

The Elk Edition

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Principal's Message Elkton Middle School Makes AYP

Every year schools across the state of Maryland give the Maryland School Assessment to students in grades 3 through 8. Students are tested in the areas of Reading and Mathematics and scores are reported back to the schools and community. There is a target set each year. School who hit the target in both Reading and Math "make AYP." AYP is Adequate Yearly Progress. In other words, those schools are deemed successful by the State of Maryland. For the past several years, Elkton Middle School students have struggled to meet the standard in the area of Reading. Specifically, less than 60% of our students passed the reading portion of the test. Over the past several years teachers and students have worked hard to meet the standard. Many Reading and Math intervention programs are in place and there has been an increased emphasis on getting students to

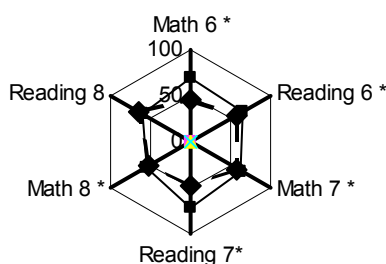
be competent readers. I would argue that reading is the most important subject we teach in our schools. Without the ability to read, student success is limited.

I am thrilled to report that this year our school did make AYP in both reading and math. Our students did hit the target set by the State. We had our greatest gains in 7th grade Reading—13% growth. Gains were also made in the 6th grade. It should also be celebrated that 100% of our Algebra 1

students passed their High School Assessment. Forty five percent of those students had an advanced score!

Elkton Middle School will continue to make gains on the State test because our emphasis will be to continue to teach all children to read in all subject areas, and to do more than basic mathematics. I look forward to another excellent school year in a school that is truly getting better every day!

MSA Trend Data 2008



Positively, PBIS Makes a Difference at EMS

Last year Elkton Middle School began a program called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). As a result of school-wide emphasis on recognizing good behavior and teaching school expectations the rate of referral to

the office and suspension rate was cut in half! This year at Elkton Middle School, we will be continuing our implementation of the PBIS program. This year's focus will be on improving student behavior and motivation in all areas

of the school. Expected behaviors will be taught and reinforced using EMS's "High Five" system. The High Five character traits we recognize include: be responsible, be cooperative, be respectful, be prepared, and be safe.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *School Supply lists inside*
- *Welcome New Staff*
- *Where do I go on day 1?*
- *Curriculum Updates*
- *How to get involved*
- *Save the Date*

Science Program Gets an Update at EMS

The structure of the science curriculum in our Middle Schools will be changing. We will still follow the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for science education in grades 6 – 8. The content will remain the same, but the organization of the content will be modified. Over the past several years we have taught Earth Science, Life Science, Environmental Science, and Physical Science at every grade level. Starting in August 2008, we will teach Earth Science in 6th grade, Life Science and Environmental Science in 7th grade, and Physical Science (including Chemistry) in the 8th grade. We believe that this approach will give the students a more comprehensive and coherent

understanding of the science concepts.

This new curriculum will be accentuated by the newly adopted science textbooks. This summer a team of highly trained educators will be working on aligning the middle school science curriculum, new textbook, laboratory activities and assessments. This is all being done to ensure that every student in Cecil County receives high quality science education.

To help prepare students for the STEM program and other science

classes in high school, science honors classes will be offered in 8th grade.



The Class of 1958 Returns

This past June more than forty graduates gathered in the lobby at Elkton Middle School. The graduates were celebrating their commencement from 50 years ago! The class of 1958 was the last class to graduate from High School in what is now the Elkton Middle School. While the group toured the building they remarked that the building looked really different. The class was impressed by the size of the classrooms and by the technology upgrades. Most impressive is the

spiral staircase found in the library—now called the media center. The graduates laughed and talked about their favorite teacher—Mrs. Smith who joined them later at the Wesley House for dinner and a walk down

*The class of 1958 donated
\$200.00 that was used to
improve our lobby
appearance*

memory lane. Elkton Middle School would like to thank the Class of 1958 for their generous donation of \$200.00. This money will be used to upgrade the entrance to our building. A new welcome mat and showcase will be placed in the lobby. Stop by to see the photos in the showcase and to celebrate the many people who have come before us.

Pizza with The Principal

Students—Do you want to learn more about Elkton Middle School and have a say in what some of the goals and events are at the school? Are you a leader among your friends?

Parents—have you been active in your child's elementary school PTSO? Do you want to stay involved at Elkton Middle School?

If you answered yes to these questions Pizza with the Principal is for you!

Pizza with the Principal will happen four times this year—September 29, November 17, February 9 and April 20. At the meeting we will talk about the things that are happening at Elkton Middle. We will meet at 5:30 in our Media Center and enjoy dinner together while discussing how to make your school a better place to live and learn. Parents and students will have an opportunity to work together with teachers and the Principal to write an action plan for improving some aspects of our school. If you are interested see Mrs. Cronin for an application or call 410-996-5010.



Sixth Grade Team News

The sixth grade team is looking forward to meeting new students in the Fall. Please join us for Sixth Grade Orientation on August 21st at 6:30. Students who attend orientation will receive their schedule and get a chance to meet their teachers and find their way around the school. Students will also be assigned lockers. Students will also have the opportunity to purchase uniforms for PE (\$10.00) and to get their lunch account set up in the cafeteria.

At Orientation Night students will be given a packet of information about North Bay Environmental Education field trip. It is very important that students going on the trip get that material turned in as soon as possible. We have a lot to do to get ready for North Bay on September 15—19, 2008.

Just like you all are new students to our school we have some new staff members on your team this year. Mr. Jacob Bauer will be teaching 6th grade Social Studies and Mrs. Tylisha Saunders will teach a sixth grade reading class. Mr. Dan Kafader will be teaching sixth grade science. I know that they are all looking forward to the school year.

School supplies that you will need to start the school year are as follow:

- 1 1/2 inch binders (4)
- Graph paper
- Portfolio folders (with clips)
- Dividers (10)
- Highlighters
- Box of Kleenex
- Gallon size zip locs

Loose Leaf paper

Pencils

Pens

Do your best to get these supplies before the end of the first week of school. If you need assistance please call Kay DiStefano or Elaine Long in our guidance office—410-996-5010.

Seventh Grade Team News

The seventh grade team is happy to welcome a few new teachers to their ranks. Mrs. Ann Gaweł, Mrs. Tylisha Saunders, and Mr. Dan Kafader all look forward to teaching seventh graders this year!

Where do I go on the first day of school?

Go for the Gold—join a winning team by attending school, demonstrating good character and getting good grades!

Good question. When you get to school on August 25th you will report directly to the gym where you can see your homeroom assignment. Then you can report to homeroom to get your schedule and your locker assignment.

The school supplies

you will need are as follow:

Box of Kleenex

Pencils

Colored pencils

Pens & highlighters

Scissors

Fine tip felt pens

Loose leaf paper

1 inch 3 ring binders (4)

Eighth Grade Team News

This is it—one more year in middle school and then it is off to Elkton High! You want to make every effort to make this the best year ever. You will want to have a great learning experience by attending school everyday, staying focused on learning and getting the best grades you can earn. All of the adults in the building are here to help you. The new members of the 8th grade team are Mr. Dan Kafader and Mrs. Tylisha Saunders. I know you will make every effort to make them feel welcome at Elkton Middle School. When you get to school on August 25th you will report

to the gym to find out your homeroom assignment. Then you will go to homeroom and get your schedule and locker. The school supplies you will need are as follow:

3 ring binder with 5 dividers

Loose leaf paper

Pencils

Black or blue ink pens

Colored pencils



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*Elkton Middle School
where*

*Academic Achievement
+ Personal Growth
Future Success*

We're on the Web
www.ccps.org

Save the Date

August 21 6th Grade Orientation 6:30 PM
August 25 First Day of School
September 1 Labor Day Holiday
September 22 End of first interim period
September 29 Picture Day
Pizza with the Principal 5:30 PM
October 1 Fundraiser Kickoff
October 2 Fall Conference Night
5:00—7:30 PM
October 17 MSTA Day (School is closed)
October 28 End of Marking Period One

November 3-5 School Closed for Students
November 17-19 Recognition Rallies
8:20 AM