

East Washington School Corporation

"All for One – One for All"

Our Vision is to achieve *Excellence in Education*

Dates to Remember:

July 22

School Board Meeting

July 24

5th Grade Parent Night
6 PM

July 28

Registration 8 AM – 3 PM

July 29

Registration 8 AM – 5 PM

July 31

Elementary Open House
5:30 – 7 PM

August 1

First Student Day

August 7

Middle and High School
Open House 5:30 – 7 PM

August 12

School Board Meeting

September 1

Labor Day – No School

September 9

School Board Meeting

Contact Information:

East Washington School Corporation

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Pekin, IN 47165
812-967-3926

Eastern High School

1100 N. Eastern School Rd.
Pekin, IN 47165
812-967-3931

East Washington Middle School

1100 N. Eastern School Rd.
Pekin, IN 47165
812-967-5100

East Washington Elementary School

1020 N. Eastern School Rd.
Pekin, IN 47165
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A Message from our Superintendent

by Steve Darnell

The end of July means the start of school, and East Washington School Corporation opens its doors to 1,600 students on August 1 as the first day of school for students. With the 2014-15 school year soon to be under way, Darnell said the school system is ready to serve and support these students in the new school year.

Building off the successes of last year—including a graduation rate of 89.5% (up from 89% the prior year), and 90% of third grade students passing IREAD by reading on grade level—Darnell says the district will be focused on improved academic achievement of students in English/language arts and mathematics areas this year using the new Indiana college & career ready standards.

Darnell said that district staff was busy over the summer preparing for the return of students including these updates: newly painted and carpeted rooms and common areas in parts of the buildings, classrooms that are refreshed and ready for learning, digital learning available through an iPad in the hands of every 4th through 6th grader and new Chrome books available for students in grades 7 - 12, enhanced Wi-Fi capabilities, and more than doubling the size of the corporation's internet bandwidth through all buildings.

Darnell highlighted several positive developments for students in East Washington schools, including both academic and child-wellness information:

- **Student Achievement is on the rise.** East Washington remains committed to ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education and are supported in their efforts to reach their full potential.
- **East Washington schools are setting a healthy example.** This year, East Washington is implementing a healthier lunch program, providing students with expanded access to whole grains, lean protein, and fruits and vegetables through creative menus and a la carte items in the high school. Further, East Washington is committed to decreased access on campus during the school day to sugary drinks and snacks in effort to improve the health of its students.

Darnell outlined the goals for the district this year, which include goals approved by the School Board for 2013-2016. These goals included:

- **Ensure Success for All Students**
- **Provide an Effective Instructional Program**
- **Maximize Facilities and Financial Resources for Student Learning**
- **Strengthen Community Collaborations and Partnerships**

Registration for students is scheduled for July 28 between 8 AM – 3 PM and July 29 between 8 – 5 PM in each school building. Open House for elementary students and their parents will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2014 between 5:30 – 7 PM. The annual fifth (5th) grade parent night for incoming students at the middle school is scheduled for Thursday, July 24 at 6 PM. The middle school and high school Open House is slated for Thursday, August 7 between 5:30 – 7 PM.

Darnell encouraged parents and community members to become active participants in the learning and student achievement that is mounting at East Washington schools. He noted, “East Washington School Corporation is the community’s schools with everyone having a long-term, vested interest in the success of our schools and students. The families who send their children to our schools, the taxpayers who support the schools and the businesses who hire our graduates are all critical to helping students achieve the academic success they deserve for personal success and future opportunity.”

East Washington Middle School

by Principal Amber Sater

The 2014-2015 school year will be upon us soon, and we are working hard to ensure that it will be our best year yet! From the custodians cleaning the halls, to the teachers setting up their classrooms, we are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of our students—after all, they are our inspiration!

We are implementing some exciting changes in the new school year, the biggest being Professional Learning Communities. The staff has spent a full year laying the groundwork for our new plan, and we’re ready to apply it to the classrooms. The idea of a Professional Learning Community is that teachers will ask themselves four essential questions everyday...

What will my students learn today? Teachers will collaborate to determine learning targets; in fact, they’ve been mapping these out since the middle of last school year. Of course, the Indiana Department of Education has adopted a new set of standards, and our teachers have been working very hard to break these down and plan for the 14-15 school year.

How will I know if they learned it? We will use a program called Mastery Connect. Parents should stay tuned to middle school newsletters and announcements for more information on this program, as every parent will have a username and password to check their child’s learning! This program breaks everything into standards, and shows the teacher and parent which standards that child has mastered, and which standards need remediated. This will be a tremendous asset to track our students’ progress!

What will I do if they didn’t learn it? Remediate! During the 14-15 school year, our students will receive instruction tailored specifically to their needs based on standards. Our teachers will look at the data from Mastery Connect to hone in on “problem areas” specific to the students. Teachers will be available during homeroom time, as well as in the classroom, to remediate struggling students.

What will I do if they already knew it? Enrich! As some students will receive remediation, others will receive enrichment. When a child has already mastered a standard, they will be given activities and instruction on the same topic, using higher-level thinking skills to further enhance their learning.

We have an awesome staff at EWMS, and we’re ready to put all of our hard work to the test as we track student learning and strive for success like we never have before!