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CARDINAL CHATTER

Concluding the 2016-2017 School Year

The final day of school for students will be on May 27th as originally scheduled on the district calendar.

The 2015-16 school calendar was scheduled to have 1121 hours of instruction, far beyond the state-mandated 1080 hours.

Even with adverse weather during the year causing two school cancellations, students will still receive over 1080 hours of instruction this year.

To fulfill contract hours, teachers will be engaging in professional development that focuses on applying learning from this year's professional development as well as preparing for next year's students and instruction.

As the year concludes, we encourage parents and guardians to continue to maintain school day routines, communicate with teachers about their child's progress, and celebrate their



Upcoming Events

May 4

All-School Art Show
6-8 PM

May 4

HS Scholarship &
Academic Awards
7 PM

May 6

5th-8th Band &
Choir Concert
6 PM

May 13

Little Cardinals
Relays
12 PM

May 16

9-12 Band & Choir
Concert
6 PM

May 18

Baccalaureate
6 PM

May 22

Graduation
2 PM

May 27

Final day for
students

See the master calendar at home.ecsdcards.com for more scheduled events.

Changes for 2016-2017

LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY

Next year, the school day will be extended 15 minutes. Elementary students will be dismissed at 3:25 and secondary students will be dismissed at 3:30 on regular days. On early out days, all students will be dismissed at 1:00. Extending the day will allow more time for lunch, movement, and learning.

LUNCH

All lunches will be served in the multi-purpose room, which will be converted to a lunch room over the summer. Making this change will ensure food is served at the proper temperature. The kitchen has also been short staffed over the past two years, and serving from one location will require fewer kitchen staff.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP & COMPENSATION

After reviewing district goals, program implementation data, and student achievement data, and considering staff input, the District Leadership Team (DLT) determined that the following teacher leader positions should be paid leadership positions for the upcoming school year:

- 1 part-time TLC Coordinator
- 1 full-time Elementary Instructional Coach
- 1 full-time Secondary Instructional Coach
- 2 part-time Technology Integrationists
- 10 PLC Facilitators (No release time)
- 10 DLT Members (No release time)
- 2 Mentors (No release time)

To be eligible for a teacher leader position, a teacher must have a standard license and at least one year experience in the district. The district receives approximately \$200,000 in state aid that can be used only for Teacher Leadership and Compensation funding.

onAdministrators and teacher interview committees are currently working to interview candidates and select teachers for the leadership positions for 2016-2017.

Author Visits Earlham Elementary

Michelle Nelson Schmidt, children's book author, visited Earlham Elementary on April 22.

She presented two assemblies for the students. Michelle's inspirational talk focused on listening to your heart and following your dreams. She showed students some of her original artwork that inspired her to write and illustrate her books.

Michelle took the time to visit with students individually and ate lunch with them after the assemblies.



Elementary

On April 29, the 5th grade students held their annual science fair in the school multi purpose room.

Students have been working on their projects the past couple of months researching their projects and putting their ideas through the scientific methods. Many of the students worked together with a partner.

Some projects tested stain removal, potato light capabilities, salt water density, air pressure, among myriad of other topics.

The student's projects were judged by teachers and high school science classes prior to parents and visitors were allowed to view the projects.

Great job to the students and teachers for their great work!



Secondary

While the end of the year is filled with concerts, awards, athletic events and summative projects and assessments, it is also a time of service.

EHS students not only excel in their academic and extracurricular pursuits, they truly set themselves apart from the stereotypical teenager that is self-absorbed.

Our students stood in the pouring rain to help PIE with the Color Run, helped package thousands of meals for others (Meals from the Heartland), organized and prepared welcome packages to new residents to Earlham as part of a joint project between the City and the School and so much more.

This week they continue to serve and give thanks as they celebrate their teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.



From the Board Table

The Earlham School Board held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 13th for the 2016-17 budget. The Board did not receive any comments during the hearing and will proceed to budget certification through the Madison County Auditor and the Iowa Department of Management. Immediately following the Public Hearing, the Board proceeded with their scheduled Board meeting.

During his report to the Board, Mr. Hammen informed the Board that the elementary has started with Spring MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing. These adaptive tests are used by the district to measure individual student academic growth in the areas of reading, math, science and language. The MAP tests are developed by the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) which has over 30 years of experience in the development of adaptive tests. Students take this assessment on a computer and if the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

The MAP test results are also tied to the elementary Academic Goals for the 2015-16 school year. The elementary goal is to have each grade level have 80% of the students meet their individual target for growth from the Fall 2015 testing season to the Spring 2016 testing season in both math and reading on the MAP test. The middle school Academic Goal for the 2015-16 school year is also tied to the MAP tests. The middle school Goal is to have 90% of the students meet or exceed the national norm or show growth in three of the four academic areas (reading, math, science and language) comparing scores from the Fall 2015 testing season to the Spring 2016 testing season. MAP testing for the secondary students will begin on April 25th.

The School Board will be meeting on May 11th and 25th at 6:00 PM in the school library.

Get the *Cardinal Chatter* delivered to your mailbox or inbox!



We will publish this newsletter monthly throughout the school year to keep our school community updated on our progress as a district. Copies will be available at local businesses and it will be posted on the school website, but you can elect to have the Chatter delivered directly to your home via email or mail!

Simply go online to <http://goo.gl/dJ08ds> or call the district office at 758-2214 to get signed up to receive all future issues!

Looking for more information about our school?

Check out our school website at home.ecsdcards.com for more announcements, calendar of events, staff directory and more.