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Principal
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East Jordan Middle School

December 2011

Important Dates:

End of Trimester-No School	12/19
M.S./H.S. Band Concert	12/19
Full Day of School	12/21
Holiday Break Begins	12/22
School Resumes	1/3
1/2 Day of School for Students	1/20

Happy
Holidays



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We're on the web!
www.ejps.org

Dear Parents,

It is difficult to believe that we've already reached two calendar milestones—the end of the first marking period and the holiday break. Like all of our students, I cannot wait to come to school every day...which makes it difficult to believe that we are nearly half way through the school year. Time flies too fast!

As you prepare for the holiday season, I hope that you find a few minutes to read this newsletter, which is packed full of great information. As you know, the Middle School staff is committed to student achievement and believes that all students can be successful. Among the pages of this newsletter, we will outline information that will attest to this commitment. We are proud of our students and what they have accomplished, and look forward to taking them to the next level!

Sincerely,

Matt Stevenson

Eye on Students ...

With the holidays approaching, students will be receiving new gadgets and upgrades to their old ones. With increased use of technology brings new areas of concern and parents need to be diligent in their monitoring. Cell phones that send text messages and pictures and that can connect to the internet are a common commodity in our young kids' hands. With this great technological opportunity comes the increased need for awareness by parents. Below are some ways parents can be up-to-date on what their children are doing and also keep them safe while they are utilizing technology.

- Make sure that you are checking the content of Facebook and Myspace posts regularly. (You must be 13 or older to have a Facebook page.)
- Check the text messages that are on your child's phone. Parents should do this randomly and make this an everyday event.
- Place all cell phones and electronic devices in a certain spot at night to prevent kids from staying up all night 'texting'. It is also good to have a time that all devices need to be at a charging station and turned off.

Thank you for your help with this endeavor. With your increased diligence, we are hoping to decrease the amount of incidence that can disrupt the educational process here at the middle school.

ATTENDANCE AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

At East Jordan Middle School, we take attendance seriously. The information below is taken directly from our Student Handbook, and summarizes our belief that attendance in school has an enormous affect on student achievement:

Michigan law recognizes that school attendance is the responsibility of the parent, legal guardian, and the student. Our teachers prepare daily lessons that are designed to provide critical opportunities for students to hear and participate in class discussion, develop a concept of self-discipline, and interact with teachers and fellow students. Therefore, our students are expected to be on time to school and in their designated classes, each period of every day unless they are ill, absent due to family emergency, or have a pre-arranged absence.

The school will take steps to address excessive absences. For more specific information regarding the attendance policy and how the school addresses truancy, please contact the Middle School Office. It is imperative that the school receive notice when a student is going to be absent from school. The parent or guardian should call 536-2823 in order to verify the absence.

Upon returning to school following an absence, the student is responsible for obtaining any missed work from his/her teachers. At the teacher's discretion, students will be allowed two days to make up work for every day of absence. Students may not be given two days to make-up work if the assignment is a long-term assignment (such as a book report) made prior to the student's absence. If a parent wishes to request homework for their child for pre-arranged, extended absences from school, that request should be made to the office and will be available by the end of the next school day.

Students must be present for the entire school day in order to attend or participate in an after-school activity or event unless they have a pre-excused absence authorized by the Principal.

Truancy and Poor Attendance: An Early Warning Sign

According to the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Department of Education, students who exhibit poor attendance patterns have a higher degree of risk than their peers for the following:

- ◆ Challenging Behavior
- ◆ Educational Failure
- ◆ Achievement Gaps & Poor Test Performance
- ◆ Skill Deficiencies
- ◆ Substance Abuse
- ◆ Teen Pregnancy
- ◆ Social Isolation

Please remember that when a student is tardy, it can have a negative impact on the classroom environment. When students arrive late to school, it causes a disruption in the instructional process.

If you have any questions regarding our school's attendance policy or if you have concerns about your child's attendance, please feel free to contact us at 231-536-2823.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Since instructional time is so valuable, we ask that telephone calls to students at school be limited to emergencies only. If you would like to get a message to your child, please call the office.

Middle School Office 536-2823

STUDENT ABSENCES

It is very important that parents/guardians call the Middle School if your child is going to be absent from school. Please call 536-2823. If you call after school hours, please leave a message indicating your child's name, your name, and the date of the absence.

Student Spotlight: Science *Geek* of the Week

Recently, Mr. Peterson's science class celebrated with his first group of Science "Geeks" of the week.

Students are recognized for their outstanding performance, increased performance and dedication in the classroom.

Mr. Peterson received a Malpass mini-grant to fund the initiative. "Increasing student awareness and knowledge in science is really the key to success for them in the future. This grant allows me to capture student interest and create a more in depth understanding of science."



Mr. Peterson is pictured with the first group of "Science Geeks" of the week.

"Shoe Club" Penny War

The Shoe Club recently finished a Penny War between homeroom classes. All students did a great job of participating and donating their extra pennies. The real winners of the contest was the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society which received \$150 in donations. Thanks Shoe Club!

Holiday Concert

The East Jordan High School & Middle School will present a Holiday Band Concert on December 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Gym. Please come and support our wonderful musicians.

Girls Basketball

Girls Basketball practice begins January 16th. Practice will be held at the Middle School and girls must have a physical to participate.

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season.