



East Rochester Schools
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Website: <http://www.erschools.org>

February 2, 2021

Dear East Rochester Junior/Senior High Families,

We are officially in the second semester of the school year! We would not be here without all the cooperation we have had from our ER families! Thank you for your commitment to following protocols and being committed to our students' safety. It's important to celebrate how well we are doing as a school community during this pandemic!

Report card grades will be available on the parent portal this Friday (2/5/21). Many of our students have had great success so far this year. Please sit down with your student and have a conversation highlighting what they feel is going well during their first semester and what they might want to focus on during the second semester. As a consistent message this year, the academic mindset is *5 days per week* no matter which learning model you are engaging in. The third quarter tends to go by very quickly, and for some students that can be a challenge. Please encourage your students to reach out to their teachers if they need additional help. I encourage all students to keep up the good work and to set goals for themselves.



We are excited that **Wrestling, Girls JV and Varsity Basketball and Boys JV and Varsity Basketball** were able to begin on Monday, February 1, with the winter season ending approximately on March 10. All athletes, whether they are in school or not on a practice or game day, will have to complete a daily health screening. In addition, coaches will complete temperature checks on our student athletes as they arrive at practice and games.

At this time, **modified sports for seventh and eighth** grade students remain on pause for the Wayne County Athletic Association. We hope to have more information for students and families by mid-February.

We want to say "thank you" to our **East Rochester Alumni Foundation**, who funded water bottles for our K-8 students! Students are using them every day in class!

There have been a lot of interesting and creative lessons going on in our classrooms. I would like to highlight a few:

The **ninth grade students** have started working on their career research paper in **Mrs. Pritchard's classes**. The process began when **guidance counselors Bill Kelleher and Tina Rasmussen** came into all of their classes to introduce the Naviance Program and administer the Career Interest Profiler. **Ms. Diana Luce, our 6-12 librarian**, has done an amazing job creating an online research document so the students can continue to research during their at-home learning days. Students are researching a career they are interested in- one they can see themselves doing in the future.



In **Senora Barnes Italian classes**, students have been making strips of happiness. The goal is to create a chain of positive thoughts. Senora Barnes told students to read some of these positive words when they are having a bad day or are feeling down.

Mrs. Liquori's sixth grade Social Studies classes have been very busy learning about Ancient Egypt. Here are two projects they worked on with the writeups coming from the students:



Egyptian Mummification
By: Matty Witkowski

Ancient Egyptians believed in the afterlife, and that a body must be prepared and preserved for it. They use a process called mummification to preserve the bodies for the afterlife. Rich or wealthy Egyptians could get their bodies mummified, but the poor Egyptians could only get their bodies buried in the sand. They buried dead people's belongings with them because they thought they would need them in the afterlife just as much as they needed them in their original life. The Egyptians believed whatever was buried with a dead person, will travel to the afterlife with them. The process of mummification actually took around 70 days for one person. The Egyptians would remove all of the organs in someone's body except for their heart. This is because they believed in the god Anubis, who weighs people's hearts in the afterlife. The heart was also the center of emotion and intelligence. After the Egyptians eventually wrapped and stuffed the body, it was put in a tomb which was usually inside a pyramid.

Lotus Flower
By Ella Rohr

You may think the lotus flower is just another flower, but you would be wrong. In sixth grade Social Studies, one of the things we learn about are ancient civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere. We are currently learning about Ancient India. Lotus flowers play an important role in Buddhism. They represent peace, purity and faith. Lotus flower's roots get stuck to the bottom of the pond and the flowers float on top of the water. In Buddhism, that means the act of rising above any obstacles and being successful, finding enlightenment. Even today, in modern day India, the lotus flower is their national flower.



A few reminders worth repeating:

Daily attendance is extremely important. The responses from the Qualtric system are used for **daily attendance on remote learning days for both 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 for 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 February/March:

- Tuesday, February 2 - BOE Budget Workshop - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 2 - NHS Virtual Induction Ceremony - 3 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
- Tuesday, March 2 - BOE Budget Workshop - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 9 - PTA Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Elementary Cafeteria
- Friday, March 12 - Grades 6-12 Third Quarter Marking Period Ends
- Thursday, March 18 - Grades K-5 11 a.m. dismissal, grades 6-12 in session
- Monday, March 29 - Friday, April 2 - Spring Recess

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

Sincerely,

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