



East Rochester Schools
200 Woodbine Ave. East Rochester, NY 14445

Website: <http://www.erschools.org>
(585) 248-6350 Fax: (585) 248-6383

January 8, 2021

Dear East Rochester Junior/Senior High School families,

Wishing you all a very happy New Year! I hope the holiday break gave everyone a chance to relax and enjoy their time off. Students have settled back in from the holiday break, so we can now settle into 2021 with a renewed focus on learning.



December is always a very busy month at school, but this year it looked a bit different. Students and staff did a wonderful job creating opportunities for an array of events, illustrating how versatile we have become. MLA students made cards for nursing home residents and had several contests decorating the halls and showing class spirit. High school students worked on a unity tree in the hallway, and [music students created beautiful holiday music](#).



We hosted our first **honor roll ice cream social** in December. Congratulations to the more than 250 students who made high honor roll, honor roll or credit roll during the first quarter! These students were able to do this while we were in the middle of a pandemic. We hope they enjoyed their well-deserved ice cream! **Special thanks to the ER Alumni Foundation for their continued financial support of our students.**



The 12th grade English AP Literature class is currently studying "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley. They even made their own creature, just like Victor Frankenstein!



Sixth grade students in Mr. Grammatico's class participated in a STEM Challenge activity this week, to wrap up their Science Process Skills Unit. Students constructed towers, competing to see who could build theirs the tallest.



Students and staff at ER are finding creative ways to be "together" while social distancing. The Student Support Team at the school recently created a "We Are ER" tree in one of the hallways, inviting everyone to add a leaf with their name.

A few reminders as we head into January.

MLA students should not arrive at school before 8:45 a.m. We have had an increase in students arriving too early and, as part of our COVID-19 strategy, we need to enforce staggered start times. If your student is bringing a younger sibling to school, they must leave campus once the drop-off is done. They may not wait on campus, nor can they enter the building earlier. Please plan accordingly.

Seniors, please remember to check the guidance and counseling scholarship page weekly on www.erschools.org for available scholarships. The page can be found under the high school guidance tab on the Jr./Sr. High School website, [here](#). This page is frequently updated, and applications are time sensitive.

High School Yearbooks are available for purchase now through Monday, February 1 for \$60 (plus a \$1 online transaction fee). Visit www.balfour.com and search for East Rochester SENIOR High School to order your copy today, before it's too late!

MLA Yearbooks are currently on sale for \$20 and can be ordered at www.balfour.com. If you need help ordering, a video with directions can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Hendy at gretchen.hendy@erschools.org or Mrs. Baliva at laura.baliva@erschools.org.

We want to congratulate the High School and MLA **Student of the Month** winners from September/October. Students were surprised with a certificate in their classroom. Congratulations to the following **high school** students: Bella Lexer, Kayla Blackman, Gerald Salmon, Hayden Frey, Kiara Coleman, Caleb Wilcox, Cole Ricci, Joe Hanss, Miller Crayton and Sydney Freiburger. Congratulations to the following **MLA** students: Stacy Cooper, Hannah Williams, Matthew Witkowski, Addison Graves, Sean Hogan, Logan Schoeneman, Maisam Aziz, Anna Dermody, Elijah Tanner.

A few reminders worth repeating:

Daily attendance is extremely important. The responses from the qualtrix system are used for the **daily attendance on remote learning days (fully remote students and hybrid students)**, so please make sure you are engaging in the survey **five days per week** and mark that you are learning remotely unless you are not able to engage in remote learning due to illness.

We need **very specific information for absences this year**. It is important that you let us know the reason for an absence. If your student is out two or more days, either a doctor's note or a negative COVID-19 test needs to be provided.

The daily attendance phone number is (585) 248-6321.

Dates to Remember for January/February:

- Tuesday, January 12 - PTA Meeting 6 p.m., Elementary Cafeteria
- Monday, January 18 - Martin Luther King Day - No School
- Tuesday, January 19 - BOE Meeting 6 p.m., Elementary Cafeteria
- Friday, January 29 - Grades 6-12 Second Quarter Marking Period Ends
- Tuesday, February 2 - BOE Budget Workshop 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 9 - PTA Meeting 6 p.m., Elementary Cafeteria
- Tuesday, February 9 - BOE Meeting 6 p.m., Elementary Cafeteria
- Monday, February 15 - Friday, February 19 - Winter Recess

My door is always open – please feel free to keep in touch!

Sincerely,

Casey van Harssel, Ed. D.
Junior/Senior High School Principal