

ALLEN EAST LOCAL SCHOOLS

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL LEVY & BUILDING PROJECT

TREASURER—ANDREA SNYDER

LEVY

Since November of 1994, our community has continually supported our school with a \$330,000 emergency levy. On May 4, we are hoping our community continues to support this levy for the seventh and final time! The money generated from this levy is vital to our school and is used for general operations such as salaries, benefits, and supplies.

We are making two minor changes related to this levy that we want to be sure everyone understands before election day. The first change is making this a continuing levy instead of renewing for only five (5) years. With the historical support for this levy, we wanted to set this levy once and for all, so it will not have to be renewed again in the future.

While inflation has drastically changed the value of a dollar since that original passage over 26 years ago, the revenue generated from this levy remains at the same \$330,000 per year. This is a fixed sum levy, meaning the tax rate is changed every year so that the school only collects the set \$330,000. The second change made is to make this a substitute levy instead of a standard “renewal.” This does not change the tax for existing taxpayers; however, it allows for additional tax revenue to be raised on new construction.

For example, current property owners with a property valued at \$100,000 would pay approximately \$78.89 in 2021. Then if a new home is built in 2022 worth \$100,000, they would pay the same \$78.89 but that revenue would be in addition to the \$330,000 the other taxpayers already paid to Allen East. This change in the levy allows a minor addition of revenue to be received by the school on new construction without increasing the taxes for existing taxpayers.

As always, thank you to our community for the constant support of our school and our students. We hope you continue to support our school at the May 4th election. If you have any questions on the levy, please contact Andrea Snyder, Treasurer, at 419-648-3333, ext. 1007 or at snydera@alleneastschool.org

SUPERINTENDENT—MEL RENTSCHLER

BUILDING PROJECT

In the near future, Allen East will be moving forward with a plan to expand the size of the building to increase programs, alleviate overcrowding, and prepare for future enrollment increases. Over the past five years, Allen East has been fiscally responsible by putting money away annually into a capital projects fund to prepare for possible expansion. The great news is the building can be expanded without going to voters for a new bond issue or an increase in taxes.

There has been an increase in programs over the last seven years that has necessitated more room in our facility. Two preschool units have been added, along with a special education cross-categorical unit in the elementary. A new Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) program was initiated several years ago with the program being so successful and popular that it has outgrown its current classroom. A stand-alone digital academy has been successful and is taking up an additional room. The special education population has increased by more than 40% over the past five years, increasing the need for more classrooms, sensory areas, and room for speech, occupational and physical therapy. The school has also increased mental health services by adding three social workers who need additional offices/classroom space.

Moreover, nine years ago, Allen East was configured as a K-6 building and a 7-12 building. As a result, students in grades 5-8 were mixed with students that were either too young or too old, hindering a unique and appropriate school experience for students in this age range. Students in grades 5-8, typically referred to as middle school students, have unique learning and social-emotional needs. Four years ago, Allen East was reconfigured into three distinct buildings, PreK-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Grades 5-8 have outgrown their space with class sizes being too large (28 students per class) and not enough room for the expanding special education population.

The plan is to expand the building off the current middle school wing, connecting it to the high school wing, thus adding over 16,000 square feet. The expansion will include six additional middle school classrooms, a social worker office, a middle school office, and a state-of-the-art STEM facility to be used by middle school and high school students. The expansion project will allow four classrooms in all grades K-8, decreasing class sizes in the middle school and preparing for future enrollment increases.

Just to reiterate, the expansion project will not cause your taxes to increase while at the same time offering more opportunities to all our students.

There will be a town hall meeting on April 13, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. in the media center to discuss the building project and answer questions. We encourage anyone interested to attend to give feedback and to voice your opinion.

HIGH SCHOOL—KEITH BAUMGARTNER, PRINCIPAL

TESTING: The first half of the 2020-2021 is past and we are moving toward the end of the school year. I wanted to make sure everybody has our spring testing schedule.

- Wednesday, March 10—Juniors take ACT at Allen East

ACT test will begin at 8:00 A.M. and finish around 12:00 P.M. Juniors will be dismissed for the day after completing the test. To date, End of Course exams will take place and each test has two parts:

- Wednesday, April 14—Sophomores will take English Language Arts II (Part 1)
- Thursday, April 15—Sophomores English Language Arts II (Part 2)
- Wednesday, April 21—American History and Government (Part 1)
- Thursday, April 22—American History and Government (Part 2)
- Monday, April 26—Biology (Part 1)
- Tuesday, April 27—Biology (Part 2)
- Wednesday, April 28—Algebra 1 and Geometry (Part 1)
- Thursday, April 29—Algebra 1 and Geometry (Part 2)

We will follow a two-hour delay schedule on testing dates. Student testing would come in at 8:00 A.M. with non-testing students arriving at 10:00 A.M. The buses will run at the normal time. Students, not testing, but riding the bus will meet in a supervised classroom. Preschool through eighth grade will maintain a normal schedule.

PROM: Ideas are in the works. Our three advisors and student representatives are collaborating various plans for our junior/senior prom.

GRADUATION: Several questions have arisen about graduation, including whether Allen East will hold a traditional ceremony. The plan is to have a traditional ceremony in the football stadium for our 2021 graduates. If inclement weather changes the location, we may have to relocate to the big gym and limit attendance. The 2021 graduation ceremony will be live-streamed regardless of location.

HOPE & RESILIENCE: This year we have faced many different challenges. We have students working online, quarantines, contact tracing, mask requirements, and little-to-no student activities. Even with all these challenges the students, families, and staff have stepped up and adjusted to these difficult changes, keeping the year as normal as possible.

I want to thank each of you for adapting to the constant change and disruption this year has thrown at us. We have been able to attend school five days a week due to the sacrifices everyone has made.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Congratulations to the following students for earning Student of the Month honors September through January:

Joe C., Chloe H., Brooke H., Kristin W., Jacob H., Dylan D., Ryanne L., Jennifer B., Riley E., Taylor C., Megan K., Madison L., Braylen K., Morgan S., Jude G., Jared S., Riley N., Britt Y., Amanda M., Conner W., Cameron G., Gabe C., Kendal M., Cameron H., Kaitlyn M., Mollie E., Aden S., Brady S., Breanna B., Jaden H., Beth S., Keaton L., Dylan P., James S., Hayley B., Grace B., and Cierra A.

PRESCHOOL: We continue to add to our list for the 2021-2022 school year. In late April we will start our screening process. Everyone we have on file will receive a mailer with information and instruction about signing up for a time to have their child screened. Screening will continue into early May; letters of acceptance will be sent out by the end of that month. If you have any questions about our preschool, please contact me, baumgartnerk@alleneastschool.org or 419-648-3333, ext. 2001.

MIDDLE SCHOOL—JARROD WEHRI, PRINCIPAL

Grades 5-8 Test Dates:

- * Wednesday, April 21—English Language Arts (ELA), Part 1
- * Thursday, April 22—ELA, Part 2
- * Wednesday, April 28—Math, Part 1 and 2
- * Thursday, April 29—5th and 8th grade Science, Part 1 and 2

ELEMENTARY—HEATHER PATTERSON, PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe we are in the process of finishing up this very interesting school year. A 'Thank You' to parents for all of your patience and support given to us daily.

Test Dates:

- ◇ April 14, Wednesday—3rd and 4th grade ELA (Part 1)
- ◇ April 15, Thursday—3rd and 4th grade ELA (Part 2)
- ◇ April 28, Wednesday—3rd and 4th grade Math (Part 1 and 2)

Please be sure your child eats a good breakfast and receives plenty of sleep before and on testing days.

Summer Reading:

Allen East will be offering a Summer Reading Program in the media center June 1—July 14, 2021. More information to come. Watch for updates on the Allen East homepage, ae.k12.oh.us.

Kindergarten:

The Allen East Board of Education requires a prospective kindergarten student be 5 years old on or before August 1. Kindergarten registration, Part 1, for 2021-2022 school year will be held online only starting March 1. Please check the Allen East homepage for access. Registration for part 2 will be in person and by appointment only August 3, 4, and 5, 2021. You will be contacted by the office staff late May, 2021 to set up your August appointment.

Kindergarten Registration—Required Documents:

1. Birth certificate
2. Social Security card
3. Shot record
4. Custody papers (entire court document)
5. Two Verifications of Residency (must have your full name and address) [Examples: utility bill, deed to home, escrow papers, lease agreement, receipt from moving company or delivery of appliance/furniture]

Screening Dates (Parent and child are REQUIRED to attend screening)

Kindergarten teachers, along with other staff will conduct a screening with each child on August 31 or September 1, 2021. See Allen East homepage for information outlining the screening process.

Phone Number Changes

Please be sure to notify the elementary office 419-648-3333, ext. 1004 if your phone number has changed so student records can be updated.

AD & DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS—JACKLYN SMITH

The Allen East Athletic Department would like to thank you all for a great fall and winter season! Things were quite different and we appreciate the support and patience of our student athletes, families, and the entire Allen East community. We are excited for spring!

All High School students have now started the scheduling process for next school year. We are excited to have involved the entire HS staff, parents, and students in these conversations this year. Students learned more about graduation requirements and honor diplomas. We are continuing to learn and receive feedback on our new elective choices for students.

This year, we started a new Seminar Class for grades 10, 11, and 12. This class was designed to make time for conversations regarding college and career. Students start the class by diving into their core values, passions, and interests. There is additionally a financial piece, where students can get a real picture of the lifestyle they wish to have and how to make a plan for getting there! For the next month, seniors will listen to presenters on a variety of topics. At the end of the year, we are planning for a community service project, mock interviews, and a shadow day.

Although Covid-19 has forced us to be flexible with our plans, we have been able to create experience for our students, which we feel will benefit them in the future. Please take time to ask your student questions about what they are learning!