

East Middle School



February 2017

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

Important Dates

Student Led Conferences

February 8th and 9th, 2017
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
@ EMS Classrooms

GJHS Registration

February 15, 2017 1:30 pm
@ EMS Cafeteria (Students only)

MS In-Service

February 17, 2017
No School

Presidents Day

February 20, 2017
No School

PTO Meeting

February 21, 2017
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
@ EMS Library

School Advisory Committee

February 28, 2017
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
@ EMS Library

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A Message From Principal Leah Gonyeau

Dear East Middle School Families,

Thanks for your patience during our recent snow day late starts. I hope you had adequate communication from us and the school District, but if not, please be sure to update your contact information with our office. If you use social media, please like us on Facebook at EMS Cheetahs – we post updates there as soon as we can.

Though it seems we have barely passed the halfway point of the school year, the state summative assessments are coming up and I just want to give you a heads up regarding changes in this year's tests. All of the state summative tests can be classified as **Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS)**. Under that umbrella, the **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)** will be administered to all students in the area of literacy and mathematics. For the second year the PARCC tests will be given in just one window. **Colorado Summative Assessments** of Science for 8th graders, and Social Studies for 7th graders – the fourth year of this assessment – is also due to be administered in April. Our school was chosen to test 7th graders in Social Studies this year, though it is a three year revolving designation. The testing schedule is tight due to the online component and scheduling of computers. The requirement of tests being given in order also make completing makeup tests very disruptive. If you would like more information on PARCC testing, please click on this link: <http://www.parconline.org/resources/parent-resources>

Attendance on these days is crucial. Students who miss the testing dates will be required to make that test up which means a student will have to miss class and then will need to make up the work missed. If at all possible, avoid scheduling any dental or medical appointments on testing days. **Please, please, schedule appointments around this window if possible!** The window for the assessments is most of April, though we are going to try to minimize disruption to the learning environment by getting our students assessments completed by the 14th of April. **The assessment schedule will be released**

(Continued on next page)

soon. We are encouraging all students to show their **EAST PRIDE**; by doing their very best on these important assessments. The details of the assessment schedule will be released in the next newsletter, so stay tuned! Most importantly, reassure your students that they don't need to stress about the tests, just do their best!

Secondly, I am excited to announce that we are transitioning our grading to the Learning Management System, Schoology. Your students are already using Schoology to access their learning environments and curricular items, as well as their grades. They can show you how they are doing from home by logging into the web-based software. Schoology is our integrated learning management solution that provides course management, mobile learning, and support for system-wide communication. Schoology enables our students, parents and teachers to engage with learning materials and their school community from the classroom and beyond. We look forward to using Schoology in our classrooms to enhance transparency, connectivity and communication across our D51 community.

With a LMS, students can digitally submit homework assignments, review grades, demonstrate learning and growth, receive announcements and feedback, participate in interactive discussions, and more. As a parent/guardian, you will be able to view your child's activity within the platform.

We will continue building our learning with Schoology this semester. We will be expanding our usage of our LMS during the second semester. *****You will soon be able to access your parent account. We will be sending out additional details prior to that time.** We value your participation in your child's education, and we encourage you to read Schoology's Privacy Policy & Terms of Use at <https://www.schoology.com/privacy.php>. Student progress and activity will be monitored by faculty to ensure a safe, secure, and controlled environment.

As always, if you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to contact me at school. Enjoy the last of the cold weather (hopefully)!

Sincerely,
Leah Gonyeau, Principal
254-5020

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PTO News

The next East Middle School PTO meeting will be Tuesday February 21st at 5:00 in the EMS library. PTO meetings will be held every third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 so mark it on your calendar! PTO is open to ALL parents and guardians of East Middle School students. The mission of the EMS PTO is to support the teachers, students, and families of East Middle School. Please check out the new PTO information page on Facebook and follow us for upcoming news, events, and fundraising. Here is the link to the newly formed EMS PTO Facebook page: <https://m.facebook.com/East-Middle-School-PTO-1627519934224062/> Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Sing-cerely Yours, Mrs. Quinn

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 2-3, the All State Choir Festival will be held in Denver! Please check ParentVue and 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:

24-25: Solo/Small Ensemble Festival, GMMS

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

East Middle School's 13th Annual Enrichment Day

East Middle School is excited to offer our 13th Annual Enrichment Day which will be held on May 3, 2017. We will have a morning session from 8:45 – 11:30 and an afternoon session from 12:00 – 2:30. Enrichment Day offers students the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of interesting, unique and hands-on activities. This day is always a success because of community and parent volunteers, so if you or anyone you know would be interested in presenting a session or volunteering to help out, please contact our main office at 254-5020 or e-mail Mrs. Sleigh at tina.sleigh@d51schools.org. Thank you for your support of this popular day!



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GT News:

Mrs. Sleight is currently working with 8th grade GT students during electives. Next quarter, Mrs. Sleight will have 6th grade GT students. The 8th grade students are researching college and careers while learning about the Growth Mindset by Carol Dweck and playing games that challenge different learning styles.

Challenge Program News

Applications for the 2017-2018 school year are now being accepted. Visit our site at <http://emschallengeprogram.wikispaces.com/> if you want to learn more. We will accept applications until 2:45 on February 24, 2017.



Safety Tip for the Month



When dropping off kids before school and or picking them up after school, the following procedures are recommended:

- Park as close to the curb as possible in designated parking areas. Avoid red and blue curbs as they are marked for emergency vehicles and handicapped.
- Encourage kids to not J-Walk.
- Use crosswalks.
- Avoid dropping kids off in the middle of the street.
- Be aware of other vehicles when unloading vehicles.
- Have your children exit vehicles next to the curb when possible.
- Don't drop off kids too early as there is no supervision before school. Preferable drop off time is 7:10 am.

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.

<https://www.facebook.com/EMScheetahs/>



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From D51 Foundation

Join D51F on Saturday, February 4 from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. at the CMU Ballroom for our 5th Annual White Iced Celebration. This white-attire affair will honor Outstanding Educators and Outstanding Academic Growth Schools. It will be a time to celebrate public education in Mesa County. Tickets can be purchased at www.d51foundation.org For more information call 254-5108. Proceeds from this event will be used for technology in our schools and professional development opportunities for D51 teachers.

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Girls on the Run



Attention all girls - Girls on the Run will start Feb. 23rd! Come on out and join a fun, positive group of young ladies! Online registration will open January 25, 2017 and close February 12, 2017. Practices will be held every Tuesday and Thursday after school. You can register online at www.gotrwesterncolorado.org. If you have any questions, please stop by the office and ask Ms. Ruth. She will be happy to give you all the details.

Valentine's Day Treats from CLT

CLT is selling Valentine's Day goodies! Bags of sweets, carnations, and stuffed animals are being sold to students now, to be delivered on Valentine's Day. Posters are hung around the school with details about pricing. CLT members will be selling items Wednesday through Friday each week until February 14th in the cafeteria before school starts, so bring your money! Prices range from \$1 - \$6.



Text Alerts

District 51 has invested in a district-wide communication system (called SchoolConnects) that will allow all schools and the district to contact you regarding important news, events, and emergency or safety-related situations. Schools and the district can only send texts to phones who have subscribed to receive the messages. If you want to receive SMS text messages from the school or district, you must first do the following:

1. Ensure that your child's school has your cell phone listed in the student database under "Mobile".
2. From the SMS-capable telephone where you want to receive the text messages, text the word Join to the number 56360. If our messaging system finds a match for your phone number in its database, you receive a confirmation message thanking you for joining school alerts. If our messaging system does not find a match for your phone number in its database, you will receive a me
3. Create a contact on your phone with the name of your school or school district, or another meaningful name, and the phone number 56360. Then, when you receive a text from this number, you know who is sending it.

At this point in time, the District will only contact parents in the case of an emergency or safety-related situations. The District will reach out to parents using phone, text and email or a combination. Parents and the community can also check the district website (www.d51schools.org) or social media accounts (facebook.com/schooldistrict51 and twitter.com/district51) for emergency alerts and updates as well as general news.

In order to receive the quickest and most accurate information in an emergency situation, parents need to be sure that all home phone, cell phone and email addresses are up-to-date in the student information system, Synergy. Contact the school office if you have any questions. The texts, calls and emails will only go to those families who have those fields filled in in the database. Should you have any questions about this new service or other emergency communications, don't hesitate to call Dan Dougherty in Communications or Tim Leon in Safety at 254-5100.