

11.24.15

Good Afternoon!

I have a couple of things for you including a very important announcement for parents and students in 10th grade.

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR SOPHOMORE PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Over the weekend, parents of sophomore students who attended Eastwood last year, will receive information in the mail from Principal David Riley and Testing Coordinator Donna Schuessler regarding the results of last year's HS end-of-course exams. These exams are new, and the way they count towards a student's diploma is very different from the past. Current sophomores are now required to accumulate 18 points on a total of seven end-of-course exams, or attain a remediation free score on the ACT in order to graduate.

There will be a meeting when we return from Thanksgiving for students and parents on Thursday December 3rd at 7:00 PM in the HS Auditorium. The HS staff will provide a more detailed explanation of the results as well as information and advice to parents on possible retakes. Students currently at Penta will also get their results, and they need to pay close attention to their letters as make-up tests start very soon at Penta. If you have a child who scored a 1 or 2, this meeting should be of the highest priority. Obviously, we think the meeting is important for everyone, but in particular for students who did not have a proficient score in any of the areas.

You may be asking, "Why are we getting these results now?" We have recently received all of the student reports, which is why they are coming home now. We wanted to make sure we sent parents complete information rather than giving them piecemeal information without a full context.

TEST RESULTS FOR STUDENTS WHO WERE IN GRADES 3-8 FOR 2014-15

If you had a student in grades 3-8 last year, we will be getting you results when we have them. Again, we have received partial student reports, and will get things out when we have them. For these students, there are no further educational consequences, and their results provide us feedback on their overall academic performance.

OVERALL TEST RESULTS FOR EASTWOOD STUDENTS

We have received some aggregate results for our students on their performance last year. In general, students performed fairly well on the new assessments. However, as this is a new assessment with new cut scores, it is impossible to compare their performance to previous years. Comparisons are also very difficult because you had

districts where a meaningful percentage of students did not take the test as a protest to over testing and state control. There were also district who still took the assessments via paper/pencil while our kids did them on the computer.

In general, when taking all of this into consideration, our students scored in a range that is consistent with districts we often looked to for comparison purposes. I think as we move forward and the data becomes finalized we will share more data on this.

I do want you to keep in mind that these results, and ours will be positive, should be taken with a grain of salt. When I developed a test as a teacher, it was my job to make sure that the assessment tried to accurately measure student learning. These tests, however, measured a student's ability to maneuver the technology as much as it measured their knowledge. I think overall, our staff, especially at the elementary level, did a terrific job of teaching our students some pretty incredible tech skills.

In the coming weeks we will begin to gather more clarity of what all of this data actually means.

NOW FOR SOME GOOD AND COOL NEWS!!

5TH AND 6TH GRADE STUDENT COUNCIL STUDENTS BRING THE HOLIDAYS TO PORTAGE VALLEY!

The 5th & 6th Grade Student Council at Eastwood Middle School designed fall floral arrangements for the residents of Portage Valley for Thanksgiving. Each student council member created and designed their own unique centerpiece and then helped deliver the arrangements to the residents on Monday, November 23rd. The arrangements were placed in the dining halls for all to enjoy. In addition, the 5th & 6th grade student body made over 200 Thanksgiving cards for the residents too. Some of the cards were hand delivered while others were placed in the dining halls or in the residents' mailboxes. The students really enjoyed visiting with the residents and wishing them a "Happy Thanksgiving!"

We will look to get their pictures up on the district website, www.eastwoodschoools.org. Thanks to their adviser, Holly Chappuies, for getting us the information!! I did forward her entire email as well.

TROY-WEBSTER LEGION AUX SCRAPBOOKING FUNDRAISER

The Legion Auxiliary will host a Scrapbooking Fundraiser in February. There is a flyer attached.

The Legion Auxiliary funds a number of programs and scholarships that benefit our students. We are always appreciative of their efforts and support them whenever possible.

HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING!!

It is hard to believe that we are nearly through November.

So much has already been accomplished by our students and staff and there is about 2/3 of the year to go! We wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. Unplug and enjoy your family!!