



ECSD NEWS
PAGE 2



BUILDING INFO &
TECHNOLOGY
PAGE 3



SCHOOL BOARD
CHANGES
PAGE 4

CARDINAL CHATTER



Dismissal Procedure Reminders

Overall, the newly implemented student dismissal procedures have led to quicker dismissal times and increased safety for students. The school staff appreciates everyone's patience and cooperation with the new procedures.

Anyone who uses the circle drive to pick-up a student should stay in the vehicle, wait for the

student to come to the car, then will circle back to the south onto 4th street. It is also an option to park in the main parking lot and walk to the main entrance to meet a student. Regardless of the pick up method, all adults need to wait for their children outside the building.

Buses are loaded farther north near the greenhouse. After loading, all buses exit to the north onto 6th street. Students who drive exit the parking lot to the west to exit to 4th or 6th streets.

Elementary students are dismissed at 3:10, and secondary students are dismissed at 3:15. Please be sure to share this information with anyone who may be picking up a student so all are aware of the dismissal procedures.

Upcoming Events

October 2

Farm Safety Day

October 5

Professional Development

October 15

Picture Retake Day

Check out the master calendar at home.ecsdcards.com for more events.

MAP Assessments

During the first weeks of September, K-12 grade students took tests called Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®).

We give students MAP tests to determine their instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of Reading and Math for K-2 and 12th grade students and Reading, Language Arts, Math and Science for 3-11 grade students.

MAP tests are unique in that students take them on a computer and they adapt to be appropriate for each student's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. We receive detailed, accurate information about individual student growth from these tests, that can then be used by teachers to guide instructional decisions.

Each school year, students in grades K-6 will take the MAP tests in September, December and April. Grades 7-12 students take the MAP test in September and April.

Teacher Leadership & Compensation

The district has begun the second year of its Teacher Leadership and Compensation Plan implementation. After examining implementation data from the 2014-2015 school year, a few minor tweaks were made to the plan to better meet the district's needs.

Instructional coaches Jon Peterson and Janelle Conry serve the secondary and elementary buildings, respectively. These full-time leadership positions support teachers in the improvement of instructional practices.

Two technology integrationists, Bailey Gulley and Dan von Rentzell, support the K-12 staff with making their practices more efficient and engaging through technology use. Gulley and von Rentzell both teach high school courses for half the day and serve as teacher leaders the other half of the day.

Ten teachers serve as Professional Learning Community (PLC) Facilitators and are responsible for leading PLC meetings for small groups of teachers on professional development days. These teachers Dion Braet, Jessica Enger, Kirk Gilson, Janet Grush, Mindy Harskamp, Tim Harskamp, Cheyenne Hopper, Justin Johnson, Sue Ramsey, and Nate Sletten, all who teach in the classroom full-time.

Five teachers, Brian Becker, Kirk Gilson, Janet Grush, Angela Ridgely, and Nate Sletten, also teach full-time while serving as Mentors for teachers who are new to the district. More details about Earlham's TLC plan can be found on the district website.

High School Students Serve



On Sept. 16th, 65 EHS students and five staff members took a field trip to learn about the different cultures that can be found around the world.

The first stop was at Meals from the Heartland in West Des Moines. In just over two hours with Meals from the Heartland, EHS students and staff packaged a little over 33,000 meals. Students had a great time working together and giving back to their community and the world, all while learning about food production and hunger.

Students then stopped for a quick lunch at the World Food and Music Festival downtown, which featured over 53 different food vendors and various live bands representing a multitude of cultures. The trip was enjoyable and educational for all.



Elementary

We are happy to announce that Earlham Elementary was selected as a STEM grant recipient for the 2015-2016 school year.

As a result, our K-6 grade students have access to ST Math, a supplemental online program developed by the MIND Research Institute, that builds students' problem-solving skills while developing mastery of mathematical concepts.

Students have the ability to work at their own pace through the levels that are designed around Common Core objectives. Student can also play the ST Math games at home.

Students have been very receptive to this program, and teachers are excited to have yet another resource to engage students in learning content at their instructional level.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Jason Hammen, Elementary Principal, or Kristin Sheffield, Curriculum Director.



Technology

If you attended the Homecoming football game, you may have noticed one of our favorite new technologies: the drone!

This new technology, purchased with fundraised monies, is affectionately known as "Air Earl" and available for all teachers and coaches to use.

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Houghton have been flying it recently, capturing many great views from the sky, including the all-school "E" picture, the marching band's half-time performance, the Homecoming parade, and segments of football practice.

We are very excited for the learning opportunities this device adds to our technology-rich environment at ECSD.



"Air Earl's" view of the football team entering the field.



Secondary

Standards-based grading (SBG) is not new for the 7-12 Earlham staff, as they have been studying and exploring this topic for several years.

However, this is the first year where most teachers are implementing it in their classrooms. All 7th grade teachers are incorporating it, as well as many HS teachers in one or more of their classes.

Teachers identified power standards that drive their course content. These standards were selected because they will be used in future courses, in other content areas and/or throughout life. Each day students have an "I can" statement, or learning target, so they know exactly what they are learning and what they will be able to demonstrate knowledge of later.

Assessments and feedback are learning-focused rather than points-based, which provides a clearer picture of what students know and are able to do in relation to those power standards.

From the Board Table

At their meeting on September 16th, the Earlham School Board had three current members retire from service and welcomed three new members to the Board. Retiring from service on the School Board were Andrew Arnburg, and Steve Willem, who both served for the past four years, and David Morford, who served on the Board for the past 10 years. Their service to the students of the school and the community are greatly appreciated.

The new members of the School Board include Jan Fletcher, Julene Mutchler-McNeal and Jess Tiemeyer. These three new members will serve for at least the next four years.

The “new” School Board elected current member Teresa Waldron to serve as President for the next school year and current member Kathy Wolcott to serve as Vice President. The Board set meeting dates for the next 12 months, established committee membership for the district’s standing committees.

In addition, the Board assigned responsibilities for representation at the Iowa Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly and the Dallas and Madison County Conference Board. All of this information has been updated and is available on the district’s website. The three new members of the Board are also planning to attend the Iowa Association of School Board’s Board Member Orientation workshop on October 5th.

The School Board will be meeting on October 7th 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.