

Evergreen Local Schools

“Building on Tradition, Committed to Excellence, Cultivating the Future”

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EVERGREEN LOCAL SCHOOLS

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October 16, 2020

Dear Viking Families,

Just a few more days and we will reach the end of the first quarter on October 23. Our students continue to impress us every day with their cooperation and tenacity. None of us have ever navigated a global pandemic, and COVID-19 has presented many new challenges while teaching us how to be both flexible and adaptable. Keeping up with mandates, alternative programming, and new information can be challenging. In an effort to keep you informed, please read through the following update. There are many events and upcoming items that may affect you and your student.

One of these items is the announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to continue the Free School Meal Program through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. All students in grades K-12 automatically qualify and are eligible for free breakfast and lunch daily. This program is open to students attending in-person classes and the VVA.

Another item of interest is the district's initiative for moving the high school to a traditional schedule and eliminating the block arrangement. While we understand the block format has been a part of EHS for nearly 20 years, there have been considerable changes in education and requirements that the block can no longer optimally support. By implementing a traditional schedule, our students will benefit from additional course offerings, continuous subject instruction year-to-year, less impact from absences, specially designed instruction (SDI), enrichment and study halls opportunities. When designing the district's strategic plan, students, parents, and staff were surveyed regarding the high school's curriculum and areas for improvement. Based on the survey results, we began examining the grading scale, course offerings, and class schedule. After much research, debate, and collaboration, information was presented at the December 2019 Board of Education meeting regarding a substantiated change to the current block schedule. More information will be communicated to students, grades 8-11, and their parents in the upcoming months regarding the high school building schedule for next school year.

As the leaves fall, daylight shortens, and temperatures dip, I am reminded that change is inevitable and adaptation is required for future growth. While 2020 has definitely been a year full of adjustments, we will continue to make modifications to ensure our students' success at Evergreen. These changes are being made to enhance student learning opportunities and refine curriculum delivery. These planned changes are designed to provide increased pathways that empower our students to maximize opportunities for college and career readiness. We must embrace the changes that surround us. We look forward to providing additional information in the coming months as to how a traditional schedule will benefit our students.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Smola

Free Meal Program Will Continue

Last week, the USDA and Congress announced that the Free School Meals Program has been extended through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Instead of ending in December as previously stated, students will now be offered free breakfasts and lunches until school ends at Evergreen on May 27, 2021. All students automatically qualify for the program, including those attending in-person classes as well as the Viking Virtual Academy. This extension has been made to ensure all students have access to school meals and are nourished during the pandemic. Questions can be directed to:

- EHS/EMS: Bev Ackerman at BAckerman@evgvikings.org
- EES: Sharon McCabe at SMccabe@evgvikings.org

In-Person Students

Students attending in-person classes just need to get in line each day to receive breakfast and/or lunch. Students are responsible for purchasing any additional items that are not provided in the free meal program, including: ala carte items, extras, and drinks (one milk is included with each meal). Students who do not wish to participate in the program are still welcome to pack their lunch.

VVA Students

In order for VVA families to participate, student meals must be reserved by Friday at noon for the following week. The VVA Meal Registration form is located on the Evergreen webpage under the "What's New" tab on the home page. Breakfast and lunch meals are packaged together and need to be picked up each school day from the child's school building.

- Meal Pick Up Times and Locations:
 - EES Students - 12:30-12:45 pm at the EES Main Entrance, Door #1
 - EMS/EHS Students - 12:45-1:00 pm at the EHS Athletic Entrance, Door #13

October Board Meeting

The Evergreen Board of Education will meet in regular session on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the EHS gymnasium in order to accommodate social distancing requirements. The public is welcome to attend the in-person meeting, and it will be streamed live through a link provided on the Evergreen website on October 19.

FFA Alumni Annual Chicken BBQ

Tickets are on sale now for the FFA Alumni's Annual Chicken BBQ; but hurry, the sale ends TODAY, October 16. The dinners will be distributed on October 23 from 3:30-7:00 pm at EHS. The dinners include a ½ chicken, baked beans, baked potato, and a roll. The cost is \$9 per dinner. Tickets are limited and sell out every year. The profits help supply Thanksgiving dinners to area families and also help fund the FFA scholarship given to a deserving senior. For tickets, please contact the Ag Office at 419-644-2951, ext 1163.

2020 Homecoming Court

Although this year's Homecoming festivities have been canceled due to COVID-19, Evergreen High School will continue with its tradition to name a Homecoming Court as well as crown a king and queen. The Homecoming Court will be announced on October 20 beginning at 2:20 pm in the HS gym. The announcement will be live streamed into EHS classrooms and to the community via the Evergreen District Facebook account. The crowning of the 2020 Homecoming King and Queen will take place on October 21 at 8:00 pm on Pifer Field. The entire court will also be recognized. Families and close friends of the Homecoming attendants will be invited to attend in person with facial coverings and social distancing requirements in place. The event will also be live streamed via the district's Facebook account.

District-Wide School Picture Retake Day

Lifetouch will be on campus October 21 in all three buildings conducting student picture retakes. Please call your child's school office for more information.

EHS Prom Dining Night

Eat at Chipotle at the West Central Avenue location on Tuesday, October 27 between 5:00-9:00 pm and 33% of your bill will be donated back to the EHS Junior/Senior Prom. Bring in the flyer, show it on your smartphone, or tell the cashier you are supporting EHS Prom. New! Order online for pick up at either Chipotle.com or through the Chipotle app, use code KK9PTQD before checkout in the "promo" field, and your purchase will be counted toward the fundraiser.

EMS Grade Cards

First quarter ends October 23, and EMS grade cards will be going home with students on October 30, 2020.

FFA Fruit & Nut Sale

The annual FFA fruit and nut sale is currently underway. Items include fruit, honey, maple syrup, smoked turkeys, nuts, cheese, and more. The sale ends November 6. For more information, please see the district website, an FFA member, or call the Ag Office at 419-644-2951, ext. 1163.

FFA Provides Help for Thanksgiving

The Evergreen FFA and Alumni will again be providing families in need with the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner. If you know of a community member or family in need, please provide the names and addresses as soon as possible to Mrs. Hanifan, FFA advisor, at 419-644-2951, ext. 1163. All requests will remain anonymous. Donations are gladly accepted.

Third Grade Ohio's State Assessment for English Language Arts

Each year, students in third grade are required to take the Grade 3 Ohio's State Assessment for English Language Arts in the fall and spring. This year, our third graders will take the state assessment on Tuesday, November 3 and Wednesday, November 4. Testing will take place in the students' classrooms with their teacher, beginning in the morning. Students will have 90-minutes to complete each part of the assessment. Third grade students enrolled in the Viking Virtual Academy will need to take the state assessment within our elementary building. The VVA teacher will be contacting VVA 3rd grade students with additional information. To learn more about the Gr. 3 Ohio's State Assessment for English Language Arts, please visit <https://oh.portal.cambiumast.com/users/students-and-families.stml>.