

# EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## A Tradition of Excellence

Newsletter from the Office of the Superintendent  
August 2019

### 2019-2020 Board of Education

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Heidi S. Kattula, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### Board of Education Meetings

#### Mondays at 6:00pm

James E. Morse  
Administration Center  
at Woodcliff  
2915 Hall St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

- August 13, 7:30am (Tuesday at High School)
- September 16
- October 21
- December 2
- January 13
- February 10
- March 9
- April 20
- May 11
- June 1 (Budget Hearing)
- June 8

Community members  
are encouraged to attend

**EGRPS**  
EAST GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.egrps.org](http://www.egrps.org)  
[www.facebook.com/egrps](http://www.facebook.com/egrps)

### From the Superintendent



I hope this letter finds each of you enjoying a wonderful summer with your family and friends. As we embark on the 2019-2020 school year, I want to welcome you back on behalf of the Board of Education, administration, and staff of East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

This past year I had the honor of meeting, learning, and leading alongside our outstanding staff and school community. Our district continues to be one that is sought after across our state and country due to its academic excellence and the tremendous opportunities we provide each student. To that end, we continuously focus on enhancing programs, updating curriculum resources and support materials, while always providing a world-class education that is focused on supporting the whole child.

I continue to be amazed at the tireless work ethic and tremendous dedication of our staff. What makes EGRPS so special and unique is our staff's dedication and commitment to excellence combined with our community's tremendous support for our schools. These two factors continue to support and enhance our *Tradition of Excellence*.

Some exciting work we will focus on this year includes developing numerous staff trainers in the area of social emotional learning and supporting the whole child. This training will provide capacity building in a systemic and sustainable model. Our students continue to push themselves for excellence in academics, athletics, and social wellbeing. With all of these pressures, our school staff and school community must continue to build capacity to support all aspects of the whole child. This year we will develop the staff

trainers who will learn and apply their learning as part of their preparation to be able to train our entire staff next year. As we know, learning does not stop at the school doors. In order to truly provide our students full wrap-around support, we will extend the training to all staff and the school community starting in the fall of 2020.

Last year we partnered with the Community Action Council (CAC) to bring in a national speaker to talk to our staff and parent community about the unintended consequences around opioids, substance abuse, and vaping. Through feedback we found that the presentation was well received, and additional presentations were requested to help inform the school community of dangers that exist and how to support our children as they face new challenges each day. To continue that critical preventative work, this year we are partnering with a local team to educate our school community on the epidemic of vaping, its addiction, and long-term health consequences. We are also partnering with the CAC to show a movie, *Angst*, that will provide more awareness and community discussion around anxieties that our children manage. Please save the dates of September 18 (vaping presentation) and October 7 (*Angst*) for these upcoming community events.

Another milestone from last year was the capital campaign of EGRNow&Forever. Special thanks to the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation for recognizing and taking on the challenge to build a sustainable future for EGRPS with an endowment campaign. Through their dedicated efforts, our community donors have pledged more than \$6 million to support EGRPS now and in the future. Through their support, students in EGRPS will be provided innovative opportunities that our inadequate state foundation allowance

is unable to support. We are deeply grateful to our staff and school community for their unwavering support of our schools. We could not do it without you!

As we prepare for another school year, we strategically plan systemic professional learning for our teachers and administrators which furthers our mission. We also conduct numerous interviews as we continuously acquire new staff to replace those who have retired or moved on to new positions. Two administrative personnel changes include Mr. Kevin Philipps, Assistant Superintendent of Business, who accepted the Assistant Superintendent of Operations position with the Kent Intermediate School District, and he will start his new position August 5. Secondly, Mrs. Shelly Schram, Middle School Assistant Principal, will retire at the end of first semester after 33.5 years of service to EGRPS. We are still in the process of hiring Mr. Philipps' replacement; however, Mrs. Heather McKinney-Rewa will be recommended for hire as the new middle school assistant principal at our August 13 Board of Education meeting. Building principals will soon be sending out their back-to-school newsletters outlining building-specific personnel changes.

In closing, as the new school year is quickly approaching, I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer. We look forward to welcoming new and returning students on the first day of school, Monday, August 19, 2019. I wish everyone a productive and rewarding 2019-2020 school year!

Go EAST!

Heidi S. Kattula, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
[hkattula@egrps.org](mailto:hkattula@egrps.org)

## First Day of School

The first day of school will be a **HALF DAY on Monday, August 19.**

Dismissal as follows:

K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8:20 am - 11:24 am
Middle School	8:00 am - 11:30 am
High School	7:40 am - 11:05 am

## Regular School Year Schedule

K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8:20 am - 3:19 pm
Middle School	8:00 am - 2:52 pm
High School	7:40 am - 2:59 pm

## EGR Public Safety Adult Crossing Guard Schedule

Boston/York	7:50 - 8:20 am 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Boston/Breton	7:50 - 8:20 am 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Hall/Breton	7:50 - 8:20 am 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Lake Drive/Breton	7:25 - 7:55 am 2:50 - 3:50 pm
Lake Drive/Lovett	7:50 - 8:20 am 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Lake Drive/Plymouth	7:45 - 8:15 am 3:20 - 3:50 pm
Wealthy Condos	7:50 - 8:20 am 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Franklin/Gladstone	7:35 - 8:05 am 2:55 - 3:20 pm

## Registration

Registration is held on the following dates/times:

### Middle School

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade-August 12	8:00am-11:00am
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade-August 12	12:00pm-2:30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade-August 12	3:00pm-5:30pm

### High School

12 <sup>th</sup> Grade-August 12	8:00am-9:30am
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade-August 12	10:00am-11:30am
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade-August 12	1:00pm-2:30pm
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade-August 13	12:00pm-3:00pm

Middle school and high school students will receive schedules and locker assignments, complete necessary paperwork, register their electronic device, and take school pictures.

## Health Examinations

Michigan law requires immunizations and physicals for all students new to the district, as well as an immunization assessment for each student entering 7th grade. The required immunization list is available at each school and on our website at [www.egrps.org](http://www.egrps.org). The physical form is obtained from your physician. A certificate of vision testing or screening must be presented at the time of registration or no later than the first day of school for a child registered for the first time in kindergarten or first grade.

## School Lunches

Lunches are available in all schools starting the first full day, Tuesday, August 20. Please check the website [www.egrps.org/Food-Services/](http://www.egrps.org/Food-Services/) for prices. Meals are provided through a joint operating agreement with Grand Rapids Public Schools. Please send your check, payable to *Grand Rapids Public Schools Food Service*, with your child's name and/or ID# on the first day of school, or you may deposit funds online at: [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com). If you would like to apply for free or reduced price school meals, a meal application needs to be completed annually. Meal applications are available online at <http://egrps.mealapp.org>

## Woodcliff Early Childhood Center

EGRPS offers Early Childhood and Before and After School Care for preschool through fifth grade students at Woodcliff Early Childhood Center.

**Preschool:** Our early childhood program includes child care and preschool classes for three to five year old students at the Woodcliff Early Childhood Center. Preschool programs begin Monday, August 19 Half Day (AM preschool only).

**Before and After School Child Care:** Begins Monday, August 19.

**Transportation:** Child Care busing to and from the students' elementary schools begins Monday, August 19.

For more information, please call 616-235-7595 or check our links on the district's website.

## Did You Know...?

You can find a great deal of information about our district and schools, as well as latest updates, on the EGRPS website. Some items of interest include:

- District & School Annual Education Reports
  - Board of Education Meeting Dates & Agendas/Minutes
  - Business and Finance Information
  - Curriculum Information & Programs
  - Building Highlights
  - EGR Schools Foundation
  - Woodcliff Early Childhood Center
  - Enrollment Information
  - PTO Information
  - Legislative Committee
  - Calendar Information
  - Boosters Programs
  - [EGRPS Twitter](#)
  - [EGRPS Facebook](#)
- ...and much more!

**Check it out!**  
[www.egrps.org](http://www.egrps.org)

## Skyward and Skylert

The EGRPS student management system, *Skyward*, provides families with secure access to student data including report cards, gradebook and progress reports, attendance, district assessment results, and information alerts. All district parents and guardians have a Skyward Family Access login and can access the system using [Skyward Mobile Access for Android](#), [Skyward Mobile Access for iPhone](#), or with a browser at [egrps.org/skyward](http://egrps.org/skyward). If you do not know your account information, choose the "Forgot your Login/Password?" link.

Please use *Skyward* to submit attendance information for your child. Simply choose the Attendance tab to submit an absence in advance of the date of an appointment or on the day a student will be absent. Detailed instructions for submitting an absence are available at [egrps.org/attendance](http://egrps.org/attendance).

*Skylert* is the school-to-home communications system which we use to broadcast emergency alerts and attendance notifications via phone call, e-mail, and/or SMS (text message). It is customizable and allows parents and guardians full control over how they would like to receive these messages. We encourage you to customize your school-to-home communication preferences at [egrps.org/skylert](http://egrps.org/skylert).

## School Closings

If adverse weather conditions or other emergency situations make it necessary to cancel school, delay the beginning of school, or send students home early, the following information details our procedures. The superintendent makes the decision regarding school closure or delay based on weather-related data. The decision will be posted as soon as possible on the EGRPS website, [www.egrps.org](http://www.egrps.org), and alerts will be sent on *Skylert*. Announcements will be made on the following local stations: WOOD-TV 8, WZZM-TV 13, FOX 17, WWMT-TV 3, WOOD Radio 105.7

FM/1300 AM, and most other Grand Rapids area radio stations.

**In the Event of School Closings:** Child care and preschool programs follow the same closure as the district. A decision will be made early in the afternoon regarding cancellation of sporting events, evening programs, and practices.

**In the Event of a Two-Hour Delay:** All classes will start two hours later than the building start time. The decision whether to hold A.M. ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) at the later start time will be posted.

**Special Education Transportation:** EGRPS will inform Kent ISD/Dean Transportation of a closing or delay.

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** All students will be dismissed at the regular time unless severe weather conditions exist.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** All students may be detained if severe weather conditions exist.

**Tornado Watch or Warning:** All students will be kept at school if a *watch* is issued during the school day. If a *warning* is issued during the school day, all students will be instructed to take shelter within the building until the ALL CLEAR is signaled. Students will be dismissed at the regular time unless severe weather conditions exist. If a tornado watch or warning occurs outside of school hours, the school district will not begin any school activities (i.e., sports, PTO, etc.) If a tornado *watch* is issued while the activities are in progress, the students, participants, audience, and attendees will be dismissed and the activities will stop immediately. If a tornado *warning* is issued while the activities are in progress, the students, participants, audience, and attendees will seek shelter within the building immediately.

*After school activities may be held if such activities are scheduled to begin one hour after a tornado watch or warning has been lifted.*

## Special Education

If you live in the East Grand Rapids Public Schools district and believe your child has a disability, please contact the special education office at 616-235-3535 or visit [www.egrps.org](http://www.egrps.org) for information.

## PASE: Parent Advisors for Special Education

The Kent Intermediate School District has a parent-driven forum whose mission is to positively impact educational opportunities for children with special needs through parent collaboration and education. Each local school district has PASE members, appointed by their local school district and the KISD Board, who serve 3-year terms as parent advisors. PASE meetings for the 2019-2020 school year will be held at 7:00pm at the Kent ISD Education Services Center. Please reference their website at [www.kentisd.org](http://www.kentisd.org) for meeting dates. All parents of children with special needs are encouraged to attend PASE meetings. Please call the EGRPS Special Education Office at 616-235-3535 or visit our website at [www.egrps.org](http://www.egrps.org) for further information. The EGRPS PASE parent advisor, Carol Lippert, can be reached at [lippert\\_carol@yahoo.com](mailto:lippert_carol@yahoo.com).

## AHERA Notification

Under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1987, the East Grand Rapids Public Schools are required to notify parents and employees of the management plan and inform them of the activities conducted under the management plan during the preceding year.

The required three-year reinspection in 2018 indicated asbestos in district buildings is in a safe, non-friable condition, is properly protected, and there is no exposure present.

The asbestos management plan is available for inspection at the Business Office without cost or restriction during normal business hours. If you wish to have a personal copy, please notify the Business Office and it will be supplied to you within five (5) business days at a cost of 5¢ per page. We have endeavored to make our schools a safe place for our students and staff.

## Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act

A parent or guardian shall be permitted to inspect all instructional materials used by the district in the instructional program. Instructional materials shall include teacher's manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary materials.

Any questions or inquiries regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), should be directed to: Dr. Heidi S. Kattula, Superintendent, East Grand Rapids Public Schools, 2915 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506-3111.

## Pesticide Notification

East Grand Rapids Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the district's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, this program **does not** rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pests from becoming a problem.

As required by Michigan law, you will receive advanced notice of non-emergency application of a pesticide (insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide), other than bait or gel formulation, which is made to the school, school grounds, or buildings. This advance notice of a pesticide application will be given 48 hours before the application by the following two methods:

Posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are the main entrance and those that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot.

Posting in the common area located by the main office of the school.

Please note that notification is not given for use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants or anti-microbial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be promptly notified following any such application, via the two posting methods previously identified.

You may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request by contacting the Business Office at 616-235-3535.

Parents or guardians of children attending the school are also entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least three days before the application, if they so request. If you would like to be notified by mail please contact the Business Office at 616-235-3535. Please provide your name, mailing address, and what school(s) your child or children attend, and you will be included on the advance notification list.

### PESTICIDE PRIOR NOTIFICATION REQUEST

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

***Please check one of the following:***

- Yes, I/We only want to be notified whenever any scheduled major pesticide application is made.
- Yes, I/We want to be notified of all pesticide applications including any traps, small bait applications, or other least-toxic applications.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **V THE EAST VISION**

I would like to purchase a subscription and support the East Grand Rapids High School's newspaper, *The EAST Vision*.

- 1-Year (9 issues)  
Early-bird special, \$40.00
- 2-Years (18 issues)  
Early-bird special, \$70.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
**East Vision**, 2211 Lake Drive SE,  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-3026



Do you want to know more about what's happening in all of our schools? Would you like to learn more about the teachers and staff who make EGRPS such a special place? If so, you'll want to check out School News Network (SNN) at [www.schoolnewsnetwork.org](http://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org) or the EGRPS website. It's an online news site for all public school districts in Kent County, aimed at sharing the stories of our public schools. The site is supported through advertising and contributions from our districts and managed by the Kent ISD Communications Department.

School News Network provides information about what's happening in our schools and the issues that affect them. The School News Network provides a whole range of exciting student content, sports, and school news in a way that is engaging and easily accessible.

[www.schoolnewsnetwork.org](http://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org)

## Incredible!

### **EGR NOW & FOREVER**

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

People in our community have pledged more than \$6 million to the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation's historic Now&Forever campaign. Contributions have come from more than 800 families, including more than 130 EGRPS staff members.

The goal for the cash-pledge portion of the campaign is \$6.4 million. That leaves the Foundation approximately \$300,000 from achieving its goal.

If you haven't yet joined your friends and neighbors in contributing to Now&Forever, you can make your pledge on the Foundation's website, [egrsf.org](http://egrsf.org), or send in the form on page 8 of this newsletter. On the site you'll also find a list of everyone who has contributed to the campaign so far.

Thank you for  
your support!

**East Grand Rapids  
Schools Foundation**  
[www.egrsf.org](http://www.egrsf.org)

## **EGRPS Contact Info**

### **Breton Downs Elementary**

2500 Boston Road SE  
**616.235.7552**

Dr. Caroline Breault-Cannon, Principal

### **Lakeside Elementary**

2325 Hall Street SE  
**616.235.7553**

Stephanie Thelen, Principal

### **Wealthy Elementary**

1961 Lake Drive SE  
**616.235.7550**

Carlye Allen, Principal

### **East Grand Rapids Middle School**

2425 Lake Drive SE  
**616.235.7551**

Anthony W. Morey, Principal  
Shelly Schram, Asst. Principal

### **East Grand Rapids High School**

2211 Lake Drive SE  
**616.235.7555**

Craig T. Weigel, Principal  
Steven Wojciechowski, Asst. Principal

### **High School Guidance Office**

**616.235.7594**

Lori S. Johnston, Guidance Director

### **High School Athletic Office**

**616.235.7593**

Timothy Johnston, Athletic Director

### **James E. Morse Administration Building**

2915 Hall Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
**616.235.3535**

Dr. Heidi S. Kattula,  
Superintendent

Jennifer S. Fee,  
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

TBD,  
Assistant Superintendent of Business

Joanne Platt,  
Special Education Supervisor

Douglas R. Jenkins,  
Director of Technology & Assessment

Dan Luehrs,  
Maintenance Supervisor

### **Woodcliff Early Childhood Center**

**616.235.7595**

Jacquelyn VanderPloeg, Director

# Technology - Engage 1:1

Engage 1:1 is the student digital device program in the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Since the launch of this program seven years ago, our teachers and students have learned to integrate a wide range of online teaching and learning strategies into their day-to-day academic work. Having 1:1 digital



access in grades 2-12 allows our teachers to use instructional strategies that stimulate deeper thinking,

increase collaboration, and make learning more personal for their students. The Engage 1:1 program supports our district's Strategic Plan of preparing our students to navigate successfully in the 21st century.

At the high school and middle school levels, students bring their own digital device to class in support of their learning. This can be a digital device provided by the family, obtained through the district, or checked out from our Learning Commons on an as-needed basis. At the elementary level, the district provides digital devices for students to use during the school day for their learning. In grades 3-5, students have access to one device per student through the availability of computer carts in each upper elementary

classroom. In grades K-1, each classroom has a smaller cart of tablet devices that are shared by students.



For more information regarding our Engage 1:1 program and for examples of how our teachers and students are using technology in their classrooms, please visit our website at [egrps.org/engage](http://egrps.org/engage). You can also find information on our district device lending program.



## International Baccalaureate (IB)

East Grand Rapids High School became an International Baccalaureate World School in 2016. Offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) affords our students another academic pathway to college, career, and life readiness. All students during their junior and senior years are invited to pursue this pathway, which develops the whole child while stretching their academic potential. The IBDP focuses on critical thinking, inquiry, collaboration, conceptual understanding, and multiple perspectives building interdisciplinary connections, research skills, and self-management strategies.

This winter we were excited to welcome back our IB Diploma Alumni, Class of 2018, to share how the IBDP impacted their first semester in the post-secondary. These students strongly felt the IBDP prepared them for success due to the extensive writing, time management, and critical thinking required within the Programme. We are also proud to celebrate the Class of 2019's achievements. Each IBDP candidate completed all course requirements in English, world language, mathematics, science, social studies, and the arts as well as the required

Theory of Knowledge course. Students also completed their Creativity, Activity, and Service requirement and Extended Essay (EE). The Class of 2019 served more than 50 non-profit organizations in the Greater Grand Rapids area and all candidates passed the intimidating EE.



East Grand Rapids Public Schools is proud of the Class of 2018 and Class of 2019's IB Diploma acquisition rate of over 85%. This is above the world-average rate, which typically hovers around 78%. In addition, 13 of 21 courses assessed in May 2019 earned above average worldwide scores. Finally, we are especially proud of our IB candidates who earned a perfect score of 7 in a course. In the May 2019 testing cycle, there were eight perfect scores awarded. Candidates in our third cohort, the Class of 2020, worked to complete similar benchmarks throughout the

2018-2019 school year. This class of students is benefiting from all the learning our teachers and administrators have experienced over the past three years. These students have reported a significant change in their learning. Students independently noted how much they enjoy the discussion-based classes and improving their critical thinking while working in a more collaborative environment with their teachers and peers. This student-centered environment allows students to explore self-selected topics increasing engagement in their learning.

This fall we will welcome over 30 candidates from the Class of 2021 into the Programme. The benefits of this program are becoming evident to our students, which is spurring growth in the number of students who want to become full IBDP candidates and students who want to certificate in an individual course.

We invite you to learn more about our IB journey and program by accessing our IB website at <http://egrhs.egrps.org/IB/> or contacting Heather McKinney, IB Coordinator, at 616-235-7555 or hmckinne@egrps.org.

# Community Budget Guide

The East Grand Rapids Public Schools' (EGRPS) annual Community Budget Guide is designed as an educational tool for our families, staff members, and the City of East Grand Rapids residents. The Board of Education and administration strive to provide information and transparency throughout the guide regarding the complexities and challenges surrounding the development of the annual budget for EGRPS.

The Community Budget Guide includes information regarding our current revenues, expenses, and projections, as well as historical trends. The guide includes several years' worth of data on actual budget performances, fund reserves, student enrollment, and a glossary of financial and educational terms used throughout the guide. The district's revenues and expenses are compared to districts in Kent County and other districts in the state with similar demographics.

After several challenging budget years, the district has experienced four straight years of growth to its fund reserve. Once the 2018-2019 financial results are final, fund reserves will be close to 10% of 2018-2019 expenditures. The increase in fund reserves is the result of recent increases in state per-pupil funding, the passage of the

Kent County enhancement millage in 2017, support from the EGR Schools Foundation, and efficient management of district resources.

For the first time in several years, the Board of Education had to adopt a budget in June for the upcoming fiscal year prior to the completion of a State School Aid budget in Lansing. As of August 1, there were three different state budget proposals for 2019-2020 (Governor, Senate, House); however, a final budget for school aid is not expected to be finalized until September. The three proposals would provide between a \$164 and \$237 per-pupil increase for EGRPS. The Board of Education adopted a budget using the most conservative assumption for state funding, assuming it would receive a \$164 per student increase. This would increase the district's state foundation allowance to \$8,228 per-pupil.

The Board of Education adopted a balanced budget in June for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which maintains all student programs and services. The budget includes the expected \$164 increase in the state's foundation allowance. The county enhancement millage projects to provide \$225 per pupil in 2019-2020. The district will receive a \$150,000 grant from the EGR Schools Foundation, allowing the

district to preserve critical programs such as elementary classroom paraeducators, middle school reading support, and management of the Performing Arts Center. Maintaining the district's strong educational program and services requires the support of all three (state, county, school foundation) funding components.

We encourage you to read the Community Budget Guide <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pv4f-jeCEickFi0yzEDmuT9mmFTJ-bfD/view>. The annual update of the Community Budget Guide with the most recent information for 2019-2020 will be provided later this fall. The community's increased understanding of the complexities of school finance and the EGRPS budget challenges has resulted in excellent discussion and feedback concerning the allocation of financial resources. The Board of Education and administration welcome recommendations regarding how the district's financial resources should be allocated. Our goal is to maintain essential programs and services which significantly impact the quality teaching and learning environments we strive to provide in EGRPS.

## CONGRATULATIONS to our 2019 RETIREES!

We wish retiring staff all the best as they begin a new phase of life.

*Thank You for your service to EGRPS!*

Jan Aardema	19 years
Jackie Burdick	24 years
Barb Davis	23 years
Joyce Duncan	31 years
Nancy McSkimming	30 years
Annie Schmieder	15 years

## WELCOME TO NEW TEACHERS!

We are welcoming several new staff members to the district and we are confident that these professionals will quickly become integral members of an already strong faculty.

Lauren Ahlers	Psychologist
Jake Castillo	MS/HS Band
Holland Cummisford	Breton Downs Grade 3
Lori Goins	HS Special Education
Callie Jonker	Breton Downs Kindergarten
Marissa Lehman	Speech & Language Pathologist
Hope Sparks	HS Resource Room
Michelle Wagner	Elementary Music

# East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation



East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

## The Board of Directors for 2019-2020

Jill Miller, *President*  
Brian Schwartz, *Vice President*  
David Hojnacki, *Treasurer*  
Beth Skaggs, *Secretary*

Nick Adamy  
Tom Blower  
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Sara Irwin  
Rob Kowalewski  
Melissa Marsh  
Jenny McMahon  
Megan Miller  
Trish Reid  
Kelli Smith  
Abby Sorota  
Meg Zerfas

### Student Board Members

Xiangyu Chen '21  
Raenah Lindsey '20

### Ex-Officio Members

Heidi S. Kattula, Ed.D., *Superintendent*  
Brad Laackman, *School Board Member*

### Office Staff

Amy Stuursma, *Executive Director*  
Maria Allen, *Alumni Relations Coordinator*  
Jay Forstner, *Communications Director*  
Rosanne Mack, *Accountant*  
Carole McDonald, *Office Manager*

Thanks to our generous donors, the East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation enriches the educational experience of our students by funding excellence in teaching and learning that requires financial support beyond what the district provides.

This school year, the Foundation will provide more than \$325,000 to our schools in the form of program support, classroom enhancements, teaching awards and scholarships, and student scholarships. None of that would be possible without your tremendous support of our students, our schools, and our community.

Your support enables the Foundation to preserve critical programs and enhance the outstanding educational opportunities we provide to all of our students. Examples of programs the Foundation has supported in the past include elementary gym, art, and music, the K-12 World Language Program, early literacy para-educators, and professional management of our beloved Performing Arts Center.

In addition to program support, the Foundation funds numerous classroom enhancement grants throughout the year. Last year, these grants included classroom libraries in elementary and middle schools, diversity training for students and teachers, revitalization of elementary school Learning Commons, materials for the middle school Innovation Lab, the Gone Boarding class at the high school, the Mindful Moments in Music special education program, and many more.

Donors to the Foundation also supported the drama and music programs at all levels, as well as Barwis strength training for our athletes through the Jimmy Gerken Fund, Healthy High, and the middle school Day of Caring.

The foundation also serves as the information hub of our community by producing the weekly Cheat Sheet on [www.egrssf.org](http://www.egrssf.org). This popular one-page, quick-reference guide to what's happening in East Grand Rapids lists school, sports, arts, and community events. It comes out every Sunday night during the school year, and is updated during the week. As the official Alumni Association for East Grand Rapids, the Foundation continues to connect Pioneers near and far, young and not so young, through reunions, Homecoming, and the Pioneer Post, a quarterly alumni newsletter.

Again, all of this is made possible through the incredible generosity of our community. Over the past two years, donors have pledged more than \$6 million to the Foundation's Now&Forever campaign, leaving only about \$300,000 to achieve our goal. You can see a list of donors to Now&Forever at [www.egrssf.org](http://www.egrssf.org) and make a pledge of your own if you haven't already done so.

Thank you again for your support! If you have questions or would like to participate in Foundation events or volunteer, please contact Foundation Executive Director Amy Stuursma at 616-235-3535, option 8, or email her at [astuursm@egrps.org](mailto:astuursm@egrps.org).

### Enclosed is my contribution as a supporter of the Foundation:

\$2,500 & above    \$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$100    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Young Alumni (graduated in the last 10 years) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift to be used:

- Wherever needed most  
 EGRNow&Forever! - Endowment Fund to support programs & enhancements

My gift is in honor/memory (please circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation or donate online at [www.egrssf.org](http://www.egrssf.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation • 2915 Hall Street SE • Grand Rapids, MI 49506*

# ALL SPORTS PASS

All Sports Passes will be on sale in the High School Athletic Office beginning Monday, August 5, from 8:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm. An All Sports Pass allows you to attend any EGRHS home athletic contest, except hockey and MHSAA tournaments. You may also send a check payable to EGR Athletics, with the order form, to EGR High School, Athletic Department, 2211 Lake Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

**Gold Card** passes are offered free of charge to senior citizens who are 62 and older and are residents of EGR. Proof of residency and age must be verified at the High School Athletic Office at 2211 Lake Drive SE.

**ATHLETIC HOTLINE:**  
616-235-7593 Option 1  
[www.egrathletics.org](http://www.egrathletics.org)

All Sports Family Pass  
(up to 4 family members) \$200.00  
Each additional family member \$25.00

All Sports Pass (adult each) \$95.00  
All Sports Pass (student each) \$65.00  
Gold Card (senior citizen 62 & older) FREE

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names to be put on All Sports Pass:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Lost Passes will not be replaced.**

## LYD: Leadership & Youth Development

LYD is a parent-led high school program that provides leadership & personal development opportunities for our high school students. These students learn while interacting with their peers, our elementary and middle school students, and outside our EGR community.

### How does LYD train the high school students?

- ⇒ Outside leadership conferences (i.e. My Way, Rotary)
- ⇒ Professional training to the Freshman Connection leaders & Senior Retreat leaders
- ⇒ **NEW:** Student Advisory Board
- ⇒ Previous programs with middle school & elementary schools: Healthy High, TEAM, STEP, TATU
- ⇒ New programs (beginning 2019-2020) to take place at the middle school and elementary schools to include topic discussions and reading aloud time

### How can parents help?

- ⇒ Share your leadership experiences with high school students (mini-speaker series)
- ⇒ Donate to LYD to support our efforts. Donations are used to send students to training opportunities, bring in professional trainers, and pay for a staff liaison
- ⇒ Does your company or professional organization provide leadership opportunities for youth?
- ⇒ Volunteer on LYD Board or co-chair one of our events

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_ I want to volunteer, please call/email me.  
\_\_\_\_ I have a contact or idea for leadership opportunities in the community. Please call/email me.  
\_\_\_\_ I want to donate. Donation levels:

\$30 (Advocate)    \$50 (Supporter)    \$100 (Sustainer)    \$250 (Visionary)

All donations are tax deductible. Please donate through School Pay or make your check out to Leadership and Youth Development.

Contact Tamara Christians, 616-581-9117, tamara.christians@gmail.com;  
or Beth Kiisk-Milanowski, 616-318-6069, milofamily6@gmail.com for more information.



## COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

*Supporting Families in the Community of East Grand Rapids*

The East Grand Rapids Community Action Council acts as a catalyst to educate parents and the community concerning the illegal use of drugs and alcohol while promoting a safe, healthy environment for students in East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Since open dialogue is crucial in this endeavor, "Let's Talk About It" – small, in-home, guided discussions – are held throughout the year. Look for community events in September and October dealing with anxiety and substance abuse.

The CAC website can be accessed via the CAC link on egrps.org. Like us on Facebook! (EGR Community Action Council - CAC)

If you are interested in receiving more information or participating on a project, contact: Dee McGraw (deekmcgraw@gmail.com), 475-4210; or Kim Rossi (kimrossigr@comcast.net), 452-0439.

CAC relies entirely on the generous support of parents and community members to maintain its programming. Please consider making a contribution to CAC for continued funding of projects including sponsorship of speakers, forums, community resources, support groups, and the CAC High School Senior Class Citizenship Scholarship.

*I support the mission of CAC. Please accept my contribution gift of:*

\$25.00     \$50.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please email me "Alerts" and updates.

*Please mail this form to: CAC/Woodcliff, 2915 Hall SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506-3111*

# 2019-2020 District Calendar

## 2019

Monday, August 19 School Starts - **HALF DAY**  
Friday, August 23 No School K-12  
Friday, August 30 No School K-12  
Monday, September 2 No School K-12  
Friday, October 25 No School K-12 (P/T Conf.)  
Wednesday, November 27 Thanksgiving Break  
thru Friday, November 29  
Friday, December 20 Semester Break  
Monday, December 23 Winter Holiday Break  
thru Friday, January 3

## 2020

Monday, January 6 School Resumes  
Monday, January 20 No Students K-12, MLK Day  
Monday, February 17 Mid-Winter Break  
thru Tuesday, February 18  
Friday, April 3 Spring Break  
thru Monday, April 13  
Tuesday, April 14 School Resumes  
Thursday, May 21 High School Graduation Ceremony  
Monday, May 25 No Students K-12, Memorial Day  
Thursday, June 4 Last Day for Students - **HALF DAY**



East Grand Rapids Public Schools  
2915 Hall St. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-3111

NONPROFIT ORG  
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PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS MI  
PERMIT NO. 262

## PIONEER PICNIC

Wednesday, September 11, 2019



6:00-8:00 pm

Gerken Plaza/Memorial Field

(In case of rain, the picnic will be held in the High School Gymnasium)

## COMMUNITY WIDE PEP RALLY!!

- Meet the 2019 Varsity Football Team
- Free Football Trading Cards
- Spirit Shop
- Autograph Signing
- Free Team Posters
- Concessions
- Play Games with Players
- Socialize and Have a Great Time

*8th Grade Football Team will be playing a game on Memorial Field during the picnic*

Support **EAST** Sports & Enjoy Our East Grand Rapids Community!

