

# East Middle School



May 2017

Leah Gonyeau, Principal | Larry Padgett, Assistant Principal | Selestina Sandoval, Secretary | Ruth Burkhart, Secretary

## Important Dates

### Teacher Appreciation Week

May 1, 2017 - May 5, 2017

### Enrichment Day

May 3, 2017

### Middle School In-Service

May 4, 2017

### No School

May 5, 2017

### PTO Meeting

May 16, 2017  
5:30 - 6:30 pm @ Library

### Band Concert

May 16, 2017  
7:00 - 8:00 pm @ Gym

### Orchestra Concert

May 18, 2017  
7:00 - 8:00 pm @ GJHS

### Last Day of School

May 24, 2017

## In This Issue

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Like Us on Facebook! | 3 |
| Mrs. Quinn           | 4 |
| Health Office        | 5 |
| Yearbook             | 5 |
| From Tech Ed         | 6 |

## A Message From Principal Leah Gonyeau:

Dear Parents,

Earlier this year, we hosted an event, at the Mesa County Public Library, of the movie, “Screenagers”, along with a panel discussion afterwards. The creator of the documentary has a website with valuable resources for parents to use when talking to students about their digital lives. You can access the website and those resources here: <http://tinyurl.com/mlr3l5s> (original address shortened by tinyURL). In a Tech Talk Tuesday article recently added to the website, regarding the Netflix series, “13 Reasons Why”, the filmmaker states;

*“Teens all over the world are streaming the Netflix series, “13 Reasons Why.” The series, based on the young adult novel by Jay Asher, explores hard issues like online bullying, rape, and suicide. Because youth today so often watch shows alone on their personal devices, it is imperative that we engage and have conversations with our teens about these intense subjects.*

*In her essay for Teen Vogue, suicide prevention advocate MollyKate Cline expresses concerns over the series’ lack of mental health dialogue and the main character’s disregard from a trusted adult when she goes for help. Cline sees these situations as potential triggers for vulnerable viewers. Also, the vast majority of people who take their lives are dealing with mental health issues, yet the girl in the series is not shown to be dealing with such issues—instead the premise is that others caused her to do it. For these and many other reasons, it is time for us to talk to our kids—whether they have seen the show or not.”*

*For discussion ideas, you can [read the whole article here](#).*

I want to thank those of you who filled out the survey that was sent over a month ago, asking for your feedback about our master schedule. With over 260 responses, it is apparent that our community has a lot to say! Overwhelmingly, it was reported that students and their parents wanted more elective options, more opportunities to explore an area of interest, and for us to continue to create opportunities for students to foster friendships that are so vital to the middle school experience.

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With this feedback, our staff collaborated and developed a master schedule for next year that will honor your voices. Our classes next year will be 54 minutes long, for all subjects, including electives. Lunch periods will be longer to create “office hours” – a time where grade level content teachers are available to meet with students for support. When you receive your student’s schedule (registration dates are August 8th for 7th and 8th grade students from 8 to 5 in the East Middle School gym, and August 9th for 6th grade students from 7:30 – 1:30) you will notice that they are scheduled for 8 class periods. Advisory is 3rd period and will run all year long focusing on three categories; community building, academic advising, and social and emotional learning. We will continue to focus on growth mindset, the Habits of Mind, goal setting, and preparing for our student led conferences and celebrations of learning. Students will be scheduled for 4th, 5th, and 6th periods, which will contain the office hours and lunch. Every student will have an elective in either 7th or 8th period, as well as one other period during the day. More information will be coming to you regarding next year’s schedule. For those of you who are aware of our “e time” class – run Weds through Fri at the beginning of the day, we will continue to offer those same exploratory type classes but in a block of time beginning Quarter 2, in a period called, “Personalized Learning Time” or PLT. New electives and opportunities for next year include elective courses in Spanish and Drama, and leadership opportunities in Student Council. We will continue with Cheetah Leadership Team, but changing our name to Cheetah Ambassador Team. The focus of the Cheetah Ambassador Team will be in participating in planning and running different school activities to help new students here at East enjoy a safe and respectful school.

New Staff joining us next year; Brandon Stanfield will be teaching 7th and 8th grade Social Studies. Brandon is a Western Slope product, hailing from Olathe and graduating from CMU. He is familiar with our community as he student taught for Mr. Cook this year. Mark Zajackowski will be teaching resources classes as well as 6th grade Social Studies. He comes to us from Mount Garfield Middle School and is the Grand Junction High School Cross Country coach. We are also adding a half time PE teacher for next year so that we can open up more options for Physical Education.

We are excited for these changes next year and will share more with you at back to school night on Thursday, August 17th. Also a reminder of the adopted school calendar for next year, our first day of school with students is Wednesday, August 16th. For the complete District calendar, please check out this link: [District 51 2017-2018 traditional calendar](#). Please be aware that East Middle School has requested a waiver for parent-teacher conferences that will be placed on our East Middle School specific calendar in the near future. Please check our webpage in the upcoming days for that. We will again conduct student-led conferences where students take charge of the conferences, leading parents through the body of work they have produced to that point. Again, more information will be coming as there are integral pieces that everyone plays in a successful student-led conference session. Parents, teachers, and students all have to support the process. As we transition towards a system of performance based learning, student ownership of their learning is paramount to their success. Student led conferences are a way to model that importance. If you would like information now, please consider watching this video about a student-led conference at Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School: [Middle School Student led conferences](#).

While there are just a handful of days left in this school year, I’m celebrating the year of learning and growth we experienced. Performance Based Learning has been the focus of our professional development days – those in-service days where students are not in school. During each of the four days of in-service, we have engaged in learning around growth mindset and how social emotional learning truly is the bedrock for any type of learning to take place. Without a growth mindset and the ability to overcome difficulties, any deep level of learning is impossible – as we know it is the struggle that contributes to true growth! We have been learning and sharing our efforts at creating student-centered learning environments.

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We are continuing to solicit feedback from our students, parents, and staff to make sure that we are in a continuous improvement cycle. Your and your student's feedback is much appreciated. We have heard very positive comments from students and a few areas for improvement. The biggest message we hear is that your students want to keep interacting with their teachers – and that is a positive message for us!

Thank you for your support of your student and their learning at East Middle School!

Sincerely,  
Leah Gonyeau, Principal

## Like Us on Facebook!

We try our hardest to keep the lines of communication open with our students and families. We have moved away from paper communication and utilize text, email and social media. If you haven't done so already, please like us on Facebook. We post events, success stories, FYI's and reminders on our page that you may find useful.

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Kirk Golba  
210-0727

1. Consider important college characteristics you want in a college
2. Understand your learning style and find colleges that embrace that
3. Prioritize and use the college characteristics as a filter when choosing your college list
4. Create a list that has two Safeties, three Targets, and two Reach colleges

## Sing-cerely Yours, Mrs. Quinn

This busy year is coming to an end, but not before a few more events. The 6th grade choir and orchestra will be performing at the 5th grade orientation day at EMS April 24 at 9:15am in the gym. The performers will need to wear a white shirt and jeans. The 6th grade string clinic is May 2 at GJHS. Permission slips will go home along with the information for the day and night event. Concert attire will be necessary in the evening only. Our final choir/orchestra concert for the year will be held on Thursday, May 18 at 7pm in the GJHS Auditorium. Awards will be presented at this concert. Just a reminder, several camps are available for your students to attend over the summer. They need to check the bulletin board in the choir/orchestra room. Any student who participated in the Rock-A-Thon and solo/small ensemble may apply for a scholarship to be used toward a camp or music related event over the summer. **Those applications are due by May 3.**



I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the choirs/orchestras at EMS this year and am looking forward to our adventures next year!! I hope all of you have a wonderful summer and until next time.....STAY TUNED!!!

Sing-cerely Yours,

Raisha Quinn  
EMS Choir/Orchestra Director

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## Reminder From The Health Office

Please remember to pick up your student's medication before the end of the school year. This includes all prescription and over the counter medications. We are obligated to discard it if not picked up by the last day of school. We are not permitted to send medication home with the student, it MUST be picked up and signed out by an adult.

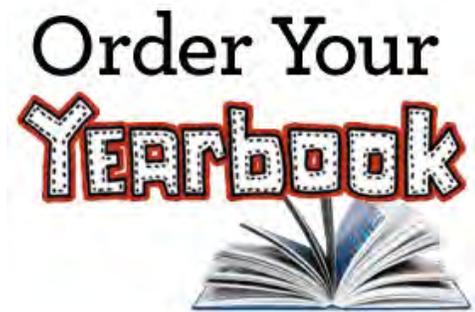
Thank you,

Katelin Gumfory  
EMS Health Assistant  
254-5020 Ext: 33118

## Yearbook

If you missed the deadline for ordering a yearbook you can still go to <https://eastmiddle.picaboo.com> and have a yearbook shipped to your house! Order soon so that you can have your yearbook by the last day of school! Thank you to everybody who submitted photos to Skipple and helped make this the best yearbook ever!

~2016-17 Yearbook Staff



Anna Goetz & Shari Vandervelde



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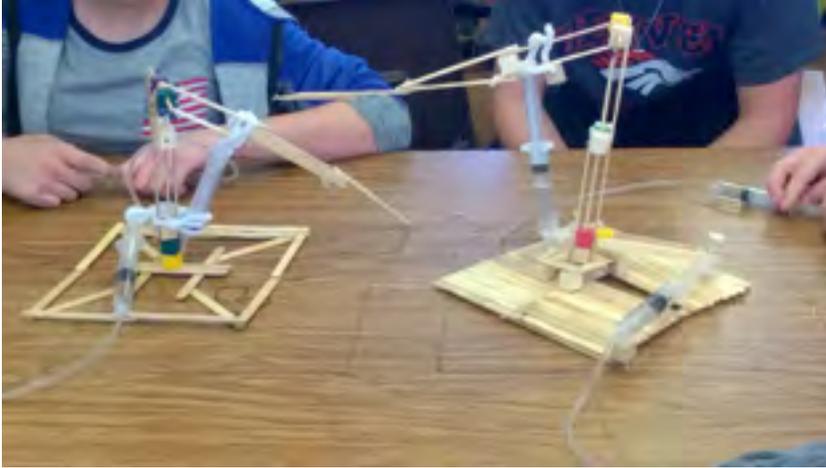
## From Tech Ed

Thank you for a great year! Looking back I am amazed at how far our program has come, in large part due to the support from my administration and donations from the community. I would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Dave Meyer for his donation of a Shopsmith machine that great increases the program's capacity. Here are some of the projects we did.

### Spoons:



### Judo Bots:



### 3D Printing:



I am still developing my program and would love to have more tools. I also want to expand my offerings and would like a sewing machine, any old fabric or yarn, wood plastic or metal that can be reused in projects. If you have something you would like to donate, contact me, Michael Warner at East 254-5020 or e-mail me [Michael.warner@d51schools.org](mailto:Michael.warner@d51schools.org).