

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

INAUGURAL ISSUE!



Neighborhood News

Fall 2018 Edition

PUBLISHED BY THE
**EASTAMPTON
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOV 7 - PTA FAMILY PAINT NIGHT
NOV 8 & 9 - SCHOOL CLOSED
NOV 13 - BOARD MEETING
NOV 15 - PTA MEETING 3:00PM
NOV 19 & 20 - EARLY DISMISSAL/
EVENING CONFERENCES
NOV 21 - SCHOOL CLOSED/
MORNING CONFERENCES
NOV 22 & 23 - SCHOOL CLOSED
DEC 3 - CHORAL CONCERT 4-8
DEC 4 - CHORAL CONCERT 2-3
DEC 5 - INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT 5-8



Notes From Our Superintendent

Greetings Eastampton community and welcome to an exciting new school year. The first days of school remind me of how special Eastampton truly is. In my eleven years at Eastampton Township School District, I don't remember being greeted so warmly by our students and parents who were excited for the new school year to begin.

I would like to celebrate some of the wonderful things that are taking place in our school. First, I would be remiss if I did not celebrate the efforts of Bobby Glavan, elementary PE teacher, in creating a learning garden in the "fishbowl" by the cafeteria. When hired, Bobby presented a vision of how he would like to transform the empty space that in the past had been dominated by weeds and rocks. The result is a beautiful space where our students can study and learn. Please commend Bobby for his efforts when you have a chance. Also, please note that Bobby was able to create this garden with donations and discounts from large establishments and with funding from our Honor Society and Student Council, meaning that it was all done without cost to the taxpayers of Eastampton. (Please see *Student Chat* for more information on Glavan's Garden.)

Secondly, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of all of our staff for the opening of school. The mantra, "It takes a village" is highlighted every day when I walk through the halls and speak with the teachers, custodians, secretaries, and aides who are instrumental in making our school a High Performing School District as designated by the Department of Education.

In addition, we have had several accomplishments that should make you proud as a community member. In June, we were recognized by *Project Lead the Way* as a "Distinguished School of S.T.E.M. Education" - one of only thirty K-8 schools in the US to boast this claim. Also, in recent years, our district hosted college level courses on S.T.E.M. which were attended by teachers from across the county. In recent years, Eastampton has engaged in partnerships with Fairleigh Dickinson University, The College of New Jersey, William Paterson University, Rowan University, and Princeton University. In the summer of 2017, Eastampton Township School District hosted a statewide seminar on school security. The keynote speaker for the seminar was Kristina Anderson, a Virginia Tech survivor. Just this past spring, we hosted a Wellness Fair that brought in over 20 vendors and provided important health care connections to Burlington County. Take pride in the fact that our small school district is making a global impact. There may be some that think this claim is hyperbolic in nature, but we have graduated students who went on to study and work abroad, students who work in fields such as publishing, consulting, information technology, education, military, and much more. *Character, collaboration and community.*

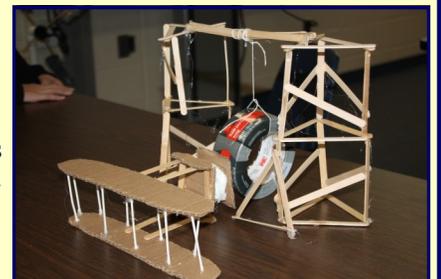
Last year, for the first time, our school conducted exit interviews with our graduating eighth grade students. The purpose of the interviews was for administration to hear from our most senior customers on how we can improve the experience for our students. The feedback was tremendous. Many students celebrated our elective courses and asked for more, while others asked for more rigor, as they were nervous about the transition to high school. But the overwhelming consensus was that the students believed we have the greatest teachers and supportive staff. We care, and our students know that we care. This September, I presented the teachers and staff members with "Excellence in Education" pins and stated that I believe in the ability of our staff to meet the needs of all our students. We have great teachers who believe in your children...that they can be better today than they were yesterday. Join me in making this the best year yet at Eastampton Community School!

Curriculum Corner

BY BRIANNA RUCCI
AP CURRICULUM

Eastampton has undergone significant enhancements to its curriculum and schedule over the last few years. In the elementary grades, common lunch periods have been implemented in order for students to interact with more age appropriate peers. Students continue to receive STEM education from grades K-8. Kindergarten through third grade receive LAUNCH as a unit study with our STEM teacher throughout the year. Grades four and five now have STEM as a weekly elective. Also in grades three through five, students have an enrichment period built into their schedules to more easily accommodate interventions, remediation, and accelerated material available for all students.

In the middle school, Enrichment classes have also been implemented. Students will have units of study such as Newspaper and Journal Writing, Financial Literacy, Debate Tactics, and Current Event Studies. Our students will be connecting the state standards to real life events in order to make relevant and long lasting connections to their lives. Our middle school students continue to receive STEM education, as well, throughout the year with hands-on projects such as replicating a flight mechanism with raw materials and creating a brace for cerebral palsy warriors. Middle school students also have an Audio & Visual elective. During this class, students can produce videos using iPads, Macs, cameras and our very own "green screen". Middle school has also started an Academically Talented group focusing on an accelerated curriculum for the top students in the class.



Believe!

BY HEATHER CHAPMAN, LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

The 'Believe Project' is a school-wide initiative to promote a more positive school climate. Working in conjunction with ECS PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Support), the 'Believe Project' is a positive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for ALL students to achieve social, emotional, and academic success.

The 'Believe Project', although a school-wide venture, culminates with our Class of 2019. The 8th graders are tasked with creating and gathering samples of their work throughout the year to present to family, friends, staff, and classmates at a S.T.E.A.M. Night (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) in June. Projects will highlight 'Believe Statements' along with other works promoting and showcasing our outstanding students.

The work has already begun. Over the summer, Honor Society students created decorative wall art, making the Middle School Pod a more positive, exciting, and engaging place to learn. Bulletin boards display each 8th grader's 'Believe Statement'. The 8th grade is currently working on a 'Spotlight Project', which gives details about each student, highlighting individual strengths, and giving insight to their personal goals. Several 8th graders will be selected each month, to showcase their 'Spotlight' to the school. Also, in addition to our Honor Roll Awards each marking period, students not achieving an academic award may receive an Honorable Mention for their success in class. Our goal is to acknowledge ALL students who apply themselves to achieve excellence.



The 'Believe Project' is not just student based. The administration has been unwavering in their support of the program. They began by placing the word 'Believe' on the front of each student's agenda and updating the school's reward system, based on student input, teacher recommendations, and PBIS Committee suggestions. The overall efforts have resulted in fewer detentions and less referrals to the main office.

Middle School teachers have brainstormed and implemented several new initiatives. There is a MS website where each teacher lists announcements and assignment due dates in one easy, grade specific, Google calendar. They have also created a universal Middle School Contract and a Supply List. The number of PBIS tickets submitted by teachers is at an all time high! All these efforts instill a community effort in the success of our students.

We 'Believe' in the students of Eastampton Community School and know that the 'Knight's Code' of Cooperation, Ownership, Determination, and Encouragement is the tool to carry out the district's Mission Statement to provide, "... a safe, supportive, and challenging educational environment which will give our children the opportunity to develop the necessary life skills to maximize their individual potentials and to empower them to be productive and responsible citizens in an ever-changing world."

MAP/Support Services

BY BRIANNA RUCCI, AP CURRICULUM

In other curriculum areas, Eastampton has adopted *Measurement of Academic Progress* - MAP - as a universal screening tool. The fall MAP testing block has ended and our teachers have received professional development in report analysis. The MAP assessment will be given again in the winter, and finally in the spring.

Each benchmark will report on the growth students have made over the course of the year. This data can serve as an early indicator for interventions needed and progress made for each student. Supplemental literacy and math support has been determined based off several criteria including, but not limited to, MAP data, benchmark scores, prior year's grades, PARCC scores, and teacher recommendation.

Student Chat

BY ALAYNA WILLIAMS, 8TH GRADE

Today I sat down with Mr. Glavan, our new elementary gym teacher who had a great idea to add this amazing addition to the courtyard of the school. The garden brings lots of smiles to whoever passes by and whoever enters.

Before coming to Eastampton, Mr. Glavan taught for 13 years in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he made his first garden. He says, "That garden was twice as big as the one we have now, but I think the one we have now is a lot neater and nicer to look at."

What inspired Mr. Glavan to have the idea of building gardens in schools? He stated, "To educate the students about health and nutrition, and to see where everything actually comes from. I think



it's just something to get all the kids involved with."

Child Study Team Briefing

BY KELLY EAGLES, CST SUPERVISOR

On October 15th, the Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG), teachers, classroom aides, and members of the CST came together for the Parent Café, hosted by SEPAG and the Family Support Center of Burlington County. The focus of the time spent together was to promote opportunities for all stakeholders vested in programming for students with special needs to come together in the spirit of collaboration. This event allowed for communication to occur, separate from formalized meetings, to connect with one another through meaningful dialogue.

The outcome was extremely positive as both parents and educational professionals utilized this time to discuss how communication can be improved to promote understanding of how individualized programs are developed, and how parents can be active participants in educational planning. The overall sentiment of the evening was discussed and the attendees will agree, "It takes a village to raise a child". We are surrounded by a team of parents and educators willing to work together to help all children fulfill their potential. The next SEPAG meeting will be held on January 17 at 6:30 pm in the library. Please come and join us!

State Testing Update

BY BRIANNA RUCCI, AP CURRICULUM

A recent release from the NJ State Department of Education indicates that the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers* (PARCC) will undergo a name change for Spring 2019. The assessment will now be referred to as the NJ Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA) and the NJ Student Learning Assessments-Mathematics (NJSLA-M). The new names mirror the change in the Science Assessment that was released last year, NJSLA-Science.

The NJDOE has also notified all districts that the time requirements have been reduced for both Language Arts and Math. The number of units for ELA will be reduced from three to two, resulting in a reduction of up to 90 minutes across all grade levels. As for math, in grades three to five, the number of units will be reduced from four to three resulting in a reduction of 60 minutes of testing time. For grades six through eight, the number of units remains the same; however, the time allotted will be reduced by 20 minutes per unit (60 minutes total). The testing window for Spring 2019 is April 8 through May 28; exact dates for grade level testing will be released at a later time.



Mr. Glavan has a lot of ideas as to what he wants us as students, teachers, and anyone visiting, to get out of the garden. For example, he hopes to start a garden club in the near future to help get more seeds planted. He also hopes to get these vegetables into student lunches, and/or start a farmers market for the community. He said, "My vision would be for every teacher and student to possibly have at least some type of plant out there or to just teach a class out there to help plant the seeds, stuff like that. I would like everyone to be involved with it."

