

East Grand Rapids High School
~ Youth Development ~
Senior Retreat Class of 2010
August 22 – 23, 2009

April 25, 2009

Dear Parents,

We are beginning to make plans for our **11th Annual Senior Retreat on August 22-23, 2009**. We will be returning to Camp Blodgett on the shores of Lake Michigan, just south of Grand Haven. The retreat is put together through a combined effort of students, parents and staff. Last year's retreat received nothing but positive feedback by all involved. Two hundred and twenty-two members of the Class of 2009 participated; that's 93% of our graduating class. Each year our goal is to reach 100% participation for the incoming senior class.

The aim of Senior Retreat is to bring the **Class of 2010** together before the start of their senior year to give them a chance to reflect on what would be important to accomplish during their upcoming year, both individually and as a graduating class. It is also a time for them to understand and know their classmates on a personal level, through a variety of small- and large-group activities. Each year the senior class tends to set the atmosphere for the rest of our student body: having a positive and united senior class is a great start for everyone!

The Senior Retreat is organized and run by a student planning committee, supervised by high school staff and executed with a host of volunteer parents, all pulling together to make the weekend successful. Student Planning Committee application will be available outside the Youth Development office the week of May 4th for any juniors interested in applying for a position on this committee. The committee will begin working this spring and meet twice a month in the summer.

This cannot be done without a strong commitment from the parents, which is why we are notifying you now. There are many opportunities for parent involvement before and during the retreat. Please take a moment and look over the committee descriptions listed on the back and **return the two forms and check to the high school by May 22**. Please know, we appreciate any help you are willing and able to give!

I know that some of you will have students who do not want to attend for various reasons, but take a look at the quote below from a former student and see one of the reasons that we strongly encourage all students to participate. The Senior Retreat can not only make a difference in your senior's year but also for someone that he or she befriends. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly at 575-9912 or via e-mail at CSzivan@egrps.org. Thanks so much for your continued support both in our school and in our community.

Sincerely,

Cathy Szivan
Senior Retreat Director
CSzivan@egrps.org
Phone: 616-575-9912
Fax: 616-575-9909

“When I first came to East I felt like an absolute outcast and unwelcome by everyone. It lasted until the end of my junior year. However, at senior retreat I felt welcome at East for the first time since my arrival. And for that I thank those who were in the Senior Retreat Leadership Committee, along with Mrs. Sunshine and Kamy. THANK YOU!” – Former Senior

REGISTRATION – EGRHS SENIOR RETREAT
AUGUST 22-23, 2009, CAMP BLODGETT
Please return with \$60 to main office by Friday, May 22

NAME _____ **MALE** _____ **FEMALE** _____

ADDRESS _____ **PHONE** _____

E-MAIL _____

MY COMMITMENT

In signing this application, I agree to cooperate in making our Senior Retreat a success by:

- Participating in all the scheduled sessions by respecting and supporting my classmates to the very best of my ability
- By abiding by the rules, which include the following: immediate dismissal will result from the use or possession of drugs, alcohol, or any type of combustible or noisemaking devices.
- Violation of cabin expectations, swimming safety rules can also result in dismissal, which requires your parent/guardian to arrange for your immediate transportation from the camp.
- Committing to **being present for the entire block of time of the retreat** and riding to and from the retreat on school transportation.

Signature of student _____ **Date** _____

PARENT PERMISSION AND COMMITMENT

I approve my daughter's/son's application for the SENIOR RETREAT and have read the rules and expectations. In case of emergency, I authorize the physicians at the nearest hospital to treat any injury or illness for my child's best welfare. I hereby waive and release East Grand Rapids Schools for any decisions made regarding my child. I am willing if necessary to pick up my child **at any time, should he/she fail to obey the rules of the retreat.**

Home phone _____ **Work Phone** _____ **Emergency Phone** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Medical problems: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____

Insurance Company _____ **Group #** _____

The cost is \$60. Registration should be turned into the main office **by Friday, May 22nd**. Please send payment and registration to Senior Retreat, East Grand Rapids High School, 2211 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI. 49506. Any questions relating to the retreat or cost should be addressed to Cathy Szivan, Senior Retreat Coordinator 575-9912. **Financial help is available.** Please make checks out to **Senior Retreat - East Grand Rapids High School. No refunds after August 1.**

~PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE~

PARENT COMMITTEES – SENIOR RETREAT

1. Food Committee – Help obtain supplies and prepare meals for the retreat.

_____ I can work 3-4 hour shift at Camp Blodgett during the weekend.

_____ I would love to drop snacks or 3 dozen cookies/dessert bars off the Friday before the retreat to a designated house.

2. Parent Volunteer Committee – Basically the “**I would love to help, let me know where you need me**” in making this weekend a great start for my senior..

_____ Absolutely, give me a call or shoot me an e-mail with the available time slots!

3. Bus Registration Committee – Responsible for check-in and bus assignments at the Middle School on day of retreat.

Chair _____ Helper _____

4. Medical Committee – Be “on staff for a 3-4 hour time slot during the retreat as a trained medical personnel.

_____ I am a willing to help!

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Student’s Name: _____

Parent E-mail address: _____