

Eastwood Middle School "Home of the Eagles"

# Eagle News

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Eastwood M.S. Website

Office: 259-5401 Attendance: 254-5588 ext. 21555 Fax: 259-5407

#### DATES TO REMEMBER!

School Picture Day Aug 10

Back To School Night Aug 16

> Fall Fundraiser Aug 16

Athletics Carwash Aug 20 & 27

Fall Sports Pictures Aug 31

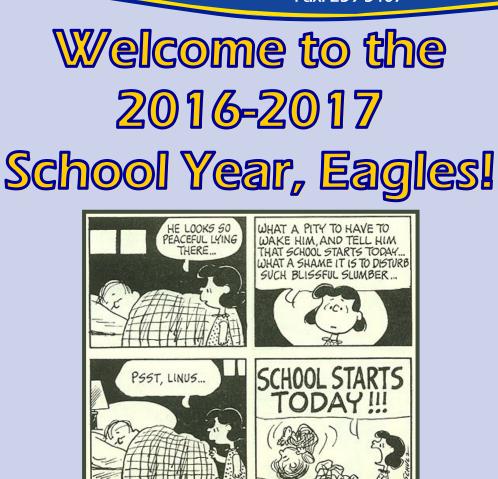
Labor Day–No School Sep 5

> <mark>6th Grade Social</mark> Sep 16

> > Open Gym/ Movie Night Sep 23

7th Grade Social Sep 30

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook and Twitter!



#### To our new Eastwood families, Welcome! And to our returning families, welcome back!

We are very excited for this 2016-2017 school year!

In this month's newsletter, you will find many important dates, documents, and new information for this school year. We release a new edition every month and

hope it will help to keep you and your family up to date with all the exciting events here at Eastwood!

# From the Principal's Desk

We are off and learning...

School has been in session now only for a few days and I could not be more pleased with how well the start to the year has gone. Students are asking the right questions, working to get a solid organizational system in place, signing up for extra-curricular activities, enjoying the company of other grade level students during lunch, and growing strong advisory communities during their Developmental Design course. From this firstyear principal's perspective, I am ecstatic at the potential our students possess.

We are going to continue the FINO (Failure is not an Option) program this school year. In fact, we are going to take it to another level of implementation. Recently, our team of teachers agreed to adapt our grading scale so that it was more equitable across the board in comparison to the traditional scale of 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C), 69-60 (D), 59-0 (F). After studying the issue this summer with our leadership team a quote from education authority, Doug Reeves explained in an article, *A Case against Zero*, that we have to be careful how we handle failing grades and zeros. He stated that because the F range in a percentage scale is so much bigger than all the other grade ranges, a low grade in one assessment may end up contributing more to the final grade than the other assessments, even if that was not the intent.

I have never understood why the F range on our traditional grading scale is 59 points, but our A range is 10. Students can earn a 37% on an assignment but not a 113%. Therefore, we are adjusting our grading scale so that the F range is simply 59-50 equal to the other grade ranges and we will utilize FINO to ensure that our students get retaught and redo their coursework when they fail. We want all of our students to be successful and we want to hold them accountable when they are not putting forth the potential we all know they possess.

Finally, we appreciate your support with checking your child's homework routinely. Establishing healthy study habits early in the year will be easier to reinforce then trying to correct bad habits too late. Please visit the following link to reference your child's homework: https://docs.google.com/a/msdwt.k12.in.us/spreadsheets/

d/14Pj1E70XKs7NAQRlcorJAg90Eq5DdAkAx\_nz7ifRNb0/edit?usp=sharing

Best regards, Mr. Taylor

## Welcome New Staff! 2016-2017

#### Mrs. Alyssa Breeden Art Teacher

Mrs. Breeden is originally from the farmlands of southern Indiana, but she has done a lot of moving around! She has lived in many places including Tennessee and Germany! We are glad she settled down here in Indy and joined our EW team! She is very excited about making some beautiful art with her students this year!

#### Mrs. Cara Clippinger French/Language Acquisition Teacher

Mrs. Clippinger is coming to us from Fishers High School. She is thrilled to be here and to be teaching in the district. She has been married to her husband, Jon (NC '94), for 16 years. She has two sons and loves to run, do yoga, and travel in her free time. She is most looking forward to getting to know her students and fellow staff members.

#### Ms. Vanessa Gee 7th Grade Science Teacher

We are so glad Ms. Gee joined our 7th Grade Team! She previously worked at Kipp and Emma Donnan Middle School. She enjoys reading and crushing weights in the weight room. She also volunteers in the juvenile system on the east side of Indianapolis.

This year, Ms. Gee is most looking forward to meeting the new families and the frog dissection at the end of the year!

#### Mr. J.D. Hartshorn 6th Grade Science Teacher

This is Mr. Hartshorn's 26th year in teaching. He taught the last 25 years in various school in IPS. For the past 6 years, he was at Eliza Blaker School #55. He has been married for 30 years and has three wonderful children. He loves hunting, camping, fishing, and IU—Go Hoosiers! He is most excited about being back in his favorite subject and teaching Science. He can't wait to get to know and work with other teachers on a team!

#### Mrs. Lori Metzger Orchestra Teacher

Mrs. Metzger has been an Orchestra Teacher for 10years. She was teaching at Bel Air Middle School in Maryland for the past 9 years. She is very talented and has been playing Viola for 20 years and violin for 14 years. She I married to her awesome husband, Michael, and they have an adorable son named Scott. She is most excited about having such huge orchestras and trying new ideas in her classroom!

#### Ms. Karen Morley 8th Grade Math Teacher

This is Ms. Morley's 7th year of teaching after spending 5 years at The Excel Center Meadows. She will also be coaching Tennis this year at EW! She loves cycling, running, reading, and baking. This year, she is most excited to get to know the staff and students as the year continues.

#### Mrs. Kelly Russo 7th Grade Language & Literature

Mrs. Russo is so excited to be a part of the 7th Grade Team this year! She came to us from Creston Middle School where she taught for 3 years. She is recently married and just a heads up— she still messes up her last name from time to time! She loves reading, traveling, coffee, and her two cats and dog! Mrs. Russo is most excited about learning more about the IB program and the community in EW and all of MSDWT!

#### Ms. Chastity Thiems 6th Grade Math Teacher

When Ms. Thiems is not teaching 6th Grade Math, she is at home with her two daughters and husband, Tyler. For the past 3 years, she was teaching at Fox Hill Elementary in the 4th grade. She is most excited to build relationships with middle school students and witness first hand the learning beyond elementary school!

## Returning Staff Changes 2016-2017

Mr. Brian Camp 7th Grade Math Teacher

Mr. Camp is new to the 7th Grade team this year, as he was on our 6th Grade team last year. So some of our 7th Graders will remember him from last school year! Good luck on the new year, Mr. Camp!

> Mrs. Shari Grinnell Science Department Head 7th Grade Science Teacher

Mrs. Grinnell proudly accepted the position of Science Department Head. Eastwood is so lucky to have her! We hope everything goes well for her this year!

#### Mrs. Sarah Ratzburg 6th Grade Science

Mrs. Ratzburg, formerly Ms. Isaacson, has a name change this year! She will still be in her 6th Grade Classroom, but she got married over the summer to Mr. Ratzburg! Congratulations, Mrs. Ratzburg!

#### Mrs. Kathleen Reitz French Teacher

Mrs. Reitz also said, "I do!" this summer! She was formerly known as Ms. Clayton. She is still in her same French classroom for this school year, ready to teach francais. Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Reitz and her husband!

#### Mrs. Kari Serak

#### Language & Literature Department Head 6th Grade L&L Teacher

Mrs. Serak will remain our Department Head, but she is moving from the 7th Grade to the 6th Grade team! She is very excited to teach our incoming 6th graders! We hope she has a wonderful school year!

### Mrs. Lauren Wilber

#### 7th Grade Language & Literature

Mrs. Wilber is moving on up to the 7th Grade! Some of her 6th Graders from last year will remember her and all will be excited to have her teaching them again! Good luck in the 7th Grade, Mrs. Wilber!



## **Schools Facility Tours**



## COLLER CORLER

#### We are off to a great start in the counseling office!

#### National Junior Honor Society Applications

Attention eighth grade students and families! Mrs. Franklin will distribute NJHS applications to qualified applicants on Tuesday, August 16. Qualified applicants are students who meet the following criteria:

- Are current 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Had a 3.2 cumulative GPA for 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- Consistently maintain 4's and 5's in conduct in 7<sup>th</sup> grade with no conduct scores of a 2 or a 1
- Have had no behavioral interventions in school or out of school for 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade

The application requires students to submit the following materials:

- 1) One leadership recommendation from an adult who is *not a parent or guardian to the applicant*
- 2) List of service activities
- 3) List of leadership activities
- 4) List of extra-curricular activities
- 5) An essay
- 6) A parent or guardian signature

Applications are due to Mrs. Franklin by Wednesday, August 31. Late applications will not be accepted.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their student's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars application. This is a program funded by the state of Indiana that guarantees partial tuition scholarship to a state funded college or university. For more information, visit <u>www.scholars.in.gov</u>. While there are some guidelines to who can qualify for this scholarship, we are encouraging all students to apply.

#### <u>August tip for success</u>

Please check your child's agenda book daily and log into Skyward at least weekly! Both of these are ways to stay informed about your child's academic successes and challenges. You are able to communicate with teachers through Skyward via email.

#### Lunch assistance

Please do not forget to complete the application for lunch assistance. Please go to <u>http://cafe.msdwt.k12.in.us</u> to complete an application online. If you would like to complete a paper copy, either print one from <u>www.msdwt.k12.in.us</u> (quick links – child nutrition info and menus) or see Mrs. Franklin or Mrs. Hopkins for an application.

## COURSELOR'S CORRER

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars

It's Never too Early to start planning for college... The Twenty-first Century Scholars Program can help!

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program provides income-eligible students the opportunity to earn a scholarship that covers up to four years of tuition and regularly assessed fees (such as technology fees) at approved Indiana colleges. To see the list of colleges, please visit <u>Scholars.IN.gov/eligiblecolleges</u>

21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars also supports eligible students and parents with tools they need to prepare for college, graduate on time and start toward a successful career path. The scholarship is awarded on an annual basis. It does not cover the cost of books or room and board, and the funds are applied after any other student financial aid from the state is awarded.

Students that enroll in the program must meet the following requirements and take the Scholar Pledges in high school and college. Students must complete the Scholar Success Program which includes activities at each grade level in high school to help students plan, prepare and pay for college. Students must graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Students must also file for FAFSA in high school and not us illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age. To learn more about 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars please visit the website at www.scholars.in.gov

Don't Delay! Enroll Online TODAY at

www.scholars.in.gov



#### Martin F. Hill, Ph.D. (Gallahue)–School Based Therapist

Dear Eastwood Parents,

Hello and good day. I hope this memo finds you well and in good health. I trust the school year is off to a successful start. I know each student is planning for a year full of achievement and along the way may face some challenges and need support creating solutions to these challenges. Knowing that you have a support network focused on the success of the students is vital as each of us plays an important role in each student's personal and academic development. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and provide some insight on how I will collaborate with you to help your child achieve.

My name is Martin F. Hill, Sr. I am the new Community Health Network School-Based Therapist for Eastwood Middle School. I have a sincere passion to see students be successful and my vision of student success centers on "teachable moments." I desire to be in a position to help a student grow/develop and acquire the skills to overcome a challenge or barrier. My means of assisting students are through mental health supportive services. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Indiana University-Bloomington, a Master of Arts in Counseling from Michigan State University, and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Michigan State University. My work experience has included working in University Counseling Centers, working with children and adolescents dealing with behavioral concerns through Community Mental Health agencies, and working as a Management Consultant and Leadership Trainer.

Knowing "It takes a village to raise a child", my role is to support the student working closely with the family, teachers, and staff here at Eastwood Middle School. It takes commitment and dedication to help students learn, and my role is to assist when and where I can. I am focused on being a proactive partner and want to provide my services to help the students grow and reach their true potential. Here are ways you can reach me:

Voicemail: 621-2129

Email: <u>MHill2@ecommunity.com</u>

Visit the officer here in Eastwood Middle School

If you feel there is a need for my support to help your child be successful, feel free to refer them for services or ask for a referral from their counselor Mrs. Franklin or Mrs. Hopkins.

Sincerely,

Martin F. Hill, Ph.D.



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Parents, please note that Eastwood's doors are open to students between the hours of 9:00am-4:10pm. Any time before or after these times, your child will need to be under adult supervision at all times.

We ask that students are picked up in a timely manner at the completion of school and/or evening activities.

EWMS is not able to provide supervision prior to 9:00AM due to other morning obligations. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to use the bus system when at all possible. When dropping off your child, please do so as close to 9:00am as possible to reduce the number of unaccompanied minors outside the school.

### Eastwood

Washington Township Parents:

Improved Real-Time Transportation Communication

Get the "Here Comes the Bus" app now to stay informed about your child's transportation! Http://bit.ly/1IsxEp9 (Register on a PC, Laptop or Tablet) School Code: 88550

### SKYWARD

Need assistance accessing Skyward? Having trouble logging in?

If so, please email: <u>skyward@msdwt.k12.in.us</u> or visit <u>sites.msdwt.k12.in.us/skyward/</u> <u>category/parents/</u> for additional info!

Skyward can be used to access attendance, grades, assignments, report cards, and more.



Eastwood's Lost and Found is purged and donated at the end of every midterm and quarter! Please tell your child to be sure to check the bins before this deadline!



### Eastwood Front Desk Tips – Did you know???

## If you need to pick up a student early from school due to an appointment...

You can send a note in with your student! Have them take the note to the front desk, and the front desk volunteer will write your student a pass that will excuse them from class at the appropriate time. They will be waiting for you in the student center when you arrive to pick them up. For appointments scheduled same day, you can call the front desk at least two hours before you plan to pick them up (preferably before lunchtime) and we will write your student a pass and have it delivered to them.

We cannot call students down until you arrive, so please send in a note or give us at least two hours to get a pass to them if you want them to be waiting for you.

## We check IDs of everyone entering the building, and especially for anyone signing a student out of the building.

No exceptions! Please make sure to bring your photo ID with when visiting our building—we will ask you to retrieve it if you don't.

#### Any person you want to be able to pick up your child MUST be listed either as a guardian or under the Emergency Contacts section of your enrollment form.

In those cases when you need to authorize someone other than those primary contacts, you must either call ahead to Ms. Bradley or send in a note to the front desk with specific name and relationship information. As always, we will require that person to show photo ID.

#### Please be aware...

Depending on time of day and building conditions, we may ask you the reason for your visit to our school before buzzing you into the building. Please do not take offense; everything we do is for the safety and security of our students and staff.

#### Did you know???

The people sitting behind the front desk are parent volunteers! We are happy to help you in any way we can, and if we can't help you we know who can. Thanks for your support and welcome to Eastwood Middle School!

# Eastwood Athletics

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#### Meet James Tutin Athletic Director/ Assistant Principal

This past year, James began his seventh year at Eastwood Middle School as the new Athletic Director/Assistant Principal. Beginning his 3rd year as Asst. Principal, he also taught 8th Grade IAS here at Eastwood previously. As a graduate of Purdue University, James has had a passion for educating students and guiding them on and off the field. As an avid historian, he has led numerous trips of students to our nation's capital. Additionally, James has spent a number of seasons coaching a variety of sports including baseball, basketball, track, and football. When not at Eastwood, you can find James spending time with his wife of 15 years, Kelly and their two sons, Carter (age 8) and Marshall (age 4). Welcome Eastwood Families, Please be sure to visit our August Edition of the Eastwood Athletic Newsletter, by visiting:

www.smore.com/0kmtm

We have various Athletic events happening this month. Please see the above newsletter for more info!

### Eastwood Sign Rental

Celebrate your child's graduation, birthday, or other accomplishments with an announcement on our new message board located in front corner of the school. All of the buses and cars drive by it every morning. For the low cost of \$20, you can recognize your child.

#### **Rental Sign Information**

**STEP 1**: Rental Sign Requests should be emailed/submitted to James Tutin -<u>jtutin@msdwt.k12.in.us</u>. Your email should include the following information:

- Date you want message posted
- Nature of message (e.g., birthday, congrats, etc.)
- No more than four lines of text
- Planned method of payment (if check please include check #)

**STEP 2**: Payment of \$20 (cash or check) should be sent into school in an envelope marked ATHLETICS SIGN RENTAL. Please put your email address in the memo line.

**STEP 3**: Confirmation of your request will be sent via email and is based on the availability of the sign. Please note a 48 hour advance notice is required. Rental requests are filled on a first come/ first serve basis. Reserve early to ensure that you are not disappointed.

# **OFFICER'S BULLETIN**

Hello Eastwood students, parents and staff. This school year 2015-2016 is well on its way and I have to say I am pleasantly pleased. Many of you I have met but for the rest this gives me the opportunity to introduce myself.



My name is Freddie D. Edwards, Jr. and I am your proud School Resource Officer. I am entering my 24<sup>th</sup> year in law enforcement in many capacities such as road patrol, traffic, accident investigations and criminal investigations. I have been involved in school policing for 10 years and I will admit I LOVE IT! The opportunity to provide a safe and secure environment for your student and staff is my daily number one mission. The opportunity to provide students with a friendly, empowering, understandable role model in the community is secondary.

I have three children (Freddie III (19), Amajae' (15) and Amaya (11)) who are the joy and love of my life. Having children in age range keeps me abreast of current events and actions. Students here in Eastwood I tell no different than my own when it comes to positive and negative choices. My favorite speech to say is "remember you represent not just you but your family, every choice you make will have either positive of negative consequences." I also encourage others to be leaders NOW, it's never too early. LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

PARENTS: I also encourage you to be active and involved in your child. I know society has created many barriers for us balancing work; school, friends, and many other events but stay active with your child. Question them. Challenge them. Be nosey. Be loving. Set standards.

I look forward to networking and continuing the communication with students, parents and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me <u>fedwards@msdwt.k12.in.us</u> for issues, praises or just to say hello. I also encourage you to contact me if there is an area of interest you would like for me to speak on such as truancy, gangs, drugs, juvenile law etc.





#### Welcome and Welcome Back families of Eastwood Middle School!

The PTO is excited to begin another great school year and we look forward to providing opportunities for parents and families to engage in and support the great work of teachers, staff, and students, and everyone that part of the Eastwood community.

To start things off, our Fall Fundraiser will kickoff on August 15. Look for materials to come home with your student. The money raised goes directly to support students and teachers, so we thank you in advance for your participation. Also remind your students that there will be CASH prizes and opportunities to win a trip to a video game truck that will be coming one day for lunch. Look for details in the information that comes home on the 15th.

Make sure your calendars are marked for Back to School Night on August 16. On this night parents will hear from each of your child's teachers and learn a great deal about the year ahead. While this is an important night for parents, it makes for a long day for teachers -- to help with that long day and to say thank you, the PTO provides dinner for the faculty and staff on that night. We need volunteers to provide food, drinks, paper products for this event. PTO members will receive a sign up genius via email with the opportunity to sign up to bring food for this Back to School night meal. If you have not signed up yet for the PTO, please email <u>eastwoodmiddlepto@gmail.com</u> to sign up.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for the 6th Grade Social on September 6; and the 7th Grade Social on September 30. These PTO sponsored social events are held right after school and give the kids a chance to have some fun together. Please look for more information to come.

Last but certainly not least, the PTO would like to thank the many, many parent volunteers that came out to help get the school year off to a great start. Thank you to Stacey Hutte for chairing packet stuffing and the many volunteers that helped at that event. Thank you also to everyone who gave their time to help at Eagle Quest, registration, and on the first day of school as Parents as Pals locker helpers. Thank you to each one of you who gave their time to welcome students and families, provide information and get the school year off to a great start!!!

We look forward to working with you this year! PTO Co-Presidents, Sharlee Little and Julie Breedlove



#### Art Department News!

Artistically Talented packets are on the student center front desk for students interested in applying to participate in this year's Artistically Talented program.

This year's theme will be "Indy 200: Celebrating 200 years of Indiana Art" and students will be going on field trips to the IMA, Downtown Indy, and Herron School of Art and Design. There will also be art classes before school on Wednesday mornings. If your child is interested please have them pick-up a packet in the student center. Applications, try-out assignments and portfolios (all described in packet) are due August 19, 2016. We look forward to seeing your best work! If you have any questions please contact Ms. Leasure or Mrs. Breeden in the Art Department.

#### MATH STUDY TABLES

Every Wednesday, at least one Math teacher will be on duty after school to help students struggling in Math. <u>The student must stay</u> <u>until 5:15pm and MUST</u> <u>have a pass to attend.</u> The teacher on duty will be announced weekly. This is in addition to our morning study sessions!

- Your EW Math Team

#### EAGLES AROUND THE WORLD

Eagles Around the World is Eastwood's World Languages Club. It is an open club that meets once a month after school. It is open to any student in grades 6,7, or 8 taking a Language Acquisition Class (Spanish, French, or Chinese). The callout meeting will be held Wed. Aug 24th from 4:20-5:45pm. There will be pizza, and we will discuss the rest of our meetings for the year as well as have a lot of fun! If you'd like to come, please RSVP and pay \$3 to your Language Acquisition teacher no later than Tues. Aug 23. Mark your calendars and please join us!

Sincerely,

Your Language Acquisition Teachers Mrs. Carney, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Lewis-Perez—Spanish Mrs. Reitz, Mrs. Clippinger—French & Chinese

# STUDENTS IN ACTION!

#### Our peer-elected Advisory Representatives had their first meeting!





Pokémon sighting with Mrs. Franklin and Mrs. Mikus (after hours of course)!



One of our talented 6th Graders, Colten, earned a Blue Ribbon at the State Fair for his prize chickens!

