

Student Achievements

- Over 400 music students attended MSBOA and MSVMA festivals.
 - Our 8th grade band received 1st Division ratings (Superior) in Performance and Sight Reading for an overall rating of Superior at the MSBOA festival this year.
 - Our 7th grade female choir, 7th grade male choir, 8th grade male choir, and 8th grade female choir all received 1st Division ratings at the MSVMA festival this year.
 - Instead of attending the MSBOA Orchestra Festival this year, Mrs. Hillyard brought in a guest clinician, a conductor with an international reputation, to work with the orchestra students. Mr. Robert Nordling from Chicago, IL. spent several hours rehearsing the students on the afternoon of February 28 on music the students had been preparing for their concert. Mr. Nordling was very impressed with their ability, their work ethic, and their willingness to do what he asked them to do. The students really enjoyed the experience of working with him!
- The winner and runner-up of the Regional Spelling Bee were both EGRMS students. As the Regional Bee included 20 students who had all won their school bees, it was impressive to have the last two spellers standing both represent EGR. The winner earned a spot in the Greater Grand Rapids Spelling Bee which will take place on March 27 at the Gerald R Ford Museum.
- 61 students participated in Science Olympiad this year. The team competed at the Regional Tournament on March 17th and took 7th place overall, qualifying for the State Tournament in late April. The team had 13 medal winning events including a 1st place medal in Wright Stuff and a 2nd place medal in both Meteorology and Roller Coaster.
- Robotics qualified for the state competition.
- Thanks to a generous PTO grant, the middle school was able to put on three performances of the first-ever middle school musical, *The Music Man Jr.* This show involved more than 60 students as actors and stage crew.

Student Activities (Athletics, Drama, Music, Arts, etc.)

- The first EGRMS PTO Regatta launched this year! Students in each grade competed by crafting and sailing cardboard boats on Reeds Lake (three per homeroom). 31 boats both completed the course and lasted the full duration test of 13 minutes.
- Students participating in Band – 174, Orchestra – 101, and Choir – 230 Total—505 (75%)
- Thus far, a total of 446 students participated in the following interscholastic sports: Girls Field Hockey, Coed Bowling, Boys Big Ten Football, Coed Soccer League, 6-8 Coed XC, 7th Girls Volleyball, 8th Girls Volleyball, 6-8 Coed Swim/Dive, 7th Boys Basketball, 8th Boys Basketball, 7th Girls Basketball, and 8th Girls Basketball.
- Approximately 200 students participated in after school intramural activities including basketball, badminton, volleyball, and archery.

- This year, the EGRMS Student Council was active in the following ways:
 - Participated in the homecoming parade
 - Hosted donut sales, and added hot chocolate during the winter
 - Helped with Hearts of Gold
 - Helped with funding and getting donations for MLK Day projects
 - Started "The Stash," a school novelty store (funds will be donated to help make enhancements to the lunch room)
 - Will host flag football in the spring
 - Will host a March Madness all school bracket
 - Will host a catered lunch where the student body will vote to pick the final winner
- The following clubs are active at EGRMS:
 - Art Club hosts about 30 participants. They paint, draw, use pottery wheels, invite guest artists to join them, and work on set design for the school play. They benefit from parent volunteers and donations of art supplies. All grades and levels of experience are welcome.
 - Spring Drama Club this year involved 26 students. The students will be performing two short one-act plays (*The Great Pandemonium* and *Boxes*) in May. The group focuses on learning the art of acting as well as characterization, techniques, and terms.
 - First Tech Challenge, our Robotics club, continued this year at the middle school involving around 43 students.
 - Chess Club is run by Mr. Brown after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- This year, the "Rock Your Socks Dance Off" raised money for the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan and the Autism Society of Kent County through the sale of plain crew socks as a new twist. Students and staff were able to make them "rock" however they liked. There will be a competition for decorated socks such as "Best Use of Glitter" "Best Use of Pen, Pencil and or Markers" and "Overall Theme of Disability Awareness" at the spirit assembly on March 29. Every pair of socks students buy will allow them to put their name in to be a judge, if they want to up their chance they can buy an entry for a quarter or five for a dollar. Nine students will be chosen to be the judges of the staff dance-off. Jill Fouch runs the fundraiser in March. During April, there will be an additional awareness fundraiser for the Autism Society.
- The 15th Annual Day of Caring is scheduled for Friday, May 4th. Each year we volunteer a collective 1,500 hours of work across the community.
- The science department took the entire 7th grade on the DJ Angus Research Vessel out of Grand Haven. It is run through the Annis Water Research Institute. Students spent time conducting research on Spring Lake and in the channel. They also used microscopes and conducted experiments on the vessel that explored water quality, microorganisms, pH levels, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen. Students worked both on the deck and inside the laboratory of the boat.
- The science department also took 7th grade students on their annual Waste Water Treatment Plant field trip.
- Our annual 8th grade trip to Cedar Point is scheduled for May 30th.
- The honeybees, provided through a generous Foundation Grant, have been a welcome addition to middle school science classrooms. Students have not only learned about bees and bee life, but also about social responsibility, pollination, and pollution.

Partnerships/Collaborations

- This is the 15th year that our teachers and staff have graciously requested that in lieu of holiday gifts, students donate to families and students in need in our middle school. Many families and students are struggling because of health issues, job loss, or other situations out of their control. Some of the items families were able to purchase/pay for were new tires, winter clothing, utility bills, and holiday gifts for their children, food, mortgage/rent payments, health care, and personal care items. This year, donations totaled \$6,425.00.

- Conference Attendance: 81% of parents attended conferences this year.
- A community blood drive was organized at the middle school through the science department. Michigan Blood also worked with 6th grade students to determine their blood type. This blood drive was the largest middle school blood drive in the state of Michigan.
- Over 200 students, identified through multiple measures, have been supported through programs that include (but are not limited to) Check and Connect and Student Assistance Team.
- The math department once again participated in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon. It was a great success this year with students raising \$3,420.00
- The English department works with the KDL Library staff to do regular book talks with students.
- On Monday, March 12th, our 8th grade students participated in the 2018 “Freshman Transition Fair” at the high school. Students spent an afternoon experiencing and learning about the opportunities that await them for the coming year.
- The middle school celebrated Dr. King and brought focus on his dream through a variety of activities on January 15. Students began the day with a silent march and a school assembly which was followed by all students participating in service learning projects by grade level. The service learning projects were:
 - 6th grade: made blankets for homeless shelters
 - 7th grade: made personal hygiene care packages for Arbor Circle’s The Bridge
 - 8th grade: made individual food bags for Kids’ Food Basket

Our keynote speaker, Ms. Lisa Knight, reenacted Sojourner Truth’s famous *Ain’t I a Woman* speech from the Women’s Convention in Akron, Ohio on May 29, 1851. Mrs. Knight followed her reenactment with a more typical keynote speech and a challenge for our students to try to “walk in someone else’s shoes.” Mrs. Knight continued working with our students in smaller groups on the concepts of Perspective Taking and Othering & Belonging on January 16.

- Thank you to the EGRMS PTO for awarding the following grants:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Middle School Musical ○ Michael Kuol Guest Speaker ○ Innovation Lab – Raspberry Pi and Arduino Kits ○ Classroom Atlases ○ Social Thinking Materials for Speech Language Therapy ○ Escape Project/Breakout EDU ○ Books for Monica’s Book Talks ○ Buzzer System “ME FIRST” ○ May We Have More Books Please ○ EGRMS Robotics Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tibetan Prayer Flags ○ Innovation Lab Robotics Materials ○ Interscholastic Yule Ball ○ Lightning to VGA Adapter Cord ○ Solace Kick Bands Feed Fidget Chair Bands ○ Wyoming Clean Water Plant Field Trip ○ Innovation Lab littleBits ○ Frogs (for Dissections) ○ Spring Drama Club
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- Thank you to the EGR Schools Foundation for awarding East Grand Rapids Middle School the following grants:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zoning in on a Culture of Inclusion ○ Bicycle Window Art ○ 3D Printer ○ Building Middle School Classroom Libraries ○ Social Studies Trade Books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Council of Teachers of English Conference ○ Lab and Dissection Materials ○ Finding Your Voice Through Written and Performance Poetry ○ Wall-Mounted TV and Bracket for Math Stations
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