



Edmunds Middle School Newsletter

September 8, 2017

A Note from the Principal

Dear EMS Families,

In contrast to the foreboding sky on August 31st, the EMS community cheerfully gathered for the annual first day of school picture on the front lawn. Afterwards students entered the building with smiles and excitement. Over the last week faculty have filled the halls during transition times and the cafeteria during lunch to connect or reconnect with students. Mr. Chan and I have enjoyed our morning ritual of greeting students as they enter for the day (a time we've been using to challenge ourselves to quickly learn the names of our new 420 students). Observing classes at EMS has treated Mr. Chan and me with the opportunity to witness expectations for note taking in math being set on Team Endeavor and in algebra seminar, impressive image analysis being completed with Mr. DeMink on Infinity, consideration of how one's brain works to figure out the daily riddle in reading with Ms. Lavigne and young artists creatively titling their work and then reflecting on the challenges and successes of their first art task with Ms. Hawkes.



Your child might have already come home with their new EMS t-shirt. Challenge them to explain why, as a community, we are "All IN" this year. All in to our school commitments - learning, innovation, collaboration, respect and support. In order to support students in internalizing our commitments and expectations we are consistently recognizing when and how they do so by bestowing them with their t-shirt upon receiving a commitment card. Once our entire community receives their t-shirts we'll have a surprise celebration to reinforce our community's commitment to being "ALL IN." Get excited - we're well on our way!

This year EMS will still be using iPads as our 1:1 device. Teachers have already begun to support students in contemplating how to use these devices in a responsible manner by considering how to live a balanced life in a digital world, by investigating the impact of one's online presence and by establishing clear expectations for usage. Over the course of the year we will continue to discuss and reinforce the importance of digital citizenship and hope to offer opportunities for families to partner in this work.

For those returning families, we want to acknowledge that there are many slight changes to our expectations and policies this year. Our intention in making these revisions is to ensure a safe and structured environment where we are setting all of our students up for success. One example of such a change is the 4 minute passing time (increased from 2). We expect all of our students to be on time to class, but recognize that our building is large and time to take care of personal needs can require additional time. Thus, we set a clear expectation of timeliness but established a passing period that supports students in meeting that expectation.

The updated Family Handbook details these changes - I would encourage you to review the handbook with your child/ren, knowing that these expectations have also been discussed at school, but that in order to ensure they stick we must consistently reinforce and reiterate. Below are a few specific highlights to note:

- **Student Commitments**

At Edmunds Middle School we expect everyone in our community to treat each other with respect in order to ensure a safe learning environment by committing to the following:

Learning	Support	Respect	Collaboration	Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive on time • Come prepared • Remain on task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat peers and faculty with kindness • Keep building clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen, respond and act appropriately • Use indoor voices • Keep hands to self • Follow dress code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value other opinions and encourage others to participate • Actively contribute in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use school technology appropriately • All personal devices put away during the entire school day

- **Electronic Devices**

Personal electronic devices (e.g. laser pointers, iPods, MP3 players, cell phones, cameras, etc.) can be disruptive to the learning environment. All personal electronic devices must be turned off and put away. Electronic devices interfering with learning will be confiscated by teachers and returned to students at the end of the day. A second infraction will result in confiscation and parents will be asked to pick them up from Administration

- **Dress Code**

Students have the right to express their creativity and individuality through their dress; however, such rights must not interfere with the learning environment. All students are required to come to school dressed appropriately.

- Clothing displaying anything that, in the judgment of a school official, is sexually explicit, suggestive or insulting, or refers to illegal activity (e.g., use of drugs, gangs, tobacco, or alcohol) are not allowed.
- Underwear may not be showing; this includes boxers, briefs, bras or bra straps.
- Hats and non-functional head-wear may not be worn.
- Low cut blouses, shirts or tops that expose stomachs are not allowed.
- No pajama tops or bottoms or slippers.

Additional reminders/announcements:

- Please keep the bus lane free at drop off and pick up.
- Open House Schedule - Wednesday October 4, 2017
 - 6:00-6:15 Parent to Student homeroom
 - 6:20-7:00 6th Grade Team Meetings
7 & 8 Exploratory
 - 7:00-7:45 7 & 8 Grade Team Meetings
6th Grade Team Exploratory
 - Canvas Information & Tutorial (Library)

Mr. Chan and I are looking forward to the opportunity to meet many of you in person at our Open House on October 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Best,
Meg and Fieh

Hello from the Health Office!

My name is Becca McCray and for those of you who don't know, I am the school nurse. The year is off to a good start with only a few sore throats. Please remind your children that washing their hands often is the best way to stay healthy!



If you have a child with a prescribed asthma inhaler or EPI Pen, please be sure that it has come to school. It is your responsibility to ask your primary care provider to fax your child's asthma or anaphylaxis action plan to school. Keep in mind that asthma action plans are reviewed and updated by primary care providers and you may need to make an appointment before an action plan is presented to the school. If your child has a seizure disorder, please call pediatric neurology or your primary care provider to have a copy of their seizure action plan faxed to school. These emergency

medications and action plans are necessary to keep your child safe in school and especially on field trips!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email me at [802-864-8443](tel:802-864-8443) or rmccray@bsdvt.org. Thank you! Happy Health to you all!

Welcome to our new art teacher, Sandy Hawkes!

I just thought I would share our Day One Art Activity: "You Are A Masterpiece". Students were briefed on composition after talking about how Creativity Takes Courage. They all seemed to enjoy the photo booth-like fun! Enjoy some of it with us!





We Are!

Are you a part of the EMS Band Community?



Get on the email list for updates!

Contact gflamber@bsdvt.org

Get into your Art and Practice!

Practice 4 times a week for 15 minutes to feel awesome

Get into your Music Community!

9/12 6th Grade Instrument Night 7pm EMS Cafeteria

12/19 7/8 Band & Orchestra

1/11 6th Grade Concert: Band Orchestra Chorus

4/14 The Music Cabaret



Help this Band GROW!

Every year the EMS band grows. My first 6th grade band was 43 students. I thought, well that's pretty good. This year we have enrolled 103 6th graders, 79 in 7th, and 65 in 8th grade. I love to be involved with this excitement and interest in music at EMS! But it comes with a need for School Provided Instruments.

Can You Donate a Band Instrument?

Trumpet, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone *that works?*

Contact Graham Lambert at gflamber@bsdvt.org for details on how you could help.

VT ELITE



Tryouts for Mini Metro Basketball

VT Elite Basketball of Burlington will be holding tryouts for boys' teams in grades 5-8 for the upcoming Mini Metro season. The Mini Metro season runs from late October through February, with one practice per week and games on Sundays. Tryout times are as follows:

September 9 (Miller Center)
3:00-4:15 Boys Grade 5-6
4:30-6:00 Boys Grade 7
5:45-7:15 Boys Grade 8

Please pre-register at <http://www.vermontelite.com/>

Please get in touch with Sam Jackson (bhscoachj@aol.com) or Andrew Jope (jopes4@myfairpoint.net) with any questions.