

“CLASSIC” COMMUNIQUE'

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QSP Fundraiser Kickoff

Our magazine fundraiser will begin September 17. This is an extremely important fundraiser for Elkhorn Middle School and we encourage all parents and relatives to do what they can to support EMS. This fundraiser is becoming more crucial due to substantial cuts in other revenue sources. Students are not encouraged to go door-to-door but are encouraged to contact friends and relatives for support. You can purchase new magazine subscriptions or renew existing titles even if your subscription is not due for renewal at this time. We would really like to target sales via email/internet. We want to encourage everyone to utilize the on-line email campaign this year. Please refer to the flyer attached to this newsletter for further details. LET'S SET A RECORD THIS YEAR!!

WELCOME BACK!

TAILGATE PARTY

On Friday, September 4, all middle school students will participate in a tailgate party at the stadium. This is an annual event that coincides with the first home varsity football contest. The schedule always includes behavior expectations of middle school students at the Friday night football games, sportsmanship, the Antler fight song, guest appearances from the varsity cheerleaders, and prizes – prizes – prizes! Students will eat at the stadium before returning to class.



WELCOME NEW STAFF!

We would like to welcome our new staff members to EMS this year.

Molly Reese—7th grade Science and Math

Ryan Chandler—Industrial Technology

Teri Schaefer—Counselor

They are all off to a great start at EMS!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Elkhorn Middle School is in their final year of the current school improvement cycle. Our school wide goal will continue to be on vocabulary skills. Grade level teams will be developing goals associated with reading vocabulary. Grade level/department teams will also be meeting with their colleagues from Elkhorn Ridge Middle School on a regular basis throughout the year to ensure we are delivering a guaranteed curriculum to all middle school students. This collaborative work with ERMS focuses on 3 critical questions:

1. What is it we want students to learn?

What are the essential skills in every subject?

2. How do we know if they have learned it?

Do we have common assessments in both middle schools so teachers can analyze how their students did in comparison to the group. This lends itself to professional conversations that center on effective teaching strategies.

3. How do we respond if they do not learn?

Do we have directive vs. invitational support built into the school day to help those students that struggle?

HYVEE—SMILES FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our school has the opportunity to win up to \$5,000 through Hy-Vee's "Smiles for Education" program. Each week for ten weeks, Hy-Vee will hold a drawing to select ten winning students, for a total of 100 winners by the end of the program. Each of those students will receive a laptop computer, and each of their schools will receive a donation of \$5,000 from Hy-Vee. Winning schools and students may also be featured on the local TV news.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3

1. Register each week at your Hy-Vee or Hy-Vee Drugstore
 - * One student (K-12)
 - * One School (K-12)
 - * Customer Name and Contact information
2. Shop and save with "Smiles for Education" products in our special "Smiles for Education" section of the weekly advertisement
3. 10 winners will be drawn each week for 10 weeks
 - * Student will receive a laptop computer
 - * School will receive a check for \$5,000

ADULT MENTOR PROGRAM

"One hundred years from now...it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but that the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Reflect back to your middle school/junior high school years. For many of us, it was a time of stress, uncertainty, and many self-esteem issues. Friendships or lack of friendships, emotions, conflicts, and rumors were constant. Imagine having another adult to interact with, help with school work, and just be supportive. You can make a huge difference in a child's life by being a mentor.

If you, or someone you know, would make a good mentor, please contact Deb Wesch, counselor at EMS. The program is very flexible and we will work with you on scheduling a time that works best for you and your mentee.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

September will be a busy month for the staff and students as we will practice several emergency drills. In addition to fire drills, we will also practice an emergency evacuation to an alternative site. We want our students and staff to be as prepared as possible in the event of a real crisis.

FIRST PARENT COMMUNICATION/BOOSTER CLUB MEETING

Please mark your calendar to attend the first Booster Club and Parent Communication Meeting on Thursday, October 1st. The Booster Club meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the Parent Communication Meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.. Both meetings will be held in the media center. We would love to hear feedback from our parents about the start of the school year and any concerns that we can address or correct. We will also offer tours at the end of the meeting for those to see all the new renovations that have occurred to the school over the summer. All meeting dates for the year can be found in the district activities calendar.

LIFETOUCH PICTURE RETAKES – SEPTEMBER 11

If students did not make it to pre-registration or would like a retake, please come prepared on September 11th. Pictures must be paid for in advance to receive printed pictures.

6TH GRADE NEWS

MRS. BAUMERT, MRS. BLOMENKAMP, MRS. CRAWFORD, MRS. GRAGERT, MS. PHELPS, MR. PRIESSLER, MRS. SMITH

Reading - In reading, students will begin the month by working out of the textbook by focusing on the elements of a story. They will also be introduced to prefixes and suffixes. Reading students will be taking STAR tests over the next few weeks to determine reading levels. Please ask your child(ren) for results.

Math 6 – Students will start by working on problem solving skills. They will also be focusing on the use of basic math facts in their class.

Pre-Concepts – Pre-Concepts students will begin the year by working with decimals. This will be used with reviewing place value. Students will then move on to the use of basic operations.

Social Studies – Students started the year by creating a map of their neighborhood. Students have also been reviewing their geography knowledge through daily warm ups. Next, social studies classes will be focusing on the different levels of government.

Science – In science, students will be working on the scientific process.

Language Arts- Language Arts students are currently working on a unit dealing with subjects, predicates, and sentences. They will then move on to writing quality paragraphs and the six traits of writing. Weekly spelling units will begin soon, so ask your child(ren) for their weekly list.

7TH GRADE NEWS

MR. BLUHM, MRS. BODYFIELD, MS. LUTES, MRS. KUDRNA, MR. ORTMEIER, MRS. PILKINGTON, MRS. REESE

In World History, Mr. Bluhm & Ms. Lutes will start out the year teaching students about early civilization.

For Language Arts, Ms. Lutes & Mr. Ortmeier will begin grammar instruction and will discuss the six traits of writing. Students will also learn and practice the keys to writing a good paragraph.

Mrs. Pilkington & Mrs. Reese will work with Math 7 students on decimals and problem-solving, and will be introducing algebraic concepts. Pre-Algebra students will be studying the different tools they will use as they study algebra. Students can expect to have Math homework almost daily with quizzes given after every three to five lessons.

In Science, Mrs. Bodyfield & Mrs. Reese will begin the year by having students learn and practice skills they will need to succeed in Science. These include problem-solving, following directions, making observations, and working in groups. We will then be moving into our first textbook unit, Motion and Forces.

For Reading, Mr. Ortmeier & Mrs. Kudrna will start the year by having students read the first nonfiction novel, THE ACORN PEOPLE, which will include a group project. We will then be moving into our short story unit; homework will be more frequent during this unit due to questions over each story in the textbook. As far as the AR program, students will have a point goal for 1st quarter, but that will be determined after students have taken the STAR test to determine their reading levels. Please be sure to check with your children at home and ask them what they are currently reading to work towards their AR goal. They should be reading approximately 30 minutes per day, which totals to approximately 200 minutes for the entire week. Be looking for reading logs; they require a parent/guardian signature once per week.

We look forward to a great year!! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

MRS. LANT

Half of the seventh graders are currently in their Family and Consumer Science rotation. The other half will have FCS as their last rotation. Family and Consumer Science is delivered in a modular setting. Students will complete three modules in related areas of FCS such as food preparation and nutrition, sewing and clothing care, interior design, child care, fashion and textiles and families. Each student will have one module that includes cooking and nutrition. All middle school students complete a sewing project, but not all in the same year. Some of the students will complete a pillow project this year, some students made a pillow last year, and some will sew in 8th grade. As a whole class, we will learn about kitchen safety and sanitation, measuring ingredients, money management and basic clothing maintenance skills.

CHARACTER

*Watch your thoughts;
they become words.*

*Watch your words, they
become actions.*

*Watch your actions,
they become habits.*

*Watch your habits, they
become character.*

*Watch your character,
it becomes your
destiny.*

Frank Outlaw

8TH GRADE NEWS

MR. BEARD, MS. EVERLY, MR. HULTMAN, MRS. RASTOVSKI,
MS. WITT

Welcome back to school! We are looking forward to having your student on our team. We would like to take this opportunity to lay the groundwork for a successful year. Please review the student handbook with your child and become familiar with it, paying particular attention to the following areas:

Grades from the Middle School will become a part of the students' permanent records and will help to determine classes for which they will be eligible in Senior High. Homework is expected to be handed in when it is due.

School-wide Progress Reports will be distributed on the following dates:

September 23

November 25

February 16

April 21

Envelopes containing these grades will be sent home with your student and require parental signature and prompt return to your student's 3rd hour teacher.

Please check the supply list on page 28 of the student handbook. It is essential for the students to have these supplies for progress to be made.

Regular attendance is necessary for success. **If you anticipate a lengthy absence, please contact the office and teachers in advance for upcoming assignments.** Students who complete work prior to absences have an easier transition upon their return.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

HALE NEWS

MRS. KLEIN

September HALE opportunities:

7th grade DUKE TIP qualifiers: students with a 95 in one of the areas on the Stanford 10, will be eligible to take the ACT test or SAT test. Students that are eligible will be notified with a letter.

Math Mondays (6-8 grades)

Adventures in Poetry (6,7 grades)

Readers Theater Around the World (6-8 grades)

Battle of the Books meeting (6-8 grades)

Start Future Cities or LEGOS Competition (7, 8 grades)

CHORUS NEWS

MRS. WORTMAN

It is looking like another great year in vocal music. We have already started testing the voices to see how they have changed over the summer.

Be watching for the chorus letter which gives information on all chorus concert dates and concert attire. The t-shirt form is with the letter.

Show Choir tryouts for all 7th and 8th chorus students interested in auditioning will be Thursday, September 17 at 7:15 a.m. in the Chorus room.

Remember, watch for your chorus letter for all the important information on 6, 7 and 8th Chorus and "Classics" Show Choir.

DISCOVERY CENTER NEWS

MS. HARTMAN

The Elkhorn district media centers have a new library management system this year. During the first two weeks of the school year we will be helping students make the transition from our old system to Follett Destiny. Students and parents will be able to access information on library holdings from home, make requests for books, and personalize their own library checkout information. This link can be found on our library web page at <http://www.elkhornweb.org/schools/ems/mediacenterems/>

ANTLER ACADEMY

EMS will again have the opportunity to offer a structured program for 7th and 8th graders that will provide more time and support for students in need of homework assistance. We will offer a small teacher-to-student ratio for homework help on WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS for those students who were not able to get the previous week's homework completed. Teacher's will review student progress every Friday and submit student names who still have missing homework, for the week, to Antler Academy. Parents will be notified on Monday and students will be scheduled to attend both Antler Academies on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY of that week. These would be mandatory assignments. If your student is not able to attend their assigned session(s), parents are asked to contact Mr. Zeplin directly to make alternative arrangements.

We are also considering voluntary homework help locations one day a week before or after school that students may attend to complete homework and avoid Antler Academy assignments. We hope this program will provide an additional set of supports to help your child experience success. Parental support has been outstanding since we started this program and we hope it continues to be a strength this year. Please look for a separate letter in the mail soon with specific details, and changes, to the program.

PREREGISTRATION THANK YOU'S

We had another successful preregistration before school began this fall. It would not have been possible without the help of many of our great EMS parents. Thanks go out to the following parents for donating their time:

Michelle Pagliuca, Ann, Lauren and Logan Paasch, Jill Uleman, SuZanne Rogers, Julie McKenzie, Meg & Lance Greteman, Renee Berger, Lori Cameron, Jen Janvrin, Jennifer Lerner, Dionne Housley, Rachelle Epp, Janet Seagren, Kim Michael, Ginger Avery, and Annie Haner.

OFFICE DEPOT BACK TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Office Depot is offering our school an opportunity to earn 5% back on qualifying products. Each time you make a purchase at Office Depot, please present our ID # 7006385. Five percent will be applied to Elkhorn Middle School. Thanks for participating!

SPORTS INFORMATION

For the most current and up-to-date information, please check our information at: www.highschoolsports.net. You can then navigate your way to whichever sport and level of play you are interested in! We will update the information at the website FIRST!

WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

The 2010 Washington D.C. trip will take place March 25 - 27.

There will be an informational meeting on September 22 at 4:30 p.m. in the Discovery Center at EMS. If you are unable to make it to the meeting, please contact Mr. Glover - dglover@epsne.org or by phone at 289-2428.

BAND NEWS

MR. JOHNSON

Welcome! – Welcome back to an exciting school year. As many of you know, I missed the first 2 days of school because my wife was having our 2nd child. I apologize if I have missed any communications or returned phone calls or emails. I will work diligently to reach every parent and student who wishes to communicate with me as we embark on this new school year. As in past years, Mrs. Elizabeth Guinn and Dr. Michelle Bluford from EHS will be providing a great deal of assistance with pullout lessons and additional support for all 3 grades this year. Please welcome and thank them for all their help.

Jazz Band – Our Superior rated EMS “Classic” Jazz Band will hold auditions on Wednesdays, September 30 and October 7 and 14, beginning at 7:20 AM. This group is open to any and all 7th and 8th grade band students, regardless of instrument. Any interested students will be expected to attend all 3 audition dates. No limits will be placed on wind instruments, but there will be some limits on rhythm section players (drum set, piano, keyboard bass, guitar). Interested students should be working in, or already completed, the Standard of Excellence Book 2 (or equivalent). Following the auditions, weekly rehearsals will begin October 21 and continue on Wednesdays through November. Beginning on November 9, the group will also rehearse on Mondays, also at 7:20 AM. More information will be available in a letter sent home with students in a few weeks.

November 3 Concert – On Tuesday, November 3, all the band students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be performing their first concert of the year. It will take place in the EMS gym and starts at 7:30 PM. All students will be expected to arrive in the EMS music rooms at 7:00 PM for warm-ups. Please come to encourage your students and enjoy a fabulous concert. Concert attire will be expected for all students and will include: black pants, black socks, black shoes, and the EMS “Noteworthy” t-shirt. This shirt may be purchased through either Mr. Johnson or Mrs. Wortman for \$8. Forms will be sent home in a few weeks.

Practice Records – We are off to the start of another wonderful school year. One of the areas of emphasis for this year, and a portion of every student’s grade, is 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 a minimum of an hour a week for all students. For 6th graders, we encourage 10-15 minutes per day throughout the 1st semester. 7th and 8th graders should practice at least 20-30 minutes as often as possible. To encourage this home practice, we have supplied every student with a quarterly practice record form. Every student should record all their times on this form and have parents sign this form at the end of every weekend. We also encourage parents to listen to their students when they practice and encourage them in their musical pursuits.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Please check with your students on Wednesday, September 23 for first quarter progress reports. They should arrive in a large manila envelope. We ask that you keep the progress reports, sign the envelope and have your student return it to the office. Being proactive and asking your student before they show it to you sends a powerful message that you are active in their education and care about their performance. Thanks for all your support.



Our Annual Fall Magazine Fundraiser is just around the corner!

Each fall, we kick-off our Magazine Subscription Fundraiser to benefit our students. The success of the program depends on your participation.

We will be kicking off our fundraiser on **SEPTEMBER 17th**, so be on the lookout for your student's packet. Inside will be all the information on the 3 ways that students can participate.

However, you can get started right now!

Save Time. Go Online.

Go to www.qsp.com. Enter account number **#425007973**. Renew your current magazine subscriptions and/or order new subscriptions on-line.

While at www.qsp.com you can also spread the word to further support **Elkhorn Middle School**, by emailing friends and family anywhere in the country and inviting them to take advantage of our special offers.

Although the kickoff is not until Sept.17th, starting **TODAY**, all internet orders will count towards prizes!!!

All "People Magazine" orders count double for prizes!

