



Spring 2023

First bell rings at 8:40am
School begins at 8:50am

Calendar:

April 3 - 14

Teddy Bear & Fleece
Material Drive

April 7

NO SCHOOL

Conference Release Day

April 10

Student Asynchronous Remote
Learning Day & Licensed Staff
Instructional Planning Day

April 12

PTO General Meeting

April 12 & 13

Reading MCA Testing
for grades 3-5

April 13

Family Reading Night
for grades K-2

April 14

Student Council Spirit Day
Neon/Crazy Hair Day

April 18 & 19

Math MCA Testing
for grades 3-5

April 19

April Birthday Lunches
w/ Principal Ness

April 21

Coffee w/ Principal Ness

Elm Creek News

We just wrapped up Parent/Teacher Conferences. This is an important time for teachers to share students' progress and to build on the home/school partnership it takes to promote student success both in school and at home. We thank you for taking the time to meet with us.

In April and May, we will be taking state standardized testing (MCA's) for our 3rd - 5th grade students. The teachers are busy preparing the students for the tests. Please avoid scheduling appointments on these test dates. A good night's sleep the night before and a good healthy breakfast in the morning will set your child up for success. (See dates in the calendar section)

Report Cards are available to view on ParentVue. If you do not have a ParentVue account, please contact the office and Staci will help you get an account created.

Mark your calendar for NO SCHOOL Dates:

April 7 – Conference Release Day

April 24 – Licensed Staff Workshop

May 29 – Memorial Day Holiday

Reminder: April 10th is Student Asynchronous **Remote Learning Day!**

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we strive to provide a safe and positive educational experience for our Elm Creek Students!

Elm Creek Twitter and Instagram Pages: Please join us on our Elm Creek Elementary twitter page @ElmCreekElem or on our Instagram page at

<https://www.instagram.com/elmcreekelem/?hl=en>

Classroom Placement Form for 2023-24 School Year

<https://forms.gle/Sk3kxQNjmcgrnSJAA>

We ask that you complete this form if your child will not be attending Elm Creek next year due to a move or change of schools. You may also fill out the form if you have information to share that may be helpful when planning classrooms for next year. Deadline to complete form is Friday, April 14th!

April 24

NO SCHOOL

Licensed Staff Workshop

April 25 & 26

5th grade Science MCA Testing

May 1-5

PTO Staff Appreciation Week

May 5

BOGO Book Fair

May 12

Student Council Spirit Day

Dress Fancy Day

PTO School Carnival

May 15 & 16

Kindergarten Field Trip Eastman

Nature Center

May 17

1st grade Field Trip

Eastman Nature Center

May 22

Coffee w/ Principal Ness

May 23

May Birthday Lunches

w/ Principal Ness

May 24

Field Day for grades 3-5

May 25

Field Day for K-2

Annual Family BBQ

May 26

2nd Grade field trip

Eastman Nature Center &

Elm Creek Park Playground

May 29

NO SCHOOL Memorial Day

Message from Nurse Marta

I have been given the opportunity to accept a job 0.5 miles from my home. While I am so excited to work and participate in my own community, I am leaving EC with a heavy heart. I LOVE Elm Creek and it has truly felt like home. I want to thank you for the most amazing job experience of my entire life. This community is like no other and I will be leaving here a better person than I came. My last day at EC is April 6th.

Marta Hertle LPN

Student Council

Teddy Bear and Fleece Drive – watch for flyer coming home with students. It will also be in PeachJar.

Spirit Days:

April 14 - Neon/Crazy Hair Day

May 12 - Dress Fancy Day

The lost & found

is overflowing with lots of sweatshirts, coats, hats and gloves. Please encourage your student to check the lost and found if you are missing items. Parents are welcome to come in and check the lost and found during regular office hours 7:30 - 4:00pm. Unclaimed items will be donated after the last day of school.

Recess

ALL students will go outside each day for recess unless the temperature, or wind chill, is below zero, or it is raining. Please have your child dress appropriately with the knowledge that they will be going out to recess daily.

School Attendance:

Please call the absence line 763-315-7692 to report your child's absence. If your child is not called in when absent, they are marked unexcused. You can view your child's attendance record in ParentVue.

If you need to clear up past absences, contact Staci in the office at 763-425-0577 / jones@district279.org

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

June 1

5th grade Dazzling Dave

June 2

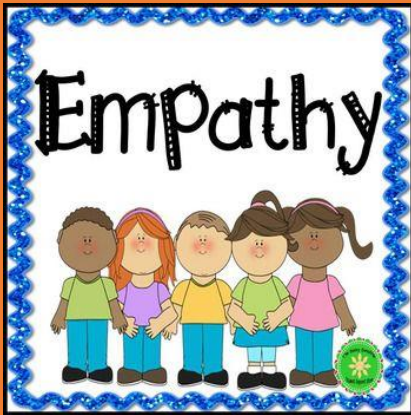
June Birthday Lunches
w/ Principal Ness

June 8

Last Day of School for Students

June 9

Report Card Marking Day



As always, if you have a question or concern, please reach out to us. We strive to provide a happy, positive, safe learning environment for all Elm Creek Students.

PBIS News:

Ways to teach empathy at home

1. Movie Clips: Play a movie or TV show clip. Discuss the characters feelings , thoughts, and motivations.
2. Use optical illusions to teach perspective taking.
3. Look at photos in magazines or family photos and use clues to determine feelings.
4. Watch animal live cams and try to guess the animals' feelings.
5. Engage in community service or random acts of kindness as a family
6. Play emotion charades
7. Play cooperative board games
8. Model empathy
9. Make a "we Care center": put together a box of items that might make someone feel better and use it (ex. Kleenex, stuffed animal, band-aids)

Why Teach Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. The parts of the brain that aid in empathy isn't fully developed until the age of 21, which means there is a lot of time to practice. Having empathy helps us be better problem solvers, see multiple perspectives, develop better critical thinking skills, improve our capacity to communicate with others, be a part of a team, and it even increases confidence in academic skills.

Books that teach empathy

1. The Invisible Boy: Trudy Ludwig
2. Enemy Pie: Derek Munson
3. The Name Jar: Yangsook Choi
4. Those Shoes: Maribeth Boelts
5. I Am Human: Susan Verde
6. We're All Wonders: R. J. Palacio

Parking Lot Safety Procedures:

We continue to make safety in the parking lot a priority at Elm Creek. We would like to remind you of the pathway painted between the center parking area for students to walk to the crosswalks. Cars will not be allowed to pull through the pathway to get to the line to exit the school parking lot. Please see map below.

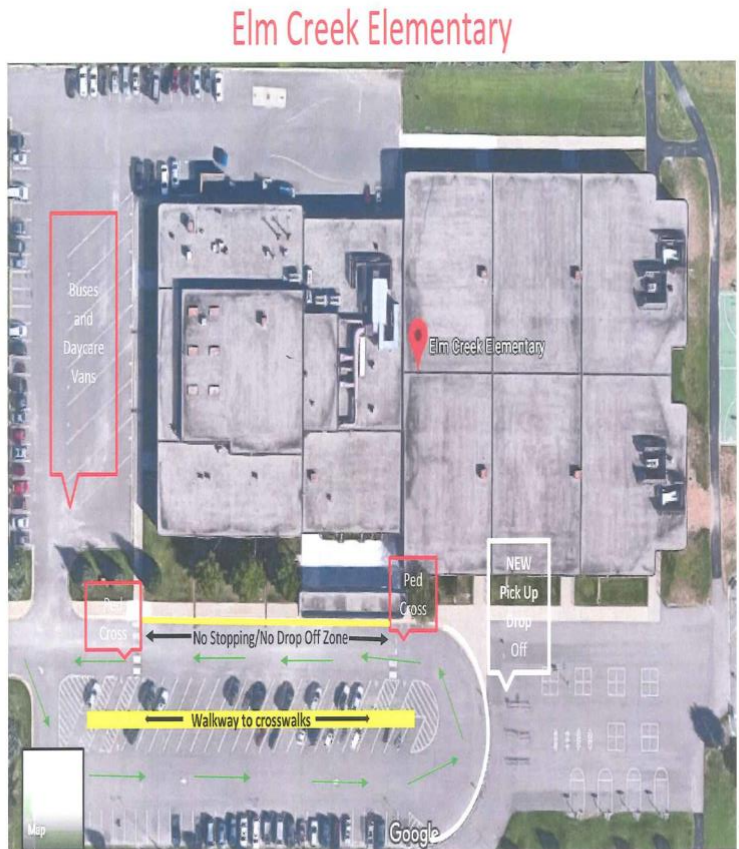
The parking lot is a very congested area, and it is important that we keep student safety as our priority, even if it means a slower experience for the driver. Please stay patient and follow the procedures noted in the map below. Thank you for your patience and support!

WALKERS: Students are not to arrive before 8:40 AM. There is no supervision prior to that time. Students will enter the building at 8:40 AM. Students must cross with the patrols using designated walkways. There are no patrols on 99th Avenue by the path leading to school.

BUS: Schedules are mailed from the Transportation Department in late August. Please remember that students are only allowed to ride on their designated bus. Please review the bus safety information with your child prior to the start of school. Riding the school bus is a privilege.

CARS: Students are to be dropped off and picked up in the front parking lot only. Please do not enter the bus area. Children should enter and exit the vehicle using the curbside door. If you desire, you may park your vehicle in the parking lot, meet your child at their outside door, and escort them across the parking lot crosswalks. At no time should children be walking through the parking lot unescorted. This is extremely important for the safety of each child. Maple Grove Police/Fire Department will ticket cars parked in the NO PARKING zones. Due to space limitations, cars must continue moving around the circle when dropping off or picking up. Courtesy to pedestrians and busses is a top priority, providing safety to all. Please yield to busses at the entrance to the school parking lot and let them in first.

Thank you!



- New Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures**
- Drop off and pick up your students at the white curb. **NO WAITING!**
 - There is no longer drop off or pick up in the yellow curb area.
 - Cross the parking lot at either of the marked crosswalks with the student patrols only.