

“CLASSIC” COMMUNIQUE

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CALENDAR CHANGES/SNOW DAYS

Thursday, February 18 was originally scheduled as an In-Service Day. Due to the number of excessive snow days this winter, it will now be changed to a regular student day.

Friday, February 19 will stay as a comp day for teachers with no school for students. Also, **Tuesday, April 6** was scheduled as a vacation day. This day will now change to a regular student day.

If you have any questions regarding the changes, please do not hesitate to call the office at 289-2428.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

This semester, Elkhorn Middle School will hold student/parent/teacher conferences on February 16 and 17. We will again utilize the Student-Led Conference format. We are requesting last names beginning with N-Z attend conferences on February 16 and last names beginning with A-M attend on February 17. If you have a conflict with those dates, feel free to attend the opposite evening.

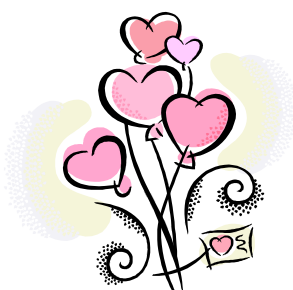
If you have any questions about conferences, please contact a team teacher. On the evening of conferences, please stop at the information table in the main hall to pick up your child’s progress report before heading to your conference. Conference locations will be as follows: 6th grade-Gym, 7th grade-Classrooms, and 8th grade—Commons.

ADVANCED DISTRICT ACCREDITATION

Elkhorn Public Schools is seeking District Accreditation and recently had an external team of educators visit the district for three days. The external team spent a day at the central office then split up and visited each school, followed by a day to review findings and write a preliminary report. While in our building, an external team member had interviews with the school improvement leadership team, a teacher group, student group, support staff, and parents. We would like to thank our student representatives for the outstanding job they did during their interview. They are: Tyler Bromm, Austin Pfeil, Kelly Petersen, Alex Janvrin, Jacob Carlson, Andrew Aulner, Hunter Traynor and Riley Hunzeker. We would also like to thank Renee Berger, Ray Grace, Denise Bond, Carrie Gottsch, Jenny Oligmueller, Ronda Bowdino and Tracy Enholm for representing the parents of EMS and taking time out of their day to come be a part of this important process. The external team gave an oral exit report on Wednesday, January 27 at the high school. The team will be recommending that the District receives accreditation status. Thanks to ALL for your hard work and support of Elkhorn Public Schools!

TRAFFIC FLOW

We would like to thank all parents for their cooperation in keeping traffic flowing properly during the peak traffic hours before and after school. Safety is always our number one concern at EMS. Parents are reminded that the bus loop is reserved for buses only from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. and again after school from 3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.



EARLY DISMISSALS

There will be an one hour early dismissal on February 16 and 17 due to Parent/Teacher Conferences.

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school for students on Friday, February 19.

APPROPRIATE COLD WEATHER DRESS

As all of you are aware, we have had some very bitterly cold days in January. For the safety of all our students, please remind your child to make sure they have appropriate clothing on when going to or from the school building. This includes, coats, gloves, hats, long pants and appropriate footwear. **PLEASE DRESS WARM!!**

SPECIAL THANKS!

Special thanks goes out to the parents who helped with our recent Hearing Screenings: Kimn Fagervik, Sheri Trapp, Edith Hummel, Ronda Bowdino, Rachel Epp, Jeannie Franson, Courtney Heisey and Dionne Housley.

Another huge thanks to our Kindness Committee for providing lunch and treats during the holidays. It was all wonderful!

HUGE FUNDRAISER-WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The 9th annual Antler Hoops is scheduled for March 19-21. We are asking EMS families to donate items for the concessions so we may turn a 100% profit on these items. We are asking for each grade level to donate the following specified items if possible:

6th Grade—case of 20 oz. Powerade (not Gatorade) Blue, Red or Orange drink Bottles.

7th Grade—Last names starting with A-M—Package of full size candy bars
Last names starting with N-Z—Box of skittles, Starburst or Ring Pops

8th Grade—Cash donations to purchase concession items such as: hot dogs, buns, nachos, etc.

We will also need many volunteers to help the weekend of the tournament. If you are willing to help for a couple of hours in some capacity, you may contact Mr. Tomjack at mtomjack@epsne.org.

SPRING PICTURES

Spring pictures are scheduled for Wednesday, February 24 at 8:30 a.m. Your child will have their picture taken but will not be required to pay or purchase them unless you choose. Families and pre-school kids are welcome to come to the middle school to have their pictures taken also. You will not be under any obligation to purchase those pictures. EMS gets a kickback from Life Touch for every picture taken, so.....SMILE and SAY CHEESE!

IMPORTANT DATE

Please mark your calendars: February 4 there will be a Booster Club Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. followed by a Parent Communication Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Library.

ANTLER ACADEMY PROGRAM

Just a reminder, if your child is not able to attend an assigned session of Antler Academy, parents need to contact Mr. Zeplin and discuss the reason prior to your child's assigned session. Parent support has been excellent, and we encourage you to continue to make every effort to have your student(s) attend when necessary. The message should be very clear that learning is the top priority at school.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards for second quarter were mailed out on January 20. If you did not receive your child's report cards, please give us a call at 289-2428.

CELL PHONE/HEADPHONE POLICY

We understand that cell phones are a part of today's society. EMS is not blind to the need to keep track of your children. We do discourage cell phones at school, if at all possible. If your child needs to carry a phone, we ask the following of you and your child:

- 1) cell phones should be turned off during school hours and kept in lockers
- 2) all communication with your child during school hours should be through the office.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in protecting the educational environment and allowing our students to focus on learning. Our policy with headphones/MP3 players/ipods is the same. These devices can be very distracting to the learning environment and can also be lost, stolen, or broken here at school. At this time, the only students allowed to have such devices in class are 8th grade students. We thank you for your cooperation in monitoring these situations as your child leaves the house each morning.

For complete details on our school policy, please refer to Page 25 of our Student Handbook.

STANFORD 10 TESTING WINDOW

All EMS students will be taking the Stanford 10 Achievement tests sometime between April 1 – April 17. All students in the district take these yearly. It gives teachers and administrators another means to measure student achievement. These are very important tests for your students and our school. We want to encourage students to do their best and show what they are capable of. More information will follow in future newsletters.

NSAA SETS TRANSFER DEADLINE

Transfer students who submit transfer paperwork by March 15th are granted immediate eligibility in the fall, providing the school to which they transfer notifies the NSAA about the transfer in writing, postmarked no later than March 15th. These transfer eligibility guidelines are applicable for enrollment option students and students who transfer from public-to-private, private-to-public, private-to-private, intra-district, or from out of state.

The NSAA will again be sending a form to all schools on which they school can report transfers to the NSAA. Schools are encouraged to meet that March 15 reporting deadline for students to be immediately eligible in the fall. Failure by the school to notify the NSAA by March 15 will result in the transfer student being ineligible for 90 school days at the time of the transfer.

NOTE: Elkhorn requires all incoming students to live within our school district boundaries.

EMS SCHOOL STORE OPEN

Our School Store is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during High 5. School supplies are available to purchase with cash or with "Antler Bucks or Doe" which can be earned through Hi5's. Students who are running short on school supplies are encouraged to replenish them via the school store.

WEB LINK FOR ACTIVITIES

[http:// www.highschoolsports.net/default3.cfm?scm=1&1tc=1&otc=1&ptc=1&school=NE6802213457](http://www.highschoolsports.net/default3.cfm?scm=1&1tc=1&otc=1&ptc=1&school=NE6802213457)

The above link will take parents directly to the EPS quick link for the HS calendar. From the bottom of this page, you can also navigate your way to the MS activities pages. Parents, please be advised, the Activity Calendar that comes out of Central Office is printed in May, and often times has outdated information.

OFFICE DEPOT 5% BACK TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Every time parents, students and school supporters give our school's 5% Back to Schools ID number when buying qualifying school supplies at Office Depot, our school receives credits equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for free supplies. Our school ID Number is **70063835**.

Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

DISTRICT SPELLING BEE

Recently we had grade level spelling bees at EMS. Each grade level will send three students to the district wide competition. The district spelling bee will be held at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School on Thursday, February 4.



6TH GRADE NEWS

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

Math 6 students will be working on the operations of fractions. The Pre-Concept class will be focusing on fractions, decimals, and percentages.

In Reading, students will be doing fluency samples toward the end of the month. The next AR goal is due February 15 and please be aware that each 6th grade student is required to read and test over a non-fiction book for this goal. The class will also read the novel The Education of Little Tree. They finish off the quarter by working on a memoir project.

Social studies will begin the month by focusing on the physical geography, history, and geography of Canada. The students will then move onto the concept of the first Americans.

Science students will be studying viruses, bacteria, and protists. These concepts will wrap up the third quarter.

In Language Arts, the focus will be put upon the use of prepositions. The students will also be putting their efforts into a biography writing. Please be prepared to work with your child on the project. Weekly spelling units will also be implemented in the class.

7TH GRADE NEWS

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

In Science, 7th graders are working on the Inside Earth unit. In this unit, we study the layers of the Earth and the theory of Plate Tectonics. Students investigate how processes occurring inside the Earth affect the surface and also learn about earthquakes and volcanoes.

In Language Arts, we are beginning a unit on editing and revising. This project will complete the District Writing Assessment that prepares students for the 8th grade State Assessment. We will finish the month of February working in our grammar text. We will be covering subject complements (Direct Object, Indirect Object, Predicate Nominative, and Predicate Adjective). This unit was briefly touched on in 6th grade, but it will be expanded on a great deal.

In World History, we are studying the Middle Ages. We will be learning about social structures, knights, castles, etc. of Western Europe. We are currently working on a Middle Ages project in which the students are doing different activities in order to earn a certain amount of points. The students are really enjoying it and are working hard to make sure they are neatly done.

In 7th Grade Reading, we will be exploring the novel "Farewell to Manzanar" by Jeanne Wakatsuki, which deals with the Japanese internment camps during World War II. We will be looking into the reasons the government had for these camps and discussing the lives of those who had to endure this stage of America's history. We will be doing projects at the culmination of the novel that ties in the present to the past, and deals with the recurring themes of the novel. If your family has any historical information from your family history that your child could share about this time period with our classes, please contact Mr. Ortmeier or Mr. Shaw (Mrs. Kudrna).

Math classes are finishing up Chapter 5: Fractions, Decimals, and Percents. Ask your student about the fun games of "Go Fish" that we have played in class (we use that game to find the **G**reatest Common **F**actor). After completing Ch. 5 we will be working with fractions in Chapter 6 (my favorite!) We will spend a lot of time in this chapter to help us prepare for the Stanford 10 test coming in early April.

Pre-Algebra classes recently finished Chapter 5: Rational Numbers. The end of the chapter included solving equations with both fractions and decimals and, as always, integers were included. Chapter 6 includes ratios, proportions and percents (my favorite!).

8TH GRADE NEWS

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

February is a busy month for us. Student Led Conferences will be held February 16th and 17th. We hope you all attend and see what your students have been doing. Mid-term reports will be given at that time. Current exploratory rotations, computer technology, will end February 12th. Students will start Family and Consumer Science on February 15th for their next rotation.

In Language Arts, we will be starting our second State Standard Research Project. This will be similar to the one in October. However, this one will involve science state standards as well as Language Arts.

In Science we will be studying genetics. We have a student teacher Bridget Czaplewski.

In History, we will be finishing the Civil War assessments. We will then cover Expansion in the late 1800’s.

In Pre-Algebra, we will be starting Geometry. In Algebra we will be solving quadratic equations. We have a student teacher Livvi Bechtold.

In Reading, we will be finishing our first novel study of The Call of the Wild and beginning second semester vocabulary.

8TH GRADE CAREER AWARENESS WEEK AT EMS

The week of Jan. 25th-29th was a week of career activities for our 8th graders. Tuesday in Mrs.Rastovski’s and Mrs. Everly’s classes, Mrs. Wesch presented on Nebraska Career Connections. Wednesday and Thursday , the computer lab was used for students to take a couple of career inventories. Parents will see the results of the tests in the 8th graders’ portfolios during conferences in February. Friday, career speakers presented in the afternoon.

Presenters who gave of their time and talents were:

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| Rolly Kleeman/Physical Therapist | Sarah Lynch & Mark Adamson/Pro Cuts |
| Captain Dooley/Omaha Fire Department | Ken Lant/Douglas County Sheriff’s Department |
| Dan Radicia/EHS Administrator | Janet Fidler/Arbor Counseling |
| Jodi Infante/Banking Operations | George Lerner/Pharmacist |
| Michelle Reagan/Graphic Designer | Dr. Thomas Doble/Plastic & Recon. Surgeon |
| Jeff Haak/Military Serviceman | Rob Georgi, FBI career |
| Teri Culbertson/Nurse | Dr. Paul Dritley/Veterinarian |
| Jamee Johnston/Occupational Therapy | Linsey Lisowj/Interior Design |

DISCOVERY CENTER NEWS

MS. HARTMAN

February 8th-17th we will be hosting our second Scholastic Book Fair. The fair will be open during the school day and also during parent teacher conferences. During the 8th-17th the library will provide contests and activities to encourage student participation and excitement for reading. We will also be recruiting student volunteers to help during the school day and during the evenings of conferences. Please feel free to stop in anytime to see the newest and most popular titles for middle school students.

CHORUS NEWS

MRS. WORTMAN

Upcoming dates to remember!

SHOW CHOIR

- Saturday, February 26 - Due to a date change, the Show Choir will not be performing on Saturday, February 26.
- Thursday, March 18—5th and 6th grade concert at EMS at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 19—Malcolm—all day (more information coming at a later date)
- Friday, March 26—Midland Lutheran College in Fremont—all day

8TH GRADE CHORUS

- Thursday, February 11—7th and 8th grade concert at EMS at 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 23—8th and 9th grade Concert with ERMS and High School in the High School auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

BAND NEWS

MR. JOHNSON

February 11 Concert – On Thursday, February 12, the EMS 7th and 8th grade bands and choirs will be performing their 2nd concert of the year. The concert will take place in the EMS gym starting at 7:30 PM. Students will need to report to the music rooms at 7:00 for warm-ups. Dress for this and all other concerts is black shoes, black socks, black pants, and their white EMS “Noteworthy” t-shirts (tucked in!)

March 15 Concert – On Monday, March 15, the 8th grade band will be performing in a concert at EHS. Also performing at this concert will be the ERMS 8th grade bands and both EHS bands. In addition, each 8th grade band will combine with a high school band on a selection. The concert will take place in the EHS auditorium starting at 7:30 PM. Students will need to report to the EHS chorus room at 7:00 for warm-ups. Dress for this and all other concerts is black shoes, black socks, black pants, and their white EMS “Noteworthy” t-shirts (tucked in!)

March 18 Concert – On Thursday, March 18, the EMS 6th grade band and chorus students, as well as the Show Choir and Jazz Band, will be performing their 2nd concert of the year. Joining us at this concert will be the 5th grade students from Hillrise, Manchester, and Westridge elementary schools playing their recorders. The concert will take place in the EMS gym starting at 7:30 PM. Students will need to report to the music rooms at 7:00 for warm-ups. Dress for this and all other concerts is black shoes, black socks, black pants, and their white EMS “Noteworthy” t-shirts (tucked in!)

Malcolm Music Contest – On Friday, March 19, the 7th and 8th grades band students and many chorus students will be participating in the Malcolm Music Contest in Malcolm, Nebraska (west of Lincoln). The 7th grade band and 8th grade band will be performing for, and rated by, a set of 3 judges. In addition, any interested student may perform a solo or small ensemble for individual judges and ratings. We have already had a signup sheet posted and many students are choosing to show off their talents. Please support your student by encouraging them to practice for this contest. In addition, we could use the support of several parents to help chaperone on that day. We will not have the performance times until a couple of weeks before the event, but we can plan on needing to leave EMS around 6:30 AM and returning between 4:00 and 5:00. We will be taking at least 3 buses so any parents who would like to help us that day would be greatly appreciated. If you can offer your assistance please call or email Mr. Johnson. Thank you!

Blair Middle School Honor Band – The Blair Honor Band is one of the premier honor bands for middle school students in this state. This year’s event will take place on Saturday, March 27 at Otte-Blair Middle School in Blair, Nebraska. The event consists of over 200 band students from over 40 schools divided into 2 concert bands. They rehearse all day and then give a performance at 4:00 PM. Students are selected through nominations from their directors and are usually based on instrumentation needs. We have nominated a long list of 8th grade students for this event and look forward to seeing who gets accepted. In the past, we have usually had 4-7 students.

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 we can. 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. Johnson at any time.



KIM RIGGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In less than four months, over 300 Elkhorn High School students will don graduation robes and cap their 13-year journey with a few short steps across the gymnasium floor. Approximately eighty five percent of our graduates will be hoping to continue their educational journey after graduation. The cost to set our graduates on the road to higher education can be prohibitive, with average annual tuition costs (excluding room and board, books, fees, etc.) exceeding \$7,000!

The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation has a scholarship program in place to help our graduates achieve their goals; we’re very proud to have awarded over \$350,000 in scholarships in the past five years. We manage scholarships which recognize a variety of accomplishments, including academics, athletics and volunteerism, as well as involvement in organizations and community service. Selection committees across the community choose recipients who best exemplify the spirit of each scholarship. If you, your business or your family would like to support our 2010 scholarship program, please contact me at 289-1727, ext.202. We welcome donations to existing scholarships or the creation of new scholarships - your tax-deductible gift can truly make an impact in the life of an Elkhorn graduate!

Be sure to check the Foundation’s website at www.elkhornfoundation.org or visit the scholarship link on Naviance for scholarship information.

The Foundation is proud to be part of the Elkhorn school district; we’re looking forward to an exciting 2010, supporting our community, its educators and its students on the road to excellence in education. Elkhorn has a strong history of high achievement in our schools in many different areas; we hope you agree and would like to become involved. Please give me a call at 289-1727 for more information on our programs; I look forward to hearing from you!