

East Middle School



December 2016

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

Important Dates

Choir/Orchestra Concert

December 14, 2016 7:00 pm
@ GJHS

Band Concert

December 15, 2016
7:00 pm @ GJHS

Winter Break

December 19 – January 2

Teacher Work Day

January 3, 2017

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A Message From Principal Leah Gonyeau

Dear East Middle School Families,

I hope you had a great week with your families during Thanksgiving. Though our staff loves working with kids, it is nice to charge the batteries. December is a full month of activities and testing. Just as a reminder, your student may be tested on STAR in the areas of reading and mathematics, during the month of December. They will be doing this test online in their Language Arts and Mathematics classrooms. The data that is returned from this assessment, in conjunction with other data such as the fall screening window of STAR and other anecdotal data around classroom performance, will be used to assist us in scheduling students into interventions and enrichments during the second semester.

Tuesday, November 29th, marks our second School Advisory Council meeting this year. We begin at 6:00 and end at 7:00 and will meet in the school library. This meeting is devoted to reporting our progress on last year's goals as well as outlining our goals for this year to the District Accountability Committee. I'm happy to say that we have been looking at our goals and have full staff support of the direction we are going. Our two goals have identified processes that we believe (and data supports) impact student achievement greatest. Goal #1: We are working to improve our Professional Learning Communities. John Hattie, in his book, *Visible Learning*, synthesized over 800 analyses related to student achievement. The categories were broken down into the contributions from the student, from the home, from the school, from the teacher, from the curricula, and from the teaching approaches. While this letter is way too brief to touch on all of those categories, the summary indicates that a student's disposition towards learning (mindset) is the number one influencer that he or she brings to the table. From a home perspective, the aspirations and expectations that parents have for their children's success has the strongest relationship to achievement. From his video, "Why are so many of our teachers and schools so successful?", contributions with the greatest effect that the school adds is "teachers, working together, as evaluators of their

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impact”. We are continuing to grow our collective efficacy through professional learning time and collaboration so that we can maximize our impact. Goal #2: We are working to improve student ownership of their learning. As we progress as a performance based learning demonstration school, we are incorporating more strategies to help students own their learning. Not to say that students will be only independently learning, as we are providing the guidance and structure for students to navigate the standards and master the grade level expectations set out for them by our state. We are helping students see the big picture that each grade level and content standard represents, by breaking them into bite sized chunks, or learning targets. Each learning target supports an overarching long-term learning target, aligned to state standards. Many staff members are engaged in professional learning inside and outside of regular business hours, to refine learning targets and assessment strategies to address them. You have probably witnessed your child discussing his learning targets through our student-led conferences. We will again conduct school-wide student-led conferences on February 8th and 9th.

Lastly, as this is our second year embarking into performance based learning, I want to thank you for your continued support of your student and our school. We are spending a lot of time working on lessons to incorporate Habits of Mind into authentic learning opportunities, not only in homeroom but in all content areas. Thanks also for extending efforts to recognize your student’s growth mindsets with positive statements about struggles they may be experiencing. It is that exact struggle that promotes growth! I’m extremely proud to be your Principal. I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season.

Sincerely,
Leah Gonyeau, Principal

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T H E R E ' S O N L Y O N E

Parental Controls On iPhone: They Exist and They Work!

Our computer teacher, Ms. Weber came across this article online, and thought it was worth sharing with you. The full article written by Heather Jordan on September 15, 2016 can be found on: <http://www.payetteforward.com/parental-controls-on-iphone-exist-work/>

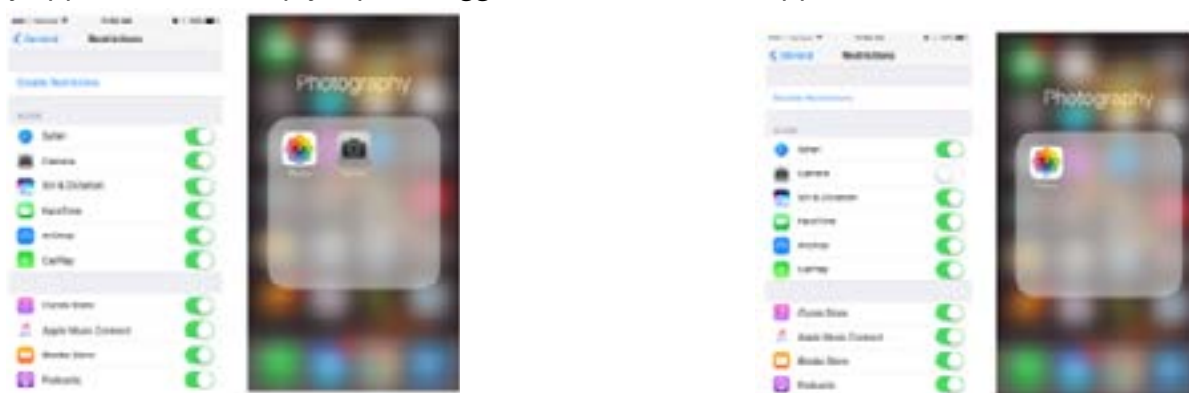
Where Are Parental Controls On My iPhone?

The Restrictions Menu is where you need to go for Parental Controls on iPhone and other devices, like the iPad and the iPod. To get to this menu, go to Settings -> General -> Restrictions.

If you've set them up before, you will have a password to enter. If you have not set them up before, you'll first need to tap Enable Restrictions and set up a passcode to start using them.

A Restrictions Overview

In the first two sections of the Restrictions menu, you have the ability to remove an app from view on your device. To remove any app from view, simply tap the toggle switch next to the app so that it is off.



Don't worry, the app isn't gone forever, it is just temporarily hidden while your kids use are playing with your iPhone.

If you disable an in app ability like Apple Music Connect and iBooks Store, then it will remove those options from within the app itself.

Allowed Content, Rated G for Great Feature!



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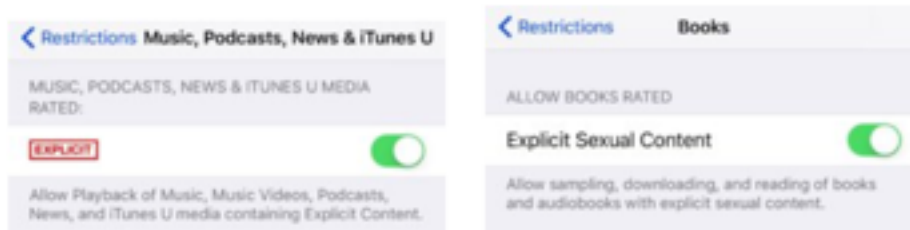
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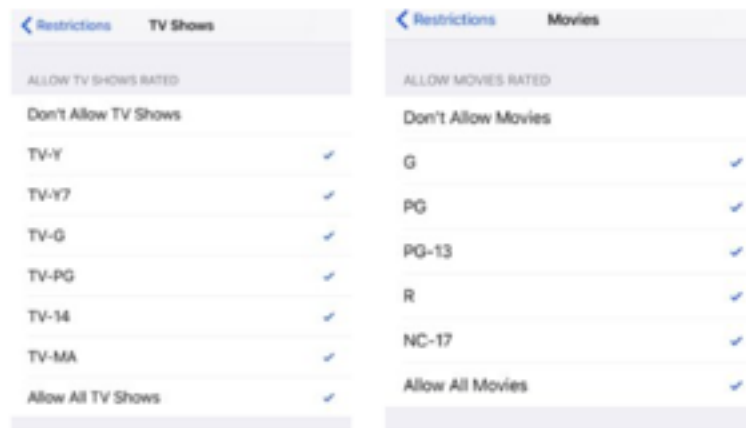
DAVID W. LARSEN, DMD
Family & General Dentistry

Parental Controls On iPhone: They Exist and They Work! (Continued)

This section of restrictions is where you find even more of the Parental Controls on iPhones. The allowed content section controls what content your kids have access to. Each section has its own rating level and category.



Music has the ability to turn off explicit content, and so does iBooks. TV Shows and Movies can also be controlled.



Allowed Content will make sure that Downloads and iTunes Media is properly rated. When using the Apps Ratings, the apps that are rated above what it selected will not show on the home screen. This is great feature for shared devices. As a parent, it is always great to know that your kids won't stumble into anything inappropriate while they are playing on your iPhone.

Anything that is on the device that is rated higher than the Parental Controls allows will either be grayed out in the app or the app will not show on the home screen. When I choose a lower rating for Apps, a lot of my entertainment apps, like YouTube, did not show on my home screen anymore.

Privacy Restrictions, No Access for Apps

Most of the restrictions listed under Privacy are Apps that contain changeable settings, or native apps, like Calendars and Photos.

The choices in this section are very simple, you can either Allow Changes or Don't Allow Changes. As a Mom, I usually don't want my kids to change the settings anywhere on any device they use, so this is a great option for parental controls.

Allow Changes and Game Center

This last section in the Restrictions menu limits the changes that can be made to any accounts you have on your device (such as your email account) and also allows you to set a Volume Limit. The Game Center restriction controls whether the user can play games with other players, add friends to Game Center, or record the screen while they are playing games.

Sing-cerely Yours, Mrs. Quinn

The East Middle School choir and orchestra concert will be held on December 14 at 7:00pm **AT GJHS IN THE AUDITORIUM**. Students have been working hard on their music to entertain the audience so come and enjoy!

We will have a music parent meeting on Monday, January 9 at 6:30pm in the band room to continue our planning for the Rock-A-Thon on Saturday, January 14, 2017. **Handouts for the Rock-a-Thon will be going home with students in December**. Please get those returned to school ASAP! Please check the dates on the forms for deadlines.

The 7th-8th grade honor choir festival auditions were held on Tuesday, November 8 in the choir room. Congratulations to Monet Apodaca, Cambrie Holman, Cheryl Miller, Allyzaetyrr Mills, Ciara Mosbey, Emeri Nelson and August Pomrenke for being chosen to participate in the District 51 Middle School Honor Choir. Mr. Stan Scott, Central High School, choir instructor, will be the honor choir director this year. Group rehearsals in the choir room will begin in early December.

Honor orchestra performed on November 17 at GJHS. Congratulations to our 11 participants on their District 51 Middle School Honor Orchestra performance!

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!!
Until next time.....STAY TUNED!!

Sing-cerely Yours,
Raisha Quinn

Rock-a-Thon is coming!

Attention Music Parents: Handouts for the Rock-a-Thon will be going home with students in December.

We are now offering Tech Ed!

Dear Parents

The Technology Engineering is looking for items for donation. If you have any of the following to donate please contact me, Mike Warner at 254-5020 or Michael.warner@d51schools.

Sewing machine
Cordless drill
Drill press
Socket set
Chisels
Construction lumber
Plywood

This is not a complete list, if you have tools or materials you think be useful please let me know!



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Sweeeeet!!

Mrs. Bichler's math classes will be decorating cookies in class on the week before Winter Break begins. Any donations of cookie decorating supplies would be greatly appreciated. We use already baked cookies and I do have a set of piping tools, but we can always use sprinkles, frosting tubes, fondant, and the like. Thank you so much for your consideration!

From the Attendance Secretary

To report an absence and prevent an automated phone call home at 9:00am, please call 970-254-5020 and select option #1 to get to the attendance line. Please leave a message that includes the students name, your name and the reason for the absence. Thank you very much.

GT News:

Mrs. Sleigh is currently working with 7th grade GT students during electives. Next quarter, Mrs. Sleigh will have 8th grade GT students. The 8th grade students will be researching college and careers while learning about the Growth Mindset by Carol Dweck and playing games that challenge different learning styles.

Stocking Stuffer Ideas

Seventh grade students are in need of pencils and earbuds. Students use technology daily and a pair of earbuds stored in their lockers would be great! Have students label the earbuds somehow for identification before sending them to school.

Building a Vision at East Middle School:



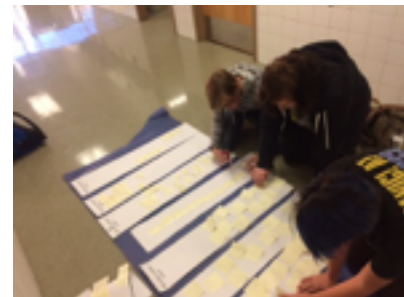
Over the past few weeks, we have been working hard to create a new vision at East Middle School. We started by gathering feedback from parents during October conferences. We also sent out a survey to parents in case they were not able to make conferences. Once we collect parent feedback, Cheetah Leadership Team members organized the information in order to find "Big ideas" that will help build our vision.



Next, we had CLT members go in during homeroom and gather feedback on a vision from our student body. That information is currently being organized for "Big ideas."



Finally, we gathered feedback from staff during our in-service on Friday, November 11th. The "Big ideas" from staff included: purpose, safe, curiosity, relationships, relevancy, achieving goals, growth, and passion.



Our next step is to combine all of the "Big ideas" from students, parents, and staff in order to write a draft vision statement. Watch for opportunities to give feedback on our vision. All voices are important and needed.



Information Meetings

2017-2018 School Year

The Challenge Program at East Middle School is a district wide program for academically gifted middle school students. We will be hosting **FOUR** information meetings for the 2017-2018 school year. Please choose a day and time that works best for you. We highly recommend parents and students attend a meeting. Questions will be answered and applications will be distributed at the meetings.

Where: East Middle School cafeteria, 830 Gunnison Avenue

When: Monday, January 23rd

- **4:30 – 5:30 PM**
- **6:00 – 7:00 PM**

Tuesday, January 24th

- **4:30 – 5:30 PM**
- **6:00 – 7:00 PM**

Who: Students interested in applying and parents

There is plenty of space and no need to RSVP. If you can't attend a meeting, you may pick up an application at East or from your school's Gifted/Talented teacher. **We will accept applications until 2:45 on February 24, 2017.**

Tina Sleigh
East Middle School
254-5020
tina.sleigh@d51schools.org

FILM SCREENING



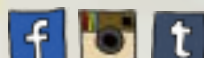
WATCH AND DISCUSS

Award winning documentary *Screenagers* takes a look at the struggles families face over social media, video games, academics, and Internet addiction. Watch the documentary then stay for a panel discussion featuring Mesa County Libraries Director Joseph Sanchez, Instructor of Mass Communication Adam Cochran, and Assistant Professor of Psychology Jenny Peil, Psy.D. Co-hosted by East Middle School PTO and the GJHS Video/Media Production Club.

5:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 6
Central Library Community Room



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