

East Washington School Corporation

"All for One – One for All"

Our Vision is to achieve *Excellence in Education*

Dates to Remember:

April 8

School Board Meeting

April 25

School in session today

April 26

Pekin-Eastern Alumni
Banquet

May 1

Advisory Board meeting

May 13

School Board Meeting

May 26

Memorial Day – no school

May 27-29

School in session

May 29

Student last day

June 1

EHS Graduation

June 10

School Board Meeting

Contact Information:

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Eastern High School

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East Washington Middle School

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East Washington Elementary School

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A Message from our Superintendent

by Steve Darnell

Recently, the Governor signed into law Senate Enrolled Act 91. This means after July 1, 2014, the Indiana Common Core standards that were adopted in August 2010 and fully implemented in grades kindergarten through grade two will be replaced with new standards. The Indiana Common Core standards are learning expectations and measurements based on the nationally-developed "Common Core" standards that were adopted by 44 states throughout our nation. The purpose of the "Common Core" standards is to provide clear expectations to ensure that all students have the English language arts/literacy, math skills, and knowledge necessary to succeed in college or a career after graduation from high school, regardless of where they live.

This voiding of the Indiana Common Core standards has caused the Indiana Department of Education to construct new standards for Indiana students to meet the same purpose of ensuring Indiana students have the English language arts/literacy, math skills, and knowledge necessary for success in college or a career after completing high school. Much work has been done on these standards throughout this school year with input from parents, teachers, administrators, college level personnel, and business/industry representatives. The State Board of Education is set to approve these new "Indiana College and Career Readiness" standards on April 28.

What this means for students at East Washington is a shift from the Indiana Common Core standards we have been using for the past four years to a new set of standards. As always, our teachers, administrators, and staff are adapting to this change, and we will start the new school year in August 2014 with curriculum that is built on the new Indiana standards. Please contact building administrators or myself with questions or concerns about the process. Once the standards are finalized by the state, our plan is to post them on our corporation website for your review.

We appreciate your understanding and support as the State of Indiana, as well as our school district, makes this transition over the coming summer months. Working together, we can ensure our students will not miss a beat in their quest for *excellence in education* at East Washington with the new Indiana standards.

Eastern High School

by Principal Darin Farris

School Spirit

What is school spirit? It's not really something you can put your finger on. It's that feeling you get when you enter a school, attend a game, or watch a pep rally. It is the feeling that everyone is proud of their team, their school and the students that attend there; past, present and future. It's an excitement in the air, invisible electricity that seems to emanate from everywhere. School spirit is pride, camaraderie, and the involvement of everyone in the community. High classroom achievement, proper behavior, and good attendance exemplify school spirit. School spirit is what sets some schools apart and makes school memories so precious. Even though you can't define school spirit in one word, you know it when you see it, hear it, and feel it. It's what possesses some people to paint their faces in their school colors, wear outrageous wigs, or do the wave in the stands. That's school spirit!

Who is responsible for improving school spirit? The answer is: EVERYONE! Improving school spirit starts with administration. Administrators must be receptive to new ideas and allow those ideas to take shape. Teachers, counselors, and support staff must be willing to participate in dress up days, participate in pep rally games, attend events, and encourage the students. Students must participate in school spirit activities, attend events, encourage other students to take pride in the school, and care about their classroom performance, behavior, and attendance. Parents and other community members are a big piece of the school spirit puzzle. Attendance at school-sponsored events and support of EHS students is vital to our school spirit.

While attending athletic events, I often hear the student sections from both teams chanting "We got spirit, yes we do; we got spirit, how about you?" Do we really have spirit? Are we proud to be a MUSKETEER? What can we do to improve the school spirit at Eastern High School?

East Washington Middle School

by Principal Amber Sater

There are a lot of great things happening at East Washington Middle School. We had awesome attendance for the first round of ISTEP+, the dance team made it to the state competition level, the wrestling team won conference, and everyone has adjusted very well to the extra hour of school! I can't tell you how proud we are of the EWMS students!

More exciting news: The 7th grade students of EWMS have the chance to travel to Chicago for an overnight trip on April 10th and 11th. Mr. Troy Smith (social studies teacher) has organized the trip for the past four years, and is continuing to provide our students with this opportunity.

The students will depart early Thursday morning from the middle school, and will arrive in the windy city by 11:00. From that point, a tour guide will take the students to the Field Museum of Natural History and the John Hancock Observatory for a spectacular view of the city. That evening, the students will go to Medieval Times where they will be served a medieval feast as they watch knights joust and compete in games of skill! On the second day, students will visit Millennium Park, Buckingham Memorial Fountain, Lake Shore Drive, the Loop, and the Museum of Science and Industry. They will also get to check out much of Chicago's famous architecture before making the trip back to Pekin.

Though brief, the students get so many cultural and educational experiences from this trip. Mr. Smith does an excellent job coordinating the tour, and the students are always grateful for the opportunity.

East Washington Elementary School

by Principal Lisa Thomas

What's New at EWES?Early Learning Literacy Grant

East Washington Elementary has received a grant for over \$9,000 to provide reading intervention materials and training for our staff. The Leveled Literacy Intervention system is a research-based, supplementary intervention system designed to help teachers provide powerful, daily, small-group instruction for the students. Through systematically designed lessons and original, engaging leveled books, this program supports learning in both reading and writing, and helps students expand their knowledge of language and words and how they work. As stated by the teacher/researchers, Irene Fountas & Gay Su Pinnell, This program will "Prevent literacy difficulties before they turn into long-term challenges." Training with our staff will begin this spring with implementation of the program in the fall.

After School Child Care Grant

East Washington Elementary has teamed up with North Harrison Elementary and Morgan Elementary to provide after school child care for families within our school. Our program will begin in the Fall of 2014. Children will have assistance with homework, snacks, physical activity, and extended learning opportunities including literacy, hands on science, technology, engineering, and math programming.

