

February 2018

East

Middle School



Our Vision:

Encouraging Growth, Exploring Passions, Sparking Curiosity

Leah Gonyeau, Principal

Larry Padgett, Assistant Principal

Jenn Cochran Secretary

Ruth Burkhart, Secretary

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Important Dates

All-State Choir

February 1-2, Denver

Wrestling Meet

February 8, 3:45 pm, EMS Gym

Band Solo & Ensemble

February 9-10, 8am, GMMS

NJHS Meeting

February 14, 2:45 pm, Cafeteria

Wrestling Meet

February 15, 3:45 pm, West MS

No School—Teacher In-Service

February 16

Lions Club Parade

February 17, 1 pm, Downtown

No School—President’s Day

February 19

Student of the Month

February 21, 7:00m, Cafeteria

Wrestling Meet

February 22, 3:45 pm, Bookcliff

Choir/Orchestra Solo & Ensemble

February 23-24, 7 am, GMMS

Letter from the Principal:

Dear East Middle School Families,

I have to apologize for the absence of the January newsletter. We had some turnover in the office and hired a new building secretary. The process took a little time for the position to close interviews, reference checking, etc... Suffice it to say, we are happy to announce that Jenn Cochran has joined us as our building secretary. She was previously in the district, working in the Palisade High School library. Please join me in welcoming her to our great community.

As we are halfway through our third year of the District 51 Learning Model (formerly called Performance Based Learning), I wanted to keep you informed of the structures that are in place to support your student’s learning. Student ownership of their learning continues to be our focus and are dedicating our professional development efforts towards maximizing. Our school goals focus on two things; improving the effectiveness of Professional Learning Communities in our school, and increasing student ownership in their learning. We aim to accomplish both of these goals through the structures we initiated last year to implement Student-Led Conferences, and introducing this year, Presentations of Learning. As a staff, we are continuing to make learning targets transparent and meaningful. We are doing this through our PLCs and every teacher is focusing on essential learnings - aligned to standards- that every student must master to be successful. You can see the aggregate lists in our building, in the cafeteria, gym, as well as each of the grade level hallways. Students will be gathering evidence to showcase their learning in Advisory during the next few months, to share with you during their Presentations of Learning in April. Save the date now, April 25th and 26th from 3-7, will be POLs. They will be scheduled like our SLCs, only this time the students will present to a small panel, a more in-depth reflection of their learning. Students will be tasked with culling from their year’s work to find the most relevant examples of learning to share. Advisory teachers will be assessing their presentations with a speaking and listening rubric. These skills, identified as essential by the Common Core for communicating in middle school include; Explanation of ideas and information, organization, eyes and body, voice, presentation aids, and response to audience questions. Students will be working on these POLs in Advisory, as they practice for the upcoming conferences. Your student’s Advisor will be contacting you to schedule a 20 minute conference on one of the two dates in April. As parents, you are a pivotal member of the panel and can encourage your students to practice

(Continued on next page)

Principal Letter *(continued)*

their presentations. If you are interested, I will send you a copy of the rubric so that students can see where the bar has been set for their success. I am also happy to share that we will be recognizing any and all students who have mastered all presentation elements, in our end of year awards ceremony on May 7th.

I would also like to make you aware of the assessment window that will assist you in planning for scheduling student appointments. All assessments will be computer-based and require strategic scheduling of technology. A more specific assessment schedule will be coming in the months ahead, but just wanted to alert you so you could plan around those dates. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) will be taken in the window from March 19th - April 27th, while the Colorado Measures of Academic Success falls within a shorter timeframe in that window. This year, we are accountable for the 8th grade Science assessment. This is considerably less impactful than the schedule was last year! I'm confident that we will have the participation rate that the state is requiring of 95%. Thanks for supporting your student and East Middle School, so that we can all do our best during these assessments to demonstrate the great learning that takes place here!

We are still growing in our implementation of the Learning Management System, Schoology. At this time, all progress is being reported through Schoology and all parents should have access. If you are not able to access Schoology through our website under the parent tab, please contact our office. You must have signed the ParentVue registration form (available in our office) and click "forgot password" on the Schoology tab on our website. You will be prompted to enter your email - which must be the same as you have in our system (from registration) and a password will be sent to that email. Again, if you have questions, contact our office. I look forward to this second semester as students are beginning their Personalized Learning Time classes and are realizing our vision of "Encouraging Growth, Exploring Passions, and Sparking Curiosity". It is with that lens that their Presentations of Learning will be crafted.

Have a safe and prosperous beginning to the New Year!

Sincerely,

Leah Gonyeau

Girls are Great! Coming Soon

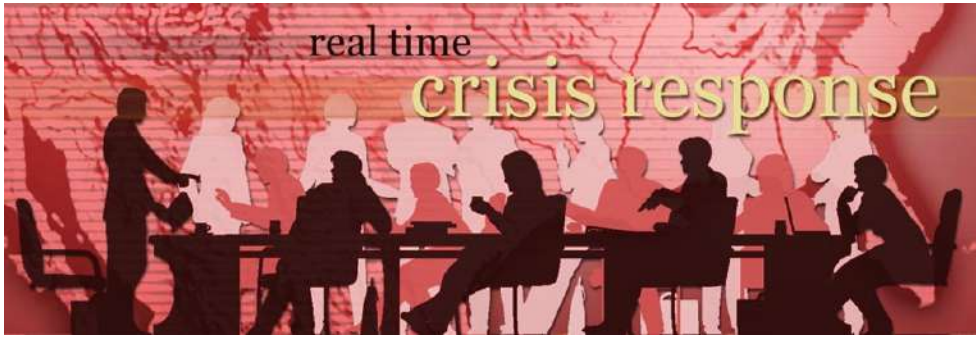
Starting January 16th and meeting every Tuesday, a new group called Girls Are Great will be offered after school from 2:55-4:00. This program, led and offered by Girl Scouts, is completely free of cost, and girls will get a chance to learn leadership skills, play games, do crafts, and most of all have fun. Girls are Great is for ALL girls in grades 6th-8th. There will be an informational meeting on January 12th during Advisory where details about the program and permission slips will be handed out.

Students of the Month



Back: Honor Blevins, Kai Symons, Christian Reeves, Maria Cordova
Front: Jasmine Vasquez, Ryan Serba, Elizabeth Shortess
Not Pictured: Aislyn Maes

Safety First—Lockdown Drills



East Middle School conducts monthly safety drills to train students and staff on how to respond effectively and efficiently in crises and events that threaten the safety of students. The most commonly practiced safety drills at EMS are Fire, Lock Down, and Shelter-in-Place. A Fire drill

occurs once a month and two within the first two weeks of school. Students learn how to evacuate the school building in a safe and orderly manner. Attendance is taken once all students are safely out of the school so that every student may be accounted for. Lock Down and Shelter-in-Place drills are initiated when there is an eminent threat to the safety of the school. “Lock Down” or “Shelter-in-Place” is announced over the intercom or by word of mouth throughout the school thus setting off a chain of events, such as the locking of all interior and exterior doors, closing windows and blinds, turning lights off all of which are in an attempt to provide a safer environment. No one other than law enforcement will be allowed to enter a school during a Lock Down or Shelter in Place.

A practice Lock Down and Shelter in Place drill take approximately 45 minutes to complete unless it is a real live incident in which the school could be locked down for hours. If you as a parent happen to be in the school when a Lock Down or Shelter in Place is initiated, you will be locked down along with the students unless of course you are outside of school when the drill takes place. In the event of a real crisis, parents may visit District 51’s website (www.d51schools.org) for further information and instructions. The Safety Office at District 51 is using the Emergency Alert System (Everbridge) through the City of Grand Junction to communicate information during crises. The system is a Mesa County operated program that sends mass text messages to individuals who are registered with them. If you are interested in registering for this service, go to the website [www. http://ci.grandjct.co.us/mobilegj.aspx](http://ci.grandjct.co.us/mobilegj.aspx). If you have further questions about procedures and policies regarding safety drills, contact Assistant Principal EMS – Larry Padgett.

Buy Your 2017-18 Yearbook Today!

Remember all those fun times you had this year? Dances, sports, Rock-a-thon, clubs, field trips, and many, many more are featured in the 2017-2018 yearbook! \$25 for a hardcover or \$15 for a softcover. You can order them through the office or you can order online at <https://eastmiddle.picaboo.com/>. If you order through Picaboo you can even personalize your yearbook!

Thank you- Yearbook Staff

School of Choice

The school of choice window will open at 10 a.m. on Monday March 5, 2018 and will close at 4 p.m. on Friday March 30, 2018. All School of Choice (SOC) applications will be done thru ParentVUE. All parents/guardians who wish to fill out a School of Choice (SOC) application will need to have a current ParentVUE account. Please contact the school if you need to set up a ParentVUE account 970-254-5020.

Choir & Orchestra News

This month is a working month for the choir and orchestra department! We are busy preparing for several solos and small ensembles participating in the festival at Grand Mesa Middle School. On February 1-2, the All State Choir Festival will be held in Denver! Please check your emails for any upcoming announcements and, as always, encourage your students to turn in all written work ON TIME.

Thank you to all the parents and students who helped raise funds for the choir and orchestra department at this year's Rock-A-Thon! A BIG Thank You to all the businesses that donated prizes for the Rock-A-Thon! We truly appreciate you!

February:

23-24: Solo/Small Ensemble Festival, GMMS

Until next time.....Stay Tuned!!!

Interested in attending a Grief Group?

Attention Students-- Are you interested in attending a grief group here at school? Grief group is free of charge, offered during the school day, and provides students with a network of support. Each session includes grief education through discussion, art projects, and games. If you are interested in attending a grief group, please let Mrs. Ritterbush know. 254-5020 ext. 33129 or Dacia.Ritterbush@d51schools.org If there is enough interest a group will be formed this spring.

MESA Bridge Building Competition



EMS MESA club hosted the bridge building competition Tuesday night. Six middle schools and two high schools competed by making bridges out of balsa wood. The highest placing team from East was Nick Warner and Taggart Blake whose bridge held 15,000 grams and did not break!

Back: Emily Carter, Nina Abeyta, Alena Wilson, Genisis Allen

Front: Brock Hale, Kale Potter, Nick Warner, Taggart Blake

Grand Junction Lions Club Parade and Carnival

Please join East at the Grand Junction Lions Club Parade on February 17th. Parade starts at 1PM. More information to follow on meeting time.

GJ Lions Club Carnival tickets available for purchase in the main office.

Colder Temperature Warning



As colder temperatures are ushered in by Jack Frost we encourage your child to dress appropriately for the inclement weather, coats, gloves, hats, etc. The gym will be opened in the mornings when the weather is determined to be too cold for students to be outside. This will help with dropping off students in the morning so that parents don't stay parked in the drop off area.