

East Middle School



October 2016

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

Important Dates

Fall Break

October 2-8, 2016

Fundraiser Packets Due

October 10, 2016

Teacher Work Day

October 17, 2016

Red Ribbon Week

October 24-28, 2016

Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 26, 2016

3:10 pm – 7:10 pm @ EMS

Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 27, 2016

7:30 am – 11:30 am

No School

No School

October 28, 2016

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A Message From Principal Leah Gonyeau

Dear Parents:

Where did the first quarter go? So many things have gone on, yet it doesn't seem that we should be 25% through this school year. Please let me highlight and inform about some of the things that have transpired throughout this first quarter;

Student-Led Conferences were conducted on September 14th and 15th with an 83% attendance rate. As we are focusing on partnerships and building community with our learners this year, it is very important to us that we meet every student's parents and Student-Led Conferences showcase our foundational purpose. Our students did an amazing job presenting on their progress, successes, and challenges. Our homeroom teachers are also working very hard to help our students take responsibility for their learning and participate in the creation of their learning paths. We will conduct open house style Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 26th from 3:10 – 7:10 (this is a slight change from the calendar), and October 27th, from 7:30 am – 11:30 am. There will be no school for students on October 27th or 28th. This is an opportunity for parents to come meet with all their student's teachers, without an appointment. We will conduct Student-Led Conferences again in February and will be in touch to schedule them with homeroom teachers.

On Monday, Sept 19th, we launched our annual fundraiser and will conclude on Monday, October 10th, when all sales need to be turned in to our office. We are using BelieveKids and Otis Spunkmeyer again, and offering a field trip to Banana's to every student who sells 5 items. Each donation of \$10 counts as one item as well. You can purchase items online by going to www.ShopBelieve.com and enter our state and school, followed by the first and last name of your student salesperson. Our hope is to continue to incorporate more technology at East to help us realize our goal of a 1:1 device to student ratio. While continuing to implement Performance-Based Learning, technology needs are at the top of our list.

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PARCC and CMAS results were made available to you during Student-led conferences in September. If you would like more information about the assessments, please check out this website: <http://www.parcconline.org/resources/parent-resources>, and as always, feel free to contact us with questions.

In order to learn more about student's perceptions of their own Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills at East Middle School, we will be asking students to complete an SEL self-assessment this fall. It shouldn't take more than a few minutes to complete, and will be an invaluable source of information for us as we work to make our school and district as good as they can be. District 51 is one of five districts in Colorado chosen to participate in the use of a social and emotional learning (SEL) measurement tool. We have chosen Panorama, a self-reflection tool learners in third through twelfth grade will use twice yearly to identify their SEL needs as well as their SEL strengths. The tool takes approximately fifteen minutes to complete. Our fall tool will be available between September 26 and October 13. Given this window, our school leadership team will determine their completion timelines. Fall reports will be ready for use by the end of the first semester. Individual reports will be shared with school staff, family members, and learners. They will not be used to evaluate teachers. Spring dates will be determined and released after the New Year. We thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions about the administration, please don't hesitate to contact me at Leah. Gonyeau@d51schools.org or (970) 254-5020.

Have a great start to your fall season!

Exciting News from Yearbook!

Parents, Students and Teachers

We have made an exciting change and are using Picaboo yearbooks for the 2016-2017 school year! There are a lot of new features that are very exciting such as free online yearbook personalization and a mobile app. Students, parents and teachers can submit photos for yearbook consideration using the mobile app called Skipple. You can learn more at getskipple.com. Send us photos of sporting and academic events! Purchase your yearbook for \$25 through the main office with Mrs. Sandoval.

~Yearbook Staff

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

- Sports Physical Special: \$25! No appointment necessary. You do not have to be a current patient.
- General Health
- Prevention & Wellness
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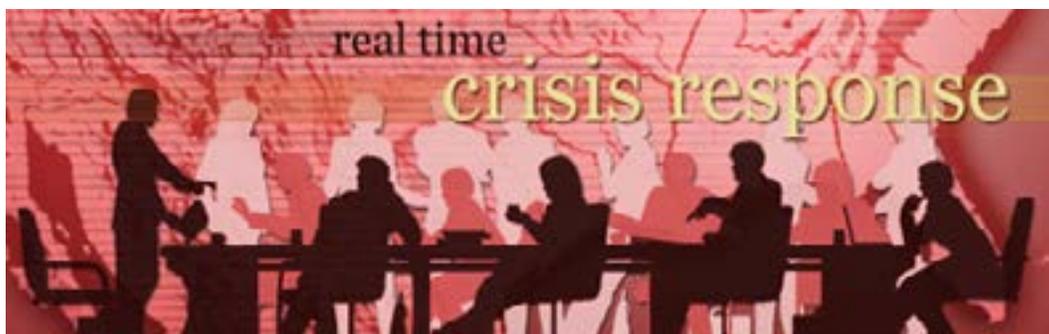
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Emergency Crisis Response

East Middle School conducts monthly safety drills to train students and staff on how to respond effectively and efficiently in crisis and in 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, 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, and 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 longer. 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 (<https://www.mesa.k12.co.us>) 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 crisis. 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 <http://www.ci.grandjct.co.us/default.aspx>. If you have further questions about procedures and policies regarding safety drills, contact the Assistant Principal at EMS – Larry Padgett.



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

What does GT look like at East Middle School?

Social/Emotional Needs: At East we follow the district guidelines for GT programming. Like all middle schools in the district, we have a ½ time GT teacher. For each grade, GT looks a little different because of the ½ time position, but all grades focus on social/emotional aspects of gifted students during an elective course.

- 6th Grade: All identified GT students (Advanced Learning Plan is in place) are placed with the GT teacher for homeroom. This is an opportunity for the GT teacher to get to know the students and to invite other students who may need GT programming as well but were not identified in elementary. New “Grade 6-8 ALP’s” are written for students at the beginning of the year. These students also have GT as an elective during 4th quarter. During the elective, Students work on an “Identity” unit where they explore their learning style, communication style, strengths and mindset. There is a heavy focus on organization and perseverance.
- 7th Grade: All identified GT students are given the option to participate in GT as an elective during 2nd quarter. Students work on a “Community” unit where they focus on using their strengths and talents to solve a problem in the school or community. ALP’s are updated each year during the elective.
- 8th grade: All identified GT students are given the option to participate in GT as an elective during both 1st and 2nd quarter. Students work on an “Aspirations” unit where they research something they are passionate about and then they research a career, college and high school.

If a student is not formally identified as gifted, they may still be invited to attend GT because they have some evidence of gifted behaviors (teacher observation, standardized test results, cognitive test results, etc.). At East, we are continually collecting a body of evidence for students not identified, and some students may be invited to take a cognitive abilities test called CogAT in the spring. This information can be used for formal identification.

Academic programming: This will look different for each student and will be based on meeting qualifying criteria. Some students are grouped with others in a core class while others are placed in an honor’s course. Please ask if your child’s programming does not seem appropriate.

We Thank the Following Businesses!

Student Led Conferences were a huge success! We would like to thank all the students and staff who attended, and would like to send a huge THANK YOU to the PTO and the following businesses for their generous donations of food for our staff:



Donna Jennings
Associate Broker
970-261-4270

What is East Middle School doing in GT?

During the “Commitment to Community” unit, students choose a problem in the community and come up with a plan to solve the problem.’

- In 2013, students decided to work together to help improve reading scores at Chipeta Elementary by collecting used books and schools supplies to give out to students during “Family Reading Night.” Several hundred books were given out along with pencils, paper, and other school supplies.



- In 2015, students decided our courtyard needed a warmer feel. After a lot of research, they re-painted the concrete tables in the courtyard and the 4-square court. Another group wanted to give students a voice in solving problems at school, so they submitted a proposal for a Student Council. They got it approved and found a teacher to lead the group.



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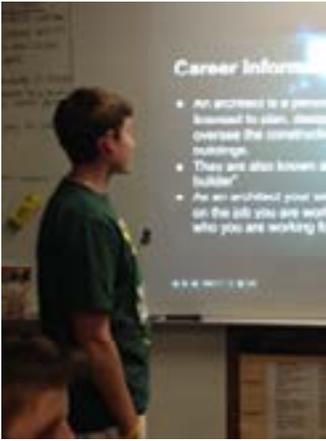
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What is East Middle School doing in GT? (Continued)

- 8th Grade GT students at EMS complete a Future Unit every spring. Students research a career, college, and high school and then present their findings to the class. One student went on and started his own Photography business, Cronk Photography, through the YEA program.



- All GT students at EMS learn about the brain and the Growth Mindset while playing games that encourage problem solving strategies. We end the unit with a Scholastica Tournament at BMS. Last year we were able to have two tournaments.



Sing-cerely Yours, R. Quinn

Quarter 2 will be a busy time for the choir/orchestra department as we prepare for our holiday performances. Honor groups will be rehearsing their specialty music and students can prepare songs at home to audition for the December 14 concert.

Parents, please be advised that the 7-8 grade students are eligible for the 7-8 Honor Choir Festival coming up on January 19 at FMS. If your student is participating in the audition process, they will be completing their audition on Tuesday, November 8 at 3:00pm in the choir room. Students will be notified of acceptance about a week later.

The first Music Parent Meeting will be on October 24 in the band room at 6:30pm. We will be discussing the big fundraiser coming up on January 14.

I invite all parents to come to a rehearsal to see and hear what your students are learning. Feel free to email (raisha.quinn@d51schools.org) or call (254-5020 ext. 33228) with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Please check with your student and on the webpage for concert dates and meeting times.

Until next time.....STAY TUNED!

We are now offering Tech Ed!

Dear Parents

The Technology and Engineering program is off to a great start! Because the program is brand new, we are looking for tools and supplies. General hand tools and lumber for projects would be appreciated. Also needed, is a sewing machine that is in good working order. Thanks to everyone who have donated tools and materials so far! Please contact Michael Warner with any questions you may have about this new program.

Please Welcome Jamie Johnson, Our New 6th Grade Math Teacher

My name is Jamie Johnson, and I am excited to be teaching math in the sixth grade at East. I grew up in Grand Junction, attending District 51 schools. Last year I completed my student teaching in sixth grade math at West Middle School. I am a graduate of Colorado Mesa University with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in statistics. I have always loved math and the ability to share that with my students has already been extremely rewarding. I guess you could say I come from a family of educators. My two older sisters also teach in the district, and my mom just retired from the teaching last year. My younger brother is currently a sophomore at CMU. In my free time I coach summer tennis leagues, read, and spend time with my family and friends.



GT News:

Mrs. Sleigh will be working with 7th grade GT students during 2nd quarter. During this elective, students will be working on increasing their executive functioning skills and helping the community using their area(s) of strength. 7th and 8th grade GT students will be invited to participate in the 3rd semi-annual Game Challenge Tournament at Bookcliff Middle School on October 21 along with GT students from all over the district. 6th grade GT students will be invited to participate in the spring tournament on March 3rd. More information to come.



Dress for Success

APPROPRIATE DRESS



INAPPROPRIATE DRESS



Thank you for supporting the dress code at East Middle School. EMS makes a concerted effort to create an environment of learning and growing for every student each day. Research shows that students perform better in school when they are able to focus on learning in an environment void of distractions and/or disruptions. Our position and aim is to remove any barriers that would hinder academic progress. Therefore, EMS, in chorus with District 51, have developed a policy addressing appropriate dress/attire. Appropriate attire includes: Shorts, dresses, and skirts that are at least mid-thigh in length, shirts that cover shoulders and back and midriff, even when arms are raised (no tank tops) and pants that cover hips and backside so as not to show undergarments. Bra straps should not be exposed, hats are to be removed when in school buildings, and shirts that represent inappropriate messages will not be tolerated. No drug or gang related symbols are acceptable on a student's clothing. Anything that is deemed disruptive to the learning environment will not be permitted. Body piercings that are considered a safety hazard will not be allowed as well. Dress code guidelines can be found in the Student Planner. Please, take time to review the dress code with your child to ensure compliance with school and District policy.

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Grief Group to Start in October

East Middle School counselor, Dacia Ritterbush, in cooperation with Joni Beckner from Hope West Kids, will co-facilitate a grief group for students at East. Any student at East who has experienced the death of a special person is welcome and encouraged to attend. There are no limitations to attendance such as relationship to the deceased, the length of time since the death or the cause of death. The only criteria is that the student feels the death has impacted their life in a significant way. Each session will include grief education and small group discussion. Activities such as writing, art, and literature will assist participants in coping with issues of grief and loss. Grief group will start in October and will meet once a week for 8-10 weeks. Each student needs a permission slip to attend and students can get slips from Mrs. Ritterbush. Please call Mrs. Ritterbush at 254-5020 ext. 33129 for questions.



Help Support Our Challenge Trips!

