, but in reality they need your guidance and support more than ever. Included in this mailing is a letter from the parent booster club. You may complete it and return it during pre-registration next week. There will be additional copies available if needed. Please take time to see how you can show your child that you are involved in supporting their school and that volunteering is important!

All of us at EMS are dedicated to serving you and your child. As the year progresses, I encourage you to call and talk with those who might be able to help. If your question deals with in-class events, please ask to speak with the teacher. If it deals with the overall program, curriculum or activities, please call the administration.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- 1) Athletic (Sport) Physicals Saturday **August 8** at Elkhorn High School from 7:30 am-10 am. Call 289-1688 to sign-up. Students need to bring \$20 (cash only) and a sealed urine sample.
- 2) Pre-Registration **August 11 and 12**. All Elkhorn Middle School students need to attend. School pictures will be taken. Please make every attempt to attend. Refer to the pre-registration flyer enclosed with this letter for details.

All students will receive an assignment book (agenda) during pre-registration. The agenda is an organizational tool that will help assist students on their way to success at Elkhorn Middle School. *One of the easiest and most effective ways to stay informed is to review your child's agenda with them on a nightly basis.* I encourage you to establish this routine with your children on the first day of school and not to deviate from it throughout the year. The Parent-Student Handbook which outlines the rules and regulations is also printed in the assignment book. The first page of the assignment book requires a parent/guardian signature indicating you have seen the handbook, an activity release form for your child to participate in school activities, and a place to indicate whether you grant permission for your child's photo (not name) to be published on the internet.

- 3) New Student Orientation will be Tuesday, **August 18** at 7:30 p.m. This is for all students and families new to the district. This will be an evening for you to familiarize yourself with the building, meet other new students, the administrators, and counselors.
- 4) Open House/Curriculum night is scheduled for Tuesday, **August 25** at 7:00 p.m. for all Middle School students and parents to meet teachers and learn about curriculum opportunities and team procedures.

## **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

School for all students will begin on Thursday, **August 20** at 8:15 a.m. An orientation for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be done on the first day of school with an alternative schedule designed for them. All **6<sup>th</sup> grade** students should report immediately to the gymnasium upon arrival to school the first day. Building tours, transitional activities and an extended lunch period will be a part of this orientation. If you feel your child needs additional time in the building prior to school starting, please give us a call to discuss those concerns.

**Seventh and eighth grade** students are asked to wait outside the Commons doors (East entrance) until the 8:07 a.m. bell. Seventh and eighth grades will then report to their first core class (Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Art, Reading, or Rotation 1). For 7<sup>th</sup> graders this will be the first hour class listed on your schedule and for 8<sup>th</sup> graders this will be your third hour class on your schedule. The first day will function as a normal school day and will end at 3:14 p.m. Lunches will be served and buses will run. If you have questions about bus transportation, please call Chief School Bus service, 392-2144 or Central Office, 289-2579.

## **COMMUNICATION**

We work, as a staff, to ensure that students and parents are informed. Please note, and look for, the following venues of communication during the course of the year:

- Newsletters every month – mailed and on the web ([elkhornweb.org](http://elkhornweb.org))
- PowerSchool – online access to your child's gradebook in each subject.
- Parent communication meetings.
- Parent Booster Club – sign up opportunities will be at **Open House, August 25.**
- 2 week grade updates sent home with your child.
- 4 ½ week progress reports sent home requiring a parent/guardian signature.
- 9 week report cards mailed home.

Parent-Teacher conferences – **October 27, 28 and February 16, 17.**

## **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

**All** Middle School students are required to provide evidence of having received a second dosage of the MMR vaccine before attending class.

**Seventh** grade students are required to have a physical exam as part of the entrance into 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This physical allows students to participate in athletics. All 7<sup>th</sup> graders must provide evidence of the following immunizations before attending classes this fall:

- Chicken Pox vaccine
- 3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT or TD vaccine with at least one dose at or after 4 years of age
- 3 doses polio vaccine
- 2 doses MMR vaccine with first dose at or after 12 months of age with the 2 doses separated by at least 28 days
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine

Mr. Zeplin, myself and the entire staff at EMS are committed to helping your child experience academic, social and emotional growth this year. With your support and involvement your child will learn! If you have any questions, at any time, don't hesitate to call us at 289-2428.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Tomjack, Principal

# **AUGUST PRE-REGISTRATION DAYS**

## **AUGUST 11 & 12, 2009**

Elkhorn Middle School will have registration days for all students before school starts. Dates & times for registration are:

August 11 - 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

August 12 - 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Students will arrive and proceed through a series of stations:

- 1) Pick-up Student Information Cards and make any necessary changes
- 2) Pick-up Student Agenda/Handbook and sign release form
- 3) Optional: Prepay for Yearbook (\$20.00) and Student Directory (\$5.00)
- 4) Athletic Information/Athletic Physical Forms, Activity Pass (\$25.00)  
Seventh and eighth graders will need an activity pass if you will be participating in sports.
- 5) Lunch Tickets
- 6) School pictures (Picture packets are optional, school yearbook photo-no charge)
- 7) Health Update Forms, School Physicals, Immunizations
- 8) Return signed Student Information Card & Field Trip Permission Slip
- 9) Pick-up student schedule
- 10) Questions/answers/tours

Volunteers are needed. If you are willing to help, please contact EMS Booster Club Co-Presidents Nancy Hart at 779-3258 or Michelle Pagliuca at 763-9189.

### **SMILE!**

**School pictures will be taken during pre-registration. Please dress accordingly.**



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE 2009/2010 SCHOOL YEAR

The following student supply list is provided to assist you this summer and early fall to prepare for the school year. Students are encouraged, but not required, to bring the following school supplies.

<u>6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE</u>	<u>7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE</u>	<u>8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE</u>
<p><b>Math</b> Math Notebook Book cover - no stretch 1 pocket folder</p> <p><b>Science</b> 4 pkgs. of note cards 3 pkgs. Loose leaf paper Science Notebook</p> <p><b>Language Arts</b> 1½-2” binder with clear overlay front cover 5 Tab dividers Book cover</p> <p><b>Reading</b> Reading Notebook 2 Reading pocket folders Book cover – no stretch</p> <p><b>Social Studies</b> Social Studies Notebook 1 pocket folder Book cover – no stretch</p> <p><b>Other Supplies</b> Pencils, blue and black pens, Red pens, 2 boxes of Tissues, markers, Colored Pencils, highlighters, Crayons.</p>	<p>Book Covers – no stretch Fraction-key calculator Blue or black pens Colored pencils Markers Metric ruler Trapper or organizer Loose leaf college ruled paper (6) Pocket folders for Trapper/Organizer 1” or 1 ½” Three ring notebook for portfolios 3 boxes of tissues Pencil case or carrier with 3-ring hole (1) Pack of note cards #2 Pencils (3-4) Spiral notebooks 4 pack dry erase markers (2) Packets of dividers for 3 ring binders</p>	<p><b>Reading</b> Large book cover-no stretch (2) Two pocket folders (2) single subject spiral notebooks Highlighter Post-its</p> <p><b>History</b> Large book cover-no stretch Thin-tipped white board marker (1) ½” 3 ring binder</p> <p><b>Language Arts</b> Book cover-may have the stretchy ones 2” binder to stay in the classroom 5 dividers Loose-leaf paper 1 package 3 x 5 note cards</p> <p><b>Math</b> Large book cover-no stretch Fraction key calculator Math notebook</p> <p><b>Science</b> Large book cover-no stretch Science notebook and folder with pouches 3-ring 1” binder with paper</p> <p><b>Other Supplies</b> #2 pencils                      Blue or black pens Red pens                        Pencil bag 2 Boxes of tissues            Headphones with 1/8” jack Colored pencils              Large glue stick Highlighter 5                  Pocket folder for Health</p>

**Band Students and Chorus Students:** EMS Music Department T-shirt,  
Black slacks, black socks and shoes.

**PE Students:** Tennis shoes, t-shirt with sleeves, shorts which are mid-thigh length, No sagging. (Must participate in athletics to be eligible for an athletic locker.)

**Feeling out of the loop?**

**It is a challenge for Middle School parents to know how or where to fit in at school. Come get answers to your questions, get involved, and feel in the loop by joining us at the Parent Booster Club meetings. We meet in the Library at 6:30 p.m. just prior to the Parent Communication Meetings with Mr. Tomjack, on the first Thursday evening of the month.**

**2009-2010  
Parent Booster Meetings**

**October 1  
November 5  
December 3  
February 4  
March 4  
April 8**

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**(Tear off and return bottom half to Booster Club Table)  
How can you get involved at EMS?**

**Parent's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Name and Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Health Screenings (help Health Administration 2 times a year with screenings)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yearbook (help put Yearbook together September-March need to be available during day)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Kindness/Cookie Committee (acknowledge teacher birthdays and other events)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fundraisers (help tabulate and check orders during fundraisers)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mentoring/Tutoring (aid students in various subjects, scheduling is flexible)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Basketball Tournament (help organize, take admissions, or work concession stands)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Concession Stand (staff concession stand during 7th and 8th grade sporting events)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Conference Meals (provide food for teachers during Parent/Teacher conferences)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Help with 6th grade field trips and/or activities**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Help with 7th grade field trips and/or activities**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Help with 8th grade field trips and/or activities**

**What time of the day are you available to help?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What day or days work best for you?** \_\_\_\_\_

## 8th-11th Grade Registration 2010-2011

Please mark your calendars! Beginning in August 2010, Elkhorn Public Schools will have two high schools— Elkhorn High School and Elkhorn South High School. In preparation, all 8th through 11th grade students will be pre-registering for the 2010-2011 school year in the fall of 2009. It is necessary to pre-register all students at this time so administrators will have ample time to plan for courses, section numbers and personnel at each high school.

*Each grade level will have a parent meeting to discuss registration for the 2010-2011 school year. These meetings will include parents from both high schools and both middle schools. All Parent Night Power Points will be posted on the EHS Counseling Center website under "Parent Resources".*

### 8TH GRADE INFORMATION

September 8/9: Counselors visit the middle schools with curriculum information

September 9: Parent Curriculum Night at 7:00 p.m. in the EHS Auditorium

**8th Grade Registration:** October 7, 2009—Elkhorn High School

At 6:15 p.m., eighth graders and their parents will participate in our "freshmen orientation". They will meet a high school advisor and complete the initial registration for high school during the activities that evening.

**Curriculum Guides 2010-2011:** The curriculum guides for both high schools will be available on the EHS website ([www.elkhornweb.org](http://www.elkhornweb.org)) early in the fall. This may be helpful in your discussions with your students as you look at their four-year plans and what they plan to register for on October 7.

## RUNNING CLUB

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year this fall, EMS will provide a running club for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students **must have a physical and parent consent form** to practice and participate. A parent meeting will take place on Monday August 24<sup>th</sup> (6:00 p.m.) at ERMS. More information can be picked up at registration or you can contact Mrs. Horner through e-mail at [shorner@epsne.org](mailto:shorner@epsne.org).



### **REGISTER NOW FOR BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE!**

**Licensed/Supervised Care • Games • Crafts • Play • Fun • Morning & Afternoon Snacks**

Before and after school licensed childcare is available for elementary students ages 5 through 12 at each Elkhorn elementary school. **Elkhorn Kids Campus** is operated by the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation. Its mission is to provide a high quality, developmentally appropriate program for school-aged children. The daily program of the Elkhorn Kids Campus includes supervised activity centers, physical recreation, arts and crafts and snacks. The hours of the program are 6:30 a.m. to the start of the school day and after school to 6:00 PM. Full day childcare is available on days when school is closed for teacher in-service or student holidays.

Space is limited – early registration is encouraged! Registration information can be obtained online at [www.elkhornfoundation.org](http://www.elkhornfoundation.org), or by contacting the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation at 289-1727.

**We are also currently developing a program to offer after school care for Middle School students. For further information regarding this childcare option, please call the Foundation office at 289-1727.**