

THE CALL



An Erie Community Unit School District #1 Publication

Photography by JoHannah Ruff

www.ecusd.info

Volume 1 • Spring 2016 Edition

Hello, again. Welcome back to The Call. This edition, I want to spend some time on one of the topics that sets Erie CUSD #1 apart from other school districts – class size. In every building, we are committed to the individual attention that comes from small class size.

This begins in Pre-Kindergarten, as we have at least two adults for every 20 students, a 10:1 ratio. Moving into the Elementary School, we have recently committed to three sections of Kindergarten, regardless of how many students show up on the first day of school. Next year, we are anticipating 40 Kindergarteners, so that would be 13-14 students in every class. As we move into the Middle School, there are basically three teachers per grade level, keeping class sizes in the 14-18 range. The High School is more complex, as a single teacher may see nearly 100 students in a day with an average class size of 15. However, we remain committed to a wide variety of offerings for our students. Even if there are only seven students signed up for Physics, we still have Physics.

There are so many horror stories in public education about teachers having 30 or even 40 kids in a single classroom, where students get lost in the daily grind of teaching and learning. We make it a point of emphasis to provide the opposite environment for our students; a setting where teachers can get to truly know and understand the students in their classes.

The belief is that small class sizes are better. The research indicates that this is true in the lower grade levels but is situational, as children get older. In Erie's case study, we have very high-performing students at all grade levels, which is proven year in and year out by several measures: standardized test scores, graduation rates, and college/career readiness. There are many reasons why our students excel: sound curriculum and instruction, first-rate access to technology, and caring staff members to name a few. The ability for our highly trained staff to engage our children on a personal level and draw them into the learning process can only be brought about by small class size. This allows children to see that the adults around them truly care about their success, and there is one thing that we know about children: they don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.

As a parent in this district, I love the fact that my children have teachers who get the chance to know who they really are. That is something that is made easier by having small class sizes. If you would like to discuss small class sizes or anything else, please call the Unit Office and ask for the Superintendent or email me at bcos@erie1.info.

-K. Bradley Cox, Superintendent



ECUSD DASHBOARD

SMALL CLASS SIZE

Compared to surrounding districts, Erie is THE lowest in reference to Average Class Size.

1. Erie- 16
2. Byron- 17
3. Geneseo- 20
4. Riverdale- 20
5. Prophetstown- 20
6. Fulton- 22
7. Rock Falls- 22
8. East Moline- 23
9. Morrison- 23
10. Rock Island/Milan- 24
11. Moline- 24

*Source: ISBE 2015-16 School year

Yeah, that's right...



Lasting Memories

-Kali Livengood, Erie Elementary Principal

There are moments throughout the year that make for lasting memories, and this year was of no shortage! From student trips to our reading programs and even a fundraising activity, our students have made the most of each moment inside and outside of the classroom.

This winter, our student body, under the direction of our physical education teacher Mr. Chris Lindsey, participated in their annual Jump Rope for Heart initiative. The students worked hard to earn monetary donations while learning about important activities for heart health. In the end, the student body donated over \$11,500 to the American Heart Association. We are proud of our student's involvement in helping a worthy cause and learning about healthy activities as well.

Throughout the school year, our students also venture out for various field trips and activities. Over the last few weeks of school, every grade level has a special trip planned. Our trips include the preschool classes attending the Bettendorf Children's Museum, the kindergarten seeing the animals at Niabi Zoo and the first grade going to the Quad Cities Botanical Center! Other trips include our second grade students watching "Junie B Jones" at Circa 21, our third graders exploring at the Putnam Museum and our fourth graders earning reading incentives for a day at the ballpark enjoying a Quad City River Bandits game! The field trips are a wonderful way of extending the knowledge and hard work from the classroom to a day of fun for students and their friends!



As our school year comes to a close, we want to thank all of our parents for their support and hard work in helping our teachers and staff to give our students a wonderful educational experience. Living in a small town provides many opportunities for involvement and community, and we appreciate being able to make all of these a part of Erie Elementary!

Left: Top 2 fundraisers from each class. Back (L to R): Kiera Grage, Logan Copeland, Piper Woodhurst, Erich Herzmann, Rebecca Kraven, and Hannah Ryan. Middle (L to R): Elle Noble, Isabella Johnston, Avery Jacobs, Peyton Umstead, Amiah Stubblefield, and Saige Froeliger. Front (L to R): Chloe Lukehart, Jaylynn Hamilton, Boston Besse, Kash Temple, Hunter Howard, and Logan Sherrod

Erie Elementary is Growing!



Early intervention is key when helping students reach their potential and achieve success in school. Here in the Erie School District, we are moving to make this a prominent statement early in our students' lives. Starting in the 2016-17 school year, we will have three sections of kindergarten. This move will allow our students to be in classes generally under fifteen students, so more focus on baseline teaching and interventions can be completed to provide the best start for our students.

With this change, we are excited to increase our kindergarten team to three teachers. Our kindergarten team will welcome Mrs. Valerie Vincent to teach our third section. Mrs. Vincent is currently teaching RtI in our middle school building while working on a master's degree in reading. We are excited to integrate her strategies and ideas into our strong kindergarten team. Physical changes in the Annex building will include splitting the current afternoon only preschool room into two classrooms to accommodate a preschool room and a kindergarten room. We look forward to showing you our "new" teacher and classrooms this fall!



Above: 2016-17 school year Kindergarten Team. L to R: Mrs. Valerie Vincent, Mrs. Carol Stralow, and Mrs. Terri VanOosten

We've Been Busy....

-Keith Morgan, Erie Middle School Principal



As the end of the school year draws near, Erie Middle School students continue to keep a busy schedule and make lasting memories. Last edition, we talked about the MS reading program that was underway, Pinwheels for Syria. Students had a list of tasks to complete which earned them pinwheels to hang in the library. At the end of this initiative, EMS was elated to be able to collect over 1,500 pinwheels, which equaled nearly \$4,000 to donate to help Syrian refugees.

In March, to cap off lessons about slavery and the Civil War in English, history, and literature, 8th grade students participated in an Underground Railroad simulation led by Mrs. Lindsey Pons and Mrs. Jenna Copeland. Students began at one end of the school and worked their way from classroom to classroom (or safe house to safe house) completing tasks designated by “conductors.” The ultimate goal was to make it to the North in order to reach freedom. This was definitely a great learning experience for all involved and will be continued with future 8th graders at EMS.

EMS Band and Choir competed in their annual music contest, this year hosted by Morrison. Band received a division II (excellent) rating and Choir received a division I (superior) rating. Aside from the full groups performing, many students were involved in solos and/or ensembles throughout the day, which resulted in Division I and II ratings. Congratulations to all students involved!!

The last stretch of the school year has many more activities in store for EMS students. Dare Graduation will be held on Friday, May 6 after one of the many field trips on the docket for the duration of school. 8th grade students will wrap up their last year of Middle School soon and begin looking toward their high school careers. We will celebrate this achievement with 8th Grade Promotion, which will be held on May 17 at 7:00 pm.



Above: Pinwheels assembled by EMS students adorned the library ceiling for weeks before being sent to StudentsRebuild.



EMS Keeping Up with Technology

-Tom Unruh, EMS Technology Teacher

Currently, there are approximately 560,000 open computing jobs nationwide. However, only 43,000 computer science graduates entered the workforce last year. Two and half years ago, EMS Principal Mr. Keith Morgan saw a need for extended computer science for our students. He initiated coding in the Middle School technology classes. For 6 weeks in their technology classes, students work on basic coding skills. The technology students code using apps and computer websites, programming Spheros, making robots and programming them, writing HTML, CSS, HTML, flying drones, and printing projects using a 3D printer.

The 5th graders work on code.org, (a great organization that also founded the “Hour of Code”) and other coding apps, where they learn the basics of coding. They start to learn what algorithms, looping, and conditionals are. In 6th grade, the students continue using code.org and coding apps. They start programming robots using the Sphero. Using the Sphero, students learn programming, statistics, and geometry. In 7th grade, students continue to expand on their previous knowledge and learn how to 3D print and design a basic 3D figure. They also start using Java Script. In 8th grade, students continue to build on previous year’s coding and design more complex projects using the 3D printer. They start CSS and HTML, and they begin to learn how to operate drones. In the drones unit, they learn how to use an inclinometer and use trigonometry to finish the drone’s unit.



Students at EMS are extremely blessed to be given these opportunities; to engage in coding using so many different methods. Erie Middle School is thankful that Mr. Morgan had the vision to start coding and that Mr. Brad Cox and the Erie school board have continued to fund and stand behind the need for coding in the district.

Left: EMS students work on building robots to program. Right: Students can light up the Sphero in different colors and program it to roll set distances in all directions.



Coming Down the Homestretch

-Tim McConnell, Erie High School Principal



Busy... Busy... Busy!! The spring season is upon us and we have lots of wonderful things happening at EHS. The juniors have just completed the Final ACT test of their high school careers. Erie juniors are each given the opportunity to take this important test twice. Seniors are finalizing all college, career, and military plans with the CCRC and Counselor, preparing for the next phase in their futures. Sophomores are preparing and signing up for their upper-level classes for next school year, as they will move into the roles of upperclassmen. In the fall, they will get their first taste of Erie's dual-credit college classes. The freshmen will wrap up their Freshman Academy and start to look ahead towards their sophomore year.

With the 3rd Quarter and PARCC testing under the bridge, we are headed for a strong finish. The Graduation ceremony has been planned for May 15th, where Valedictorian Rachel Cobert, Class President Levi Floming, and Superintendent Brad Cox will address the graduating senior class. This is a very special and rewarding time of year for all staff that have made an impact on the lives and educational careers of these students over the last 13 years.

And, not to toot our own horn, but we sure have some great students here at EHS! Our students are putting a lot of thought and effort into making a positive difference in the lives of their peers. Have you heard the buzz about our Cardinal Kindness Facebook Page? Check it out if you can. It's jam-packed full of students building other students up with fantastic, uplifting editorials on many of our students. A "Random Act of Kindness Day" was also put into place on April 14. Students were encouraged to complete a random act of kindness at home, school, or work and then post about it in the commons. Both of these great initiatives are led by the hashtag **#BeBenevolentEHS**.



With a tremendous effort on the part of all EHS students and staff, the 2015-16 school year has proven to be one for the memory books.

Find more info at [Facebook.com/Cardinal.Kindness](https://www.facebook.com/Cardinal.Kindness)

Beyond the "Standard" Classroom

Erie High School offers an array of classes to accommodate all learners and ensure success beyond high school. This includes a wide range of vocational classes. EHS has always taken the stance that our vocational classes are an important piece to the well-rounded student puzzle. We know that the knowledge students gain in a standard academic learning environment is critical for them to be successful. However, we also feel that students deserve the opportunity to broaden their educational scope.

We understand the inherent needs for skilled workers in the Vo-Tech field in our surrounding communities. Data continues to emerge showing a great need for these occupations. It is our goal to hopefully spark an interest in our students to become a skilled employee by ensuring our continued offerings. These classes have been, and continue to, enrich and enhance the outstanding educational system we have here at EHS.



child care
 video design
 foods III small engines
 foods II intro computers woods
 sewing II robotics/coding wood tech
 applied economics sewing I
 architectural drafting
 information processing
 sports nutrition web design
 welding industrial tech
 building trades foods I
 social media
 sewing III

Winter Accomplishments

Erie Girls Basketball - Sweet 16

All Conference Selections: Rachel Cobert, All Conference Player of the Year
1st Team- Rachel Cobert 2nd Team- Delaney Tegeler and Emily Cox Honorable
Mention- Whitney Bramm

2015-16 Dispatch/Argus Area Girls' Basketball All-Star team: 1st Team-
Rachel Cobert Honorable Mention- Whitney Bramm, Emily Cox, Caitlin Maloney,
and Delaney Tegeler

Rachel Cobert: AP- honorable mention all state, IBCA 3rd team all state, Sauk
Valley News Gazette- Player of the year

IBCA Coach of the Year- Julie Schroeder

Erie Boys Basketball

All Conference Selections: 2nd Team- Vincent Bramm and Branson Rosenow
Honorable Mention- Joshua Lohman and Jordan Chandler

2015-16 Dispatch/Argus Area Boys' Basketball All-Star team: Honorable
Mention- Vincent Bramm, Jordan Chandler, Joshua Lohman, and Bransen
Rosenow

E-P Wrestling

**IHSA State Medalists: Dylan Binion 2nd Place, Grady Todd 4th Place,
and Garrett Passmore 5th Place**

All Conference Selections: 1st Team- Grady Todd (138), Garrett Passmore
(160), and Dylan Binion (182) Honorable Mention- W Joshua Wheeler and Jimmy
Biba.

2015-16 Dispatch/Argus Area Wrestling All-Star team: Grady Todd,
Garrett Passmore, Dylan Binion.

Scholastic Bowl

All Conference Selection: 1st Team- Russell Johnson

2016 SUMMER

Summer Camp Dates:

Football- July 18-22
JFL- 9-11am (No Friday)
HS- M-Th 5-7:15 pm & Fri
9-11am

Wrestling- Team Camp June
27-30 and Open Rooms M&W
from May 30-June 22 5-6:30
pm

Basketball (Boys and Girls)-
Grades 2-5 May 24-27 11 am-
Noon, Grades 6-8 M&W in
June from 11 am-12:30

BB Cheerleading- June 11 from
8 am- 5 pm
TRYOUTS- May 23-25 1-3 pm

Volleyball- July 7-8 Grades 1-5
8:30-10 am, Grades 6-8 10-
11:30 am, HS Noon-3 pm

FB & BB Dance TRYOUTS-
May 14 9 am - 4 pm



#SUMMERAPPS4KIDS

-Aaron Blair, Technology Tech II



ABC Magic Phonics
E



Chicksionary
EM



Duolingo
EMH



iBiome- Wetland Lite
EM



Math Fight
EM



Math vs The Undead
EM



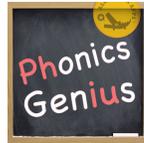
Mind Games
EMH



Peppa Pig: Activity Maker
E



Peppa Pig: Paintbox
E



Phonics Genius
E



Solve the Outbreak
EM



The Sandbox
EM



Video Science
EMH



Coursera
H



Flipboard
MH



Free Books- Ultimate Classics Library
MH



Incredible Numbers
H



iTunes U
MH



Lark
MH



Little Alchemy
M



Lumosity
MH



Ripped Apart
MH



TED
H

E- Elementary Age
M- Middle School Age
H- High School Age

Download these and more....



ERIE Board of Education

Upcoming Meetings:

May 23
June 27
July 25

*All meetings begin at 6:30 pm in the MS Board Room

- President- Chad Miner
- V. President- Jason Norman
- Secretary- David Bomleny
- Member- Tammy Tegeler
- Member- Charles W. Brown, Jr.
- Member- Mark Wiseley
- Member- Joe Weaver

Like all the info *The Call* has to offer? Follow our school on Facebook for more frequent updates on happenings around the district!



[Student Photography]

Cover Photo by: 8th Grade Student JoHannah Ruff

Dates to Remember...

5/4	Senior Award Night - 6:30 pm
5/6	Erie Parents' Club Carnival
5/9	Summer Enrichment Course Enrollment begins
5/10	Last Day Student Attendance (Seniors)
5/11	SIP- Early Dismissal ES-1:50 MS-1:55 HS-2:00
5/14	Basketball and Football Dance Tryouts
5/14	Baccalaureate
5/15	High School Graduation - 2:00 pm
5/16	Preschool Last Day of Attendance
5/17	Middle School Promotion
5/19	Last Day Student Attendance (K-11)
5/20	No School- Teacher Inservice
5/23	Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm
5/30	Memorial Day
5/31-6/4	8th Grade Washington D.C. trip
6/27	Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 pm
7/1-7/6	IHSA No Contact Week
7/1-8/1	Online Registration (tentative)
8/3	New Student Registration