

July 31, 2010

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: Deb Garrison - Assistant Principal, Kiley Bassett - 8th Grade Science/Math, Sally White - 8th Grade Reading/Language Arts, and Rachel Robbins - Speech/Drama.

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 7** at Elkhorn High School from 7:00 am-10:30 am. Call 289-1688 to sign-up. Students need to bring \$20 (cash only).
- 2) Pre-Registration **August 10 and 11**. **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 17** 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 24** at 7:00 p.m. for all Middle School students and parents to meet teachers and learn about curriculum opportunities and team procedures. See the attached sheet for grade level presentation times during Open House.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

School for all students will begin on Thursday, **August 19** at 8:15 a.m. An orientation for all 6th graders will be done on the first day of school with an alternative schedule designed for them. All **6th 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 7th and 8th graders this will be the first hour class listed on your schedule, not Hi5. 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)
- 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 24.**
- 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 26, 27 and February 15, 16.**

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 7th grade. This physical allows students to participate in athletics. All 7th graders must provide evidence of the following immunizations before attending classes this fall:

- 3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT or TD vaccine with at least one dose at or after 4 years of age
- **1 dose of Tdap given on or after the 10th birthday (New requirement beginning 2010 school year)**
- 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 pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age
- 1 dose of varicella vaccine (chicken pox) on or after the 1st birthday or 2 doses at least 28 days apart if the first dose is given on or after the 13th birthday. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian or health care provider will be accepted.

Mrs. Garrison, 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 10 & 11, 2010

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

August 10 - 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

August 11 - 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 (\$25.00) and Student Directory (\$5.00)
- 4) Athletic Information/Athletic Physical Forms, Activity Pass (\$30.00)
Seventh and eighth graders will need an activity pass if they will be participating in sports.
- 5) Lunch Accounts
- 6) School pictures (Picture packets are optional, school yearbook photo-no charge)
- 7) EPS Foundation ACE Program Information
- 8) Health Update Forms, School Physicals, Immunizations
- 9) Return signed Student Information Card & Field Trip Permission Slip
- 10) Pick-up student schedule
- 11) Questions/answers/tours

Volunteers are needed. If you are willing to help, please contact EMS Booster Club President Michelle Pagliuca at 763-9189 or Robin Nelson, EMS Pre-Registration Chairperson, at 779-0219. Thanks for your help!

SMILE!

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



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE 2010/2011 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.

**Please note this is a year round list to be kept throughout the year.

<u>6TH GRADE</u>	<u>7TH GRADE</u>	<u>8TH GRADE</u>
Book Covers – No Stretch Pencils, Erasers Blue or black pens Red pens Markers 3 Packets - Loose leaf paper (7) 2-pocket folders 5 Spiral Notebooks Colored pencils, Crayons Calculator (2 nd semester) 2 boxes of tissues 1 ½-2” ring binder with clear overlay front cover 5 Tab dividers 4 Pkgs. - 3 x 5 Note cards No White Out and No Permanent Markers Trapper or Organizer	Book Covers – No stretch covers Calculator – w/ Fraction Key Blue or black pens Colored pencils Markers and highlighters Metric ruler Trapper or organizer Loose leaf college ruled paper (6) Pocket folders for Trapper/organizer 3 Boxes of tissues Pencil case or carrier with 3-ring holes (1) Pack of note cards #2 Pencils 3-4 Spiral notebooks 4 pack dry erase markers 3 Subject spiral notebook 2” 3 Ring binder – Lang. Arts Classroom 1” 3 ring binder for Conferences 1 large glue stick Flash Drive for projects - Optional	Reading Large book cover-no stretch 1” x 1” post-it notes Single subject notebook and pocket folder History Large book cover-no stretch Thin-tipped white board marker 3 ring binder Language Arts 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 Math Large book cover-no stretch Fraction key calculator Math notebook - spiral Science Large book cover-no stretch Science notebook and folder with pouches 3-ring 1” binder with paper Lab/Composition notebook – Not spiral Other Supplies 1” Binder w/ 5 tabs #2 pencils Blue or black pens Red pens Pencil bag 2 Boxes of tissues Large glue stick Colored pencils Pocket folder for Health Highlighter 5 3x5 note cards

BAND STUDENTS AND CHORUS STUDENTS: EMS Music Department t-shirt, black slacks, black socks and shoes.

P.E. STUDENTS: Tennis shoes, t-shirt with sleeves, shorts which are mid-thigh length, no sagging. Locks will be provided for all students. There will be a \$5.00 charge for any lost locks!

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.

**2010-2011
Parent Booster Meetings**

**October 7
November 4
December 2
February 3
March 3
April 7**

**(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? _____

From your VNA school nurse:

Welcome back!

As you wade through the paperwork that is part of the back to school shuffle, please be sure to note any changes that have occurred related to your child's health. The annual health update form is an important tool used by the school nurse to identify students who might need some support dealing with their health needs during the school day. Updating any immunizations a student has received in the past 12 months is also needed to keep their record at school current.

If your child requires any medication at school, whether it is a prescription or over-the-counter, you must obtain written documentation from the doctor (as outlined in the handbook) and your written permission is also needed. Please pick up medication forms from the school office or they can be faxed to you and/or your physician for completion. These forms must be on file in the school health office before medications can be given to your student during the school day. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Please remember to do your part not to spread illness at school. Washing hands, using alcohol based gels, and keeping sick students home are the best ways to reduce spreading of infections. We all need to do our part to reduce the transmission of illness. Don't forget to eat a healthy diet, get lots of sleep, and drink more water to keep your immune system at its best. Let's look forward to a healthy school year!

RUNNING CLUB

For the 4th year this fall, EMS will provide a running club for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Students **must have a physical and parent consent form completed** before they will be allowed to practice and participate. A meeting for interested participants will take place the first full week of school. For more information please contact Mrs. Horner through e-mail at shorner@epsne.org.



ELKHORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION ACE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

What is ACE?

ACE is the Foundation's state-licensed after school care and enrichment program for our middle school students. It offers a safe and positive environment for sixth through eighth grade students at both Elkhorn middle schools.

What hours is ACE open?

Our ACE program is available immediately after school until 6 pm each school day.

Is there a fee?

There is a minimal fee of \$15 per week.

What activities are available at ACE?

In addition to offering a safe, quiet place to do homework, we will offer community service opportunities and other enrichment activities designed to enhance your child's academic and social skills.

How do I register my child for the program?

Contact Amy Whorlow, Program Director, at awhorlow@epsne.org or pick up a registration packet at the Foundation office located at 20214 Veterans Drive, Suite 400.

More questions?

Contact Amy Whorlow at 289-1727 ext. 205 for more information.

ELKHORN **"CLASSIC"** MIDDLE SCHOOL

Open House

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

Come meet your child's teachers, hear about their classes, and tour EMS!!

Grade level teachers will be doing a large group presentation in the commons at the following times.

7:00-7:25 6th Grade

**Please plan to tour the building and visit with the 6th grade teachers individually from 7:30-8:00pm*

7:30-7:55 7th Grade

**Please plan to tour the building and visit with the 7th grade teachers individually from 7:00-7:30pm*

8:00-8:25 8th Grade

**Please plan to tour the building and visit with the 8th grade teachers individually from 7:30-8:00pm*

Hope to see you on the 24th !!