

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools

engage



Winter 2022

engage is a district publication of Erlanger-Elsmere Schools

From the SUPERINTENDENT

Believe it or not, we're entering the last few months of the 2021-2022 school year. Other than weather-related closures, we're proud that we've been able to have our doors open for in-person instruction so far this year. **Our most earnest goal is to continue to safely keep our schools open.**

Of course, that takes all of us working together. We ask that you continue to keep doing the wonderful job you've done so far. Monitor your children for illness, and keep them home when they are sick. Follow basic hygiene protocols by washing your hands often and wearing masks when asked to do so. And take the guidance of local and national health experts in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are not words to adequately express how much we appreciate the extraordinary efforts our staff, families, and the community has shown in remaining adaptable and positive in light of the ongoing obstacles and difficulties this pandemic brings.

The teachers and staff in our schools have shown tremendous flexibility – covering classes, manipulating schedules, and filling in holes on a daily basis so that we can keep our doors open. Everyone – from principals and teachers to our classified staff – has done everything within their power to ensure we're doing our very best for our students and their families.

What we've witnessed is a true example of community and the deep value a community school brings. People are stepping up to take care of each other and doing what needs to be done so we can have the safest environment possible to maintain the in-person instruction our children so desperately need – for their growing minds and their social-emotional health.

Though some days it may not feel like it, this pandemic will not last forever. There are brighter days ahead. In the meantime, we appreciate your continued cooperation and collaboration. Because of all you continue to do, we're able to welcome children to our classrooms each day and fulfill our mission: to embrace and attend to the individual needs of our students, regardless of these ongoing, unprecedented obstacles.



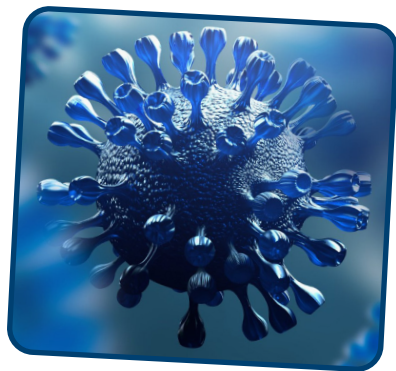
Chad D. Molley
Superintendent



The new normal

Our ongoing approach to the COVID-19 pandemic

Fortunately, current CDC and DPH COVID-19 guidance has allowed us to continue in-person instruction for our students. We recently shifted our mask/face covering protocol from a requirement to a recommendation. Masks/face coverings are now optional for students, staff, and visitors to our facilities and on school buses.



All other current practices related to isolation, quarantine, and other mitigation strategies will continue in accordance with CDC and DPH guidance. We will also continue to practice social distancing whenever possible, facilitate good hand hygiene, and encourage all those eligible to get vaccinated and/or boosted.

Students and staff are encouraged to stay home if they are experiencing signs of illness, including fever.

We ask our community to continue to support one another as we move forward. And let's all do our part by following the state and CDC guidelines for mitigating COVID-19.

Miles students organize toy drive

After the devastating tornadoes in Western Kentucky, the Miles Elementary Student Government convened and decided to host a toy drive for the children of that area in advance of Winter Break.



The students worked quickly to coordinate the effort, with the goal of supporting the families who have been impacted by collecting backpacks and small toy items to share as the holiday season approached.

“These students took on all responsibilities and ownership of this project,” said Mrs. Hannah Campbell, Student Government advisor, “They created flyers and announcements, promoted information to our school

and community, and collected and organized all the donations we received! It was a huge success and we were so excited to pass these items along to the University of Kentucky's 4-H Program, with whom we were fortunate enough to partner.”

Miles Elementary has a student-elected Student Government Council that meets weekly to make decisions and organize opportunities that will impact the school and the community. The Student Government Council has eight members, including a president, vice president, secretary, and representatives from each grade level.

Classrooms for the future

Pandemic funds support massive tech update

The teachers of the Erlanger-Elsmere Schools work hard every day to help their students learn. But lately it's not just the students getting smarter – the district's classrooms are becoming more intelligent, too.

A few years ago, district officials made a commitment to upgrade the infrastructure and technology in every classroom in each of the district's school buildings. It was a bold goal, and, in a time of stagnant resources, one administrators envisioned taking many years to achieve.

Like so many things, COVID-19 affected these plans, but this time, its impact brings a silver lining. An influx of pandemic-related federal funds has put the project on a fast track.

The district is in the midst of a **\$1.25 million** implementation of state-of-the-art intelligent classrooms tailored to today's education. Each and every classroom in the Erlanger-Elsmere School District is being systematically updated and outfitted in the same ways and with the same equipment to allow for seamless teaching and learning experiences.

"Unfortunately, we had to endure a pandemic to get here, but the federal funding provided to schools through the CARES Act has really helped us toward our goal to create consistent 21st century classrooms for each and every student," said Mr. Chad Molley, superintendent. "This really enhances our ability to provide top-notch education, levels the playing field, and provides equitable opportunity for all of our students. Technology is an integral part of the world our kids live in... we have to embrace it and use it effectively."



Laying the groundwork

Over time, evolving technology and tight budgets created a district technology infrastructure that covered needs more like that is a patchwork quilt than a state-of-the-art approach to twenty-first century learning.

Students, teachers, administrators, and other users had to adapt to outdated, inconsistent, and inefficient networks and devices. They made impressive use of what they had, but in order to best address today's needs, a wholesale upgrade was in order. The administrative team anticipated their vision would be a multi-year project, one that might not even be completed by the time many of them retired.

"This is allowing us to have an incredible, immediate impact on instruction," Mr. Molley said. "To see this project come to fruition over the course of a single school year is remarkable. This is a once-in-a-career infusion of resources."

COORDINATING THE LOGISTICS

Every classroom has a dedicated Chromebook and Chromebox. The Chromebox, which fits neatly on the back of every classroom's new 27" monitor, takes the place of the traditional desktop computer. The Chromebox is quick and intuitive, allowing the teacher to be on the same dock, slide deck, or webpage as the Chromebook. A wireless mouse and lightweight wireless keyboard round out each teacher's station, providing space for grading, lesson planning, and other administrative duties.

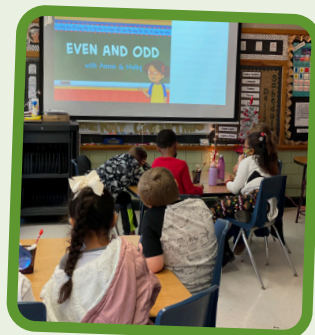
"We really wanted to make things effective and simple for our teachers, so they can best instruct our students," said Mrs. Stefanie Stubblefield, Instructional Coordinator for Technology.

In addition to these teaching tools, there are other new additions to foster a more optimal learning experience. Every classroom is receiving a new, efficient projector, an integrated audio system with wireless mic, small lanyard mic, and four ceiling speakers to offer loud, clear voice amplification; and a 106-inch pull-down widescreen projector screen so students can see projections clearly regardless of their seat.

"The equipment takes up very little space," Mrs. Stubblefield adds. "I'm blown away by how well integrated everything is. It looks like it has been there the whole time."

A project of this magnitude obviously has many parts.

The district began in 2019 by migrating the district's email platform from Microsoft to Google. The next step in the plan was to get devices into the hands of every student in Grades 3-12, which was accomplished through a large order placed in January 2020, before the pandemic made such items a hot commodity.



The migration to Google and implementation of Chromebooks got teachers and students on the same page with cohesive apps and portable electronic devices.

Then it was time to integrate these technologies into the classroom. Glenwood Electric is working in each of the district's buildings, upgrading the wiring for efficient, consistent connections to the new equipment going into every classroom. Once the network wiring is complete, the classroom components are installed. They expect to complete every building by the end of the school year.

ACCESS FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

No matter what room a teacher is using, he or she will have the access to same equipment, used in the same ways. Likewise, no matter what classroom a student is learning in, they can rely on the same learning tools.



Each classroom will feature a Chromebox which can be used with a new, efficient projector and a 106-inch pull-down screen so students can see clearly, regardless of their seat.

"We really wanted to make things effective and simple for our teachers, so they can best instruct our students."

Mrs. Stefanie Stubblefield,
Instructional Coordinator

IN THE CLASSROOM

Putting new technology to work

Ms. Anna Muennich's classroom at Lloyd High School was the project's first installation – a demo classroom for other teachers and staff. And, it's already being put to good use for her students.

She is happy with the upgrade, which allows her to utilize the technology tools that became commonplace during virtual learning to augment her current classroom lessons. She also appreciates how streamlined the new equipment is.

"The microphone in particular is really nice," Ms. Muennich said. "When you have a large class, or when students are working in groups, it's much easier for everyone to hear. It doesn't matter where you are in the room. And the larger, wider screen makes it easier for students to see everything."

Ms. Jessica Holleman, a kindergarten teacher at Howell, appreciates the sharp picture quality the new projector and screen provide. "We do a lot of interactive videos and songs, along with behavioral, procedural, and academic lessons on screen and it's really helpful that every student can see clearly all over the room, not just right up front," Ms. Holleman said. "The microphone has also been great for that reason."

Because Ms. Holleman is working with students experiencing their first year of formal education, she has a front-row perspective to the way the district's newest students learn. "These kids don't know it any other way," she said.

Second grade classroom of the future — today!

Mrs. Erin Baumann's second grade instruction integrates the new technology in virtually every lesson. Recently, when teaching a math lesson about even and odd numbers, Mrs. Baumann utilized technology to supplement her instruction.

She first explained the learning concepts to the students, then utilized a video to bring

the instruction to life, stopping at various points to expound upon what students were seeing and hearing. She used a document projector to review the subsequent worksheet on screen.



"I love it. From the second we got the microphone working I felt like I was teaching on stage," Mrs. Baumann said. "Prior to having my projector and screen, I was working on a mobile projector – it was always in the way, a nuisance. Now that it's all together and condensed, it really helps me teach more

effectively because I can move around the room using my microphone and mobile keyboard."

"It also shows our students how technology can be used," she added. "These guys are really used to technology. They learned most of their first grade year via computer at home. Seeing technology used in the classroom but not relying on it is important for them. It's also helpful for them to see that technology doesn't always go the way we plan. They're really understanding when something doesn't work right away. We talk through it and they'll even come up with suggestions. It's great for building resiliency and problem solving skills. Things might not go as planned the first time, but we can overcome any obstacles and barriers that might come our way."

THE DETAILS

Devices and resources that bring learning to life

Each teacher has:

- ✓ 11.6" touch tablet with EMR stylus pen
- ✓ 27" desktop monitor
- ✓ Wireless keyboard and mouse

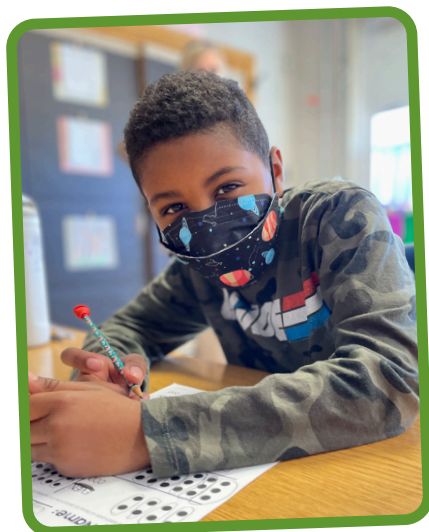
Each student in grades 3-12 receive:

- ✓ HP 11.6" touchscreen Chromebook tablet



Each classroom will have:

- ✓ Epson PowerLite W49 projector
- ✓ Classroom audio system with wireless and lanyard mic
- ✓ 4 ceiling speakers
- ✓ 106 inch pull down widescreen projector screen



Project acceleration

The infusion of federal money shortened this from a 10 to 15 year project to less than three. The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief provided Kentucky with \$2 billion to safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and equitably expand opportunity for students who need it most. Many of the greatest needs of schools and students — technology one of the chief among them — were exacerbated by the pandemic. These funds are allowing us to invest money in a way that will directly and tangibly impact our students and teachers with a deep, immediate impact on instruction.

PUTTING TECH TO USE

Here are some of the ways we're using these new resources in the classroom...



Google Workspace for Education

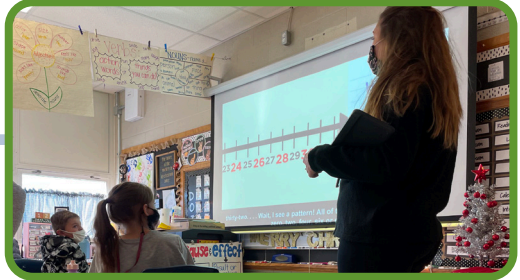
A set of cloud-based computing, productivity, and collaboration tools and products that are tailored for schools to collaborate, streamline instruction, and keep learning safe.

Screencastify

A screen recording app that allows teachers to record themselves so students can access and review classroom lessons any time.

Jamboard

An interactive digital whiteboard that allows for teacher instruction and student collaboration. Integrates seamlessly with Google Classroom.



One by Wacom

A drawing tablet with digital pen used to draw, edit photos, express ideas, write formulas and interact in online classes in a way you can't with a keyboard and trackpad.

Classroom Relay

A digital citizenship / classroom management assistant that helps keep students on track. With Relay Classroom, teachers can view a student's screen and see which students are off track using the insight and heat map features. It can also limit websites students can open or even turn off Internet access altogether.

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE

Mr. Molley and his colleagues recognize that technology, even more so than other areas of education, is ever changing. As such, they understand the importance of regular maintenance and improvements.

"We are committed from the top down to continuing to support these resources," Mr. Molley said. "It's not enough to implement these materials, we also have to sustain them. Part of our annual budget will include instruction, technology support, and upgrades so that we're able to sustain the benefit. It's no good to anyone if it is antiquated or broken. What's put in place must continue to evolve."

Among critical next steps is creating a district schedule for review and upgrades, so every student K-12 will have the same experience and the opportunity to build upon skills for years to come.

"Our students will be used to using this technology now," Mr. Molley added. "We'll have to stay ahead of the curve."

Lloyd Principal Mike Key earns doctoral degree

Mr. Mike Key, principal at Lloyd Memorial High School, can now be addressed by a new title: doctor.

Dr. Key has achieved his Educational Doctorate from Northern Kentucky University after completing two years of coursework and spending an additional year writing a dissertation.



He began the program in the spring of 2019 and was just wrapping up his first year when the world shut down, so the experience put Dr. Key on even footing with his students as he moved through his program virtually.

“It’s something I was looking at for a long time,” Dr. Key said. “I would possibly like to work in higher education when I’m finished with my career at Lloyd, and this is an avenue to get into that.”

Dr. Key’s program is built around action research in his field, including a dissertation directly related to his daily work. He was part of a cohort of about 15 other educators, and they built good relationships along the way. During the early stages of the pandemic, they were talking about the unique

situation they were in, and someone suggested it would make a good topic for a dissertation.

So that’s exactly what they did. Dr. Key, along with Shannon Reeves, a preschool administrator, Jennifer Patrick, principal at Goodridge Elementary, and Erica Bowles, principal at Ballyshannon Middle School came together to conduct a qualitative study on leading during the pandemic.

Together the team studied qualitative data surrounding the initial shutdown. They then investigated crisis leadership in schools – looking at how administrators had led during hurricanes, floods, fires, school shootings, and more. There was much to glean about leadership in a crisis, so the team looked at what people consistently did and compared it to the pandemic circumstances. After gathering data, they spent a year writing individual stories and collaborating to share overarching themes and takeaways.

In October, Dr. Key and his colleagues successfully defended their dissertation to a committee comprised of two NKU professors and Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, former superintendent of Erlanger-Elsmere Schools. The defense was upheld, and they passed without any corrections. Dr. Key officially graduated in December.

“It’s a great process,” Dr. Key said. “I enjoyed getting back in the classroom and I can’t say enough good things about NKU’s cohort model. It was a great experience; one I’d like to bring that to Lloyd so that groups of students would move through their high school experience together. NKU has things figured out.”

A voice to be heard

Getting to know Melanie Ceballos

Melanie Ceballos is passionate about representing her peers, and she has found a natural fit as the student representative to the Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education for the 2021-2022 school year.



A senior at Lloyd Memorial High School, Melanie's deep involvement in a wide variety of school activities acquaints her with many of her fellow students, making her well-suited for the role. In addition to Student Council and National Honor Society, Melanie is a cheerleader and member of the softball team.

"I wanted to become a student board representative is because I wanted my voice to be heard, not only for me but for the benefit of my classmates as well," Melanie said. "A major thing our student body is focusing on at the moment is revising the student dress code. It's really great to hear everyone's opinions, pull them together and have agreement as a whole."

Melanie is not just involved beyond the classroom, she's a serious and dedicated student, using her time at Lloyd to prepare for life after graduation. This year, her schedule includes English, math, business, and technology, and she's in a college-level dual-credit Logistics and Supply Chain Management program offered through Gateway Community and Technical College.

"I absolutely love how encouraging our school staff is about going to college and all the awesome opportunities it has," Melanie said. "I also like the opportunities that Erlanger-Elsmere brings to the table when it comes to after high school. Not only if you decide to go to college but also if you think college is not your future path."

The energy, commitment, and dedication with which Melanie approaches the things she takes on point to a very bright future indeed. Next year, she plans to attend college to study psychology. Her long-term goals include achieving a college degree, building her own house, and traveling the world.

Melanie lives in Erlanger with her parents, who she describes as very hard workers to provide for her and her siblings. Her brother, Enrique, is a student at Tichenor Middle

School, while her younger brother Maximous and sister Evolette attend Howell Elementary. She also has a cat and three German shepherds.

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"I would like the people of Erlanger-Elsmere to know that I'll always support my student body in what's right and always do my best to be heard," Melanie said.

Lloyd teacher selected as GoTeachKY ambassador

Ms. Shelby Loyd, special education teacher at Lloyd Memorial High School, was selected as one of twenty-two GoTeachKY Ambassadors for the state of Kentucky.



GoTeachKY is an initiative from the Kentucky Department of Education that works to recruit the next generation of Kentucky educators to remedy the critical teacher shortage currently affecting every state in America. Research supports that the most important factor contributing to student achievement is effective teachers. GoTeachKY's mission is to ensure that all students across the Commonwealth have equitable access to effective educators.

This is Ms. Loyd's seventh year at Lloyd High School. She spent her first three years at the school as an English teacher and is in her fourth year as a special education teacher. The fact that the school has the same name as her (though, of course, spelled a bit differently...) is just one of many things Ms. Loyd enjoys about working in Erlanger-Elsmere Schools.

"I love Erlanger-Elsmere Schools, especially Lloyd, because they are focused completely on providing the best education they can for every student that walks into one of their buildings," Ms. Loyd said. "Lloyd is a small school, which gives me the ability to know everyone I work with and most of the students. I have now lived in Erlanger for two years, and I have loved it. I'm very happy to be a part of Juggernaut country, and I intend to be here for some time."

In part to support her new role, Ms. Loyd intends to be more active on social media. Check her out on Twitter @ShelbyKLoyd.

Mrs. Colliver honored with Emerging Leader Award

Mrs. Naomi Colliver, a school counselor at Arnett Elementary, was recently selected by the Kentucky School Counselor Association as the recipient of their Emerging Leader Award.

Mrs. Colliver was honored at the Awards Dinner during KSCA's annual conference in Lexington with the Pamela Gabbard Emerging Leader Award, chosen based on her demonstrated leadership.

The evening was doubly special as Ms. Destiny Rosenberg was awarded the NKU School Counselor of the Year award. Ms. Rosenberg is currently an intern at Lloyd High School and she completed her school counseling practicum at Arnett last spring.

"It was such a tremendous honor," Mrs. Colliver said. "I feel very confident any success I experience is a direct reflection upon the team I am blessed to work beside daily. The administrators at Arnett, the teachers and staff, and especially my amazing students comprise a very special team!"



Mrs. Colliver (left) and Ms. Rosenberg.

The Cooper Family

Active and involved in Erlanger



As far as Erlanger families go, the Coopers are fairly new to the scene. But they're already tightly woven into the fabric of the community.

Stacey and Brandon Cooper moved to Erlanger seven years ago, shortly after beginning their teaching careers. The couple, originally from Ohio, met while in school at Thomas More. After graduation, they went to work in the classroom – Stacey in Covington Schools and Brandon at Bellevue. When they were ready to buy a house, Erlanger was the first place they looked.

“Having attended college nearby, we knew we just really loved the area,” Stacey said. “We didn’t look anywhere else. And we weren’t even teaching in the school district at the time!”

Fast forward and Mr. and Mrs. Cooper now have a much shorter commute... both work in Erlanger-Elsmere Schools. Mrs. Cooper is an instructional coach at Howell Elementary, a position she assumed this year after serving as a fifth-grade teacher at Miles since 2016. Mr. Cooper is a science teacher at Lloyd and assistant coach of the Lady Juggernauts basketball team.

“This is the best school district we’ve ever been a part of,” Stacey said. “And the community itself is just so welcoming. Any activity that Erlanger organizes, we always make it a point to go. They have so many events that bring the whole community together, and it’s a small enough place that you see the same people. We love how active the community is in getting everyone involved – that doesn’t happen everywhere.”

The community activities are perfect for the Coopers, who have added two more members to the family since they moved to town. Their four-year-old daughter Lily and son Wesley, who just turned two, love participating in everything Erlanger has to offer. In the summer, Stacey uses her time away from school to take her children to Depot Days. They’re active members at Silverlake, where Lily takes gymnastics classes, and the kids enjoy swimming, bowling, and trampolines. As parishioners at St. Henry, they help out at bingo and festivals. And both children are part of the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten reading challenge offered by the Kenton County Public Library.



The Cooper's son Wesley, who just turned two (left), and four-year-old daughter Lily (right) love participating in everything Erlanger has to offer.

“This place embodies the true definition of a community,” Mrs. Cooper said. “Everyone knows everyone, we help one another, everyone enjoys being together. Anywhere I go, I know if I needed anything someone would step in to help me, without judgement. And it’s the same in the school district. In my new position this year, I’ve reached out to different teachers and staff members, and everyone has been so open to helping me with whatever I need. I love how willing everyone is to be there for everyone else.”

In addition to Brandon, Stacey, and their children, the Cooper household also includes a number of animals, which are very much a part of the family. They have two dogs – Kodak, a yellow Labrador retriever, and Mavric, a Rhodesian ridgeback/boxer mix. The family’s bearded dragon lives in Mr. Cooper’s classroom. Initially named Oswald when the Coopers assumed the lizard was a boy, Mr. Cooper’s class decided to investigate and determined Oswald was, in fact, a girl. The students re-named the pet Oswanda and even created its own Instagram account. Lily’s fish, named Zebra, rounds out the menagerie.

“We would have more animals if it was up to me,” Stacey said. “Everyone in the family loves animals. Lily even has a shirt that says ‘Little Sister’ because we had our dogs before she was born. We celebrate their birthdays and they’re a big part of everything we do.”

As is to be expected with demanding jobs, two little ones, and a collection of pets, the Coopers have a hectic schedule. But they don’t let that stop them from enjoying their down time together. They enjoy exploring the many amazing parks in the area and go to the zoo a lot. They take the dogs for walks as a family, which is its own kind of adventure.



*The more furry members of
The Cooper Family*

And they hang out together making crafts, building obstacle courses, and having dance parties – anything that wears the kids out.

“We’re an active family, so we love living here and all the activities the city puts together,” Stacey said. “We absolutely adore Erlanger. I just can’t say it enough.”

This place embodies the true definition of a community. Everyone knows everyone, we help one another, everyone enjoys being together. Anywhere I go, I know if I needed anything someone would step in to help me, without judgement.

And it’s the same in the school district. In my new position this year, I’ve reached out to different teachers and staff members, and everyone has been so open to helping me with whatever I need. I love how willing everyone is to be there for everyone else.

-Stacey Cooper



Dorothy Howell Elementary School

A walk through time

The site on which Dorothy Howell Elementary School sits at 909 Central Row in Elsmere has a long-storied history that reaches back to the nineteenth century. The location is recognized as the oldest-existing school site still in use within the Erlanger-Elsmere District and has continuously served our community's families and students for a period of over 120 years.

Until 1896, what is now the city of Elsmere was referred to as "South Erlanger." Elsmere was incorporated as a city on May 11, 1896. Within three years of its



The original Elsmere School Building on Central Row in Elsmere. Known as Elsmere Graded School, Elsmere School, and Elsmere Elementary School: 1899-1942

incorporation, its citizens had completed the qualification process to establish a graded school. Approval for the Elsmere Graded School District was formally granted in July 1899. As the building was constructed on Central Row in Elsmere, even Northern Kentucky's major thoroughfare, the Dixie Highway, was still an unpaved rock, gravel, and dirt highway. Serving primarily horses, horse wagons, and stagecoaches - Dixie Highway would not be paved until 1921, a time in which the Elsmere Graded School had been serving the community for over 20 years.

By September of 1902, the Elsmere Graded School, the largest and finest structure in

the community of Elsmere, was featured and pictured in a periodical published for regional educational leaders and administrators, the Southern School Journal. The Elsmere Graded School District, composed of one school building, would eventually house students in grades 1 through 12, involving high school students and graduating seniors as the school comprised a hub of activity and pride for the entire community.

Through the decades, various renovations were made and additions were built. In 1924, three years after the Dixie Highway was paved, an extensive renovation completed at the Elsmere School was reported by local newspapers as a "new" building. At that time of renewal, a festive dedication parade included students, citizens, and civic leaders.

By the late 1920's the communities and school board members of the Elsmere Independent School District and the Erlanger Independent School District began discussions relating to a possible merger of the two nearby districts. The reasons for these discussions revolved around the need to strengthen the academic and athletic capacities of the two school districts by combining financial and human resources as well as students and families from both communities.

Both the Elsmere Independent School District and the Erlanger Independent School District closed at the end of the 1927-1928 school year, and the newly formed Erlanger-Elsmere School District opened in the fall of 1928. Mr. Edgar Arnett, who served as the last superintendent of the Elsmere Independent School District became

the first principal of the high school in the new Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District. By the following year, 1929, Mr. Arnett was named the superintendent of the district, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1965. Mr. Arnett subsequently served as a member of the Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education from 1968 to 1980.

The school building in Elsmere on Central Row which had proudly served the community for nearly three decades became an elementary school when the districts merged.

Elsmere Elementary School was, by that time, a part of the newly-formed Erlanger-Elsmere School District.

The building continued in continuous operation until 1942. Taxpayers passed a bond issue for the construction of a new school building on Central Row in Elsmere in 1940, and architectural drawings were ready in 1941 when construction began. The new Elsmere Elementary was ready for occupancy in the spring of 1942. During construction, in order for the old building to remain operational, the new school building was built beside the original school. The original school was demolished only after the new building was completed.

Today, now eighty years old and with myriad additions and renovations completed throughout the decades, that 1942 building serves our community as Dorothy Howell Elementary School. The 1942 portions of the existing Dorothy Howell building face 909 Central Row.



*Dorothy Howell Elementary School in Elsmere
(1942 - present day)*

A legacy of leadership

Since 1899 thousands of young scholars from Elsmere have attended school on Central Row. First known as Elsmere Graded School, later Elsmere School, Elsmere Elementary School, and finally, Dorothy Howell Elementary School, for over 120 years young people have been fortunate to attend the school and have learned, grown, and excelled under the educational leadership of those such as Dorothy Howell and Rosella Porterfield.

Those also known to have served in capacities as chief administrators of the Elsmere School District through the years include William V. Mills, J.C. Mills, and Edgar Arnett (final superintendent of the Elsmere Independent School District: 1925-1928); as-well as the following principals after the merger of the Elsmere and Erlanger School Districts in 1928: Tommie Kane, Frances Austin McKay, Hansford Harlow (1939-1941), George Cook (1941-1943), Betty Jo Weaver Roter (1943-1948), Dorothy Adams Howell (1948-1975), Rodney Kinser (interim principal in 1970) David Whaley (interim principal in 1975), Harold Ensor (1975-1976), Charles Perry (1976-1992), Valeria Reynolds (1992-1993), David R. Palmore (1993-1994), James Johnson (1994-1998), Jeffrey Frisch (1998-1999), Mike King and Oliver Bryant (interim principals in 1999-2000), Eric Saylor (2000-2013), Michael Goodenough (2013-2020), Jessica Kreitzer (2020-2021), Renee Boots (interim principal in 2021), and Tiffany Gruen (2021 to present).



*Dorothy Adams Howell - principal
of Elsmere Elementary and Dorothy
Howell Elementary 1948-1975
Top photo circa 1941
Bottom photo circa 1967*

In 1942, Miss Dorothy Adams came to Elsmere Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher. In 1948 she became principal of the school. By that time she had married Charles T. Howell, becoming thereafter Mrs. Dorothy Howell. Mrs. Howell had served as the school's principal for 27 years when she retired in 1975. A devoted teacher and principal, she immersed herself in the school and the school community, and lived most of those years in Elsmere, just a few blocks from the school. Such was her impact on the community that in 1970 the Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education elected to rename Elsmere Elementary School in her honor – Dorothy Howell Elementary School.

A school parent summarized Mrs. Howell as well as the act of renaming the school in her honor by noting, "Mrs. Howell was one of the most devoted persons I have ever known. The children at Elsmere Elementary loved her and respected her. No matter where her path leads, Elsmere will always have Dorothy Howell!"

Mrs. Dorothy Howell (1918-1977) is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Erlanger.

During Mrs. Howell's tenure, the Erlanger-Elsmere Schools and Elsmere Elementary School made national news as a story highlighting racial integration in the nation's public schools was covered in the September 17, 1956 edition of Life Magazine.

While much of Life Magazine's 1956 integration article related to the sensationalism and conflicts of the period tied to school integration, photographs taken at Elsmere Elementary School, along with Life Magazine's accompanying commentary, highlighted the school as an example of successful and peaceful desegregation in the nation's schools. At the time, Erlanger-Elsmere's superintendent, Edgar Arnett, had worked collaboratively with Northern Kentucky's civil rights pioneer, Rosella French Porterfield in orchestration of a workable integration plan to be implemented within the Erlanger-Elsmere School District during the 1956-57 school year. Mrs. Porterfield, the granddaughter of a former slave, was serving as the head-teacher at the old Wilkins Heights School in the Erlanger-Elsmere School District. She would soon serve as the first African-American librarian in the Elsmere-Erlanger Schools.

Ms. Porterfield was born and raised in Kentucky. Through perseverance, she finished school and obtained her graduate and master's degrees at a time when few female African-Americans were able to accomplish this goal. In 2002, the school library at Dorothy Howell was renamed and dedicated Rosella French Porterfield Library and in that same year the Elsmere Park Board rededicated the Rosella French Porterfield Park on Capitol Avenue in her honor. The Notable Kentucky African Americans (NKAAs) has designated Mrs. Porterfield the "Rosa Parks of Northern Kentucky." In 2007 the Kentucky Commission on Civil Rights posthumously named Rosella French Porterfield to their Hall of Fame. Mrs. Rosella French Porterfield (1918-2004) is buried at Richwood Presbyterian Cemetery in Boone County.



*Rosella French Porterfield
Northern Kentucky civil rights pioneer
Top photo circa 1955
Bottom photo circa 1995*

The Alumni Spotlight



Alexis Day, '10 A desire to help others

When Alexis Day was in the fifth grade at Arnett Elementary, Sgt. Todd Cummins regularly visited her classroom to lead the DARE program. She was mesmerized by him – his sharp uniform, his important job, his approachable demeanor.

“Having that impression of a police officer coming into my classroom – that was really amazing to me, Alexis said. “It planted a seed, so to speak.”

Today, Alexis is Sgt. Day of the Elsmere Police Department. It’s been quite a journey since she was 10 years old, chosen as one of four students to read her DARE essay at the program’s graduation ceremony.

In April of her senior year at Lloyd, Alexis married Branden Day. After graduation, she enrolled at Beckfield College in Florence where she received a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. While she was still a student, she was hired by the Elsmere Police Department in July 2014. Upon completing her program with the Police Academy later that fall, she joined the force, serving as an officer until August 2021, when she was promoted to sergeant. She holds the distinction of being the first female officer in Elsmere to obtain rank.

Alexis knew she would get too bored in an office job, and she likes the variety and sense of purpose her position brings. Today, that includes responding to calls, handling traffic violations, patrolling the streets, engaging with members of the Elsmere community, and, since her promotion, a bit more paperwork.

Alexis has also experienced family members spending time in and out of jail and knew that wasn’t what she wanted for her own life.

“I want to use my life experience and my desire to help others on the other side of the law,” Alexis said. “Usually, when people call the police, it’s because something has gone wrong. But sometimes we’re there for the good things, too. When we’re dealing with a teenager that’s having a hard way to go, or someone who needs someone to listen to them – that gives us an opportunity to have an impact. I’ve had people I’ve arrested before stop to thank me for treating them kindly, for being decent to them. I hope that maybe by one good interaction with somebody perhaps I can affect the way they view police officers.”

Alexis is still married to Branden and they’re coming up on their twelfth anniversary.

They live in Grant County with their two children, and Alexis recently discovered she’s expecting twins.

“We’re very family oriented,” Alexis said. “As long as we’re together, it doesn’t matter what we’re doing.”

What's happening in Erlanger and Elsmere



Flagship Park improvements

The City of Erlanger has unveiled new improvements at Flagship Park, which include a new playground surface.

“The new playground surface at Flagship Park is absolutely gorgeous and very squishy!” said Erlanger Mayor Jessica Fette. “Perfect color and design combo that will help with longevity of the surface. This is another stellar job by our outstanding Public Works team.”

The Flagship Park surface is just one part of \$1.25 million the city has allocated to improve parks and develop a master plan for future upgrades to the city’s 12 parks. Plans call for major improvements to Silverlake and Rainbow parks and the development of a master plan that will initially include Railroad Depot and Stetter parks.



“Well-maintained, inviting, and attractive parks that appeal to those who want to be active as well as those who just want to relax are major factors in where people decide to live,” Mayor Fette said. “City council and our administration decided that our parks have been underutilized and need an upgrade as well as a long-term master plan. An outstanding park system is a service we are committed to delivering to our community, and this plan will get us there.”

Alumni celebrate at Hall of Fame Luncheon

The Lloyd Memorial High School Alumni Association hosted its annual All-Class Reunion and Hall of Fame Ceremony this fall. This year, event was able to be held in-person, and was also live-streamed on Facebook.

The festive gathering included the addition of three new inductees to the Alumni Hall of Fame: Mr. Chad Molley, Ms. Kimberly Klare, and Mr. Carl Grayson. Special guest Bronson Arroyo, the former Cincinnati Red and local musician, mixed stories from his career with a live acoustic musical performance. After the event, he greeted attendees, signed autographs, and posed for photos. Bronson appeared at the group’s virtual event in 2020 and was so popular that the group invited him to visit in person this year.



The luncheon raised over \$12,900 for the Alumni Scholarship fund. All Lloyd High School alumni are encouraged to mark their calendars for next year’s event, September 25, 2022.

Drone captures unique perspective of Elsmere building construction



You may not be aware, but the Elsmere Police Department has a drone unit. The drone is used to search for missing children or capture fugitives that run... but it can also be used to take photos and videos of things that we normally would not get to see.

Recently the Erlanger Police used the drone to capture a cool perspective of the construction progress in the City of Elsmere’s new Municipal Building at the corner of Dixie Highway and Carlisle Street.



The new building will have 15,500 square feet of space – more than twice the size of the current building – and will house the council chambers, administrative offices, and the police department, bringing together the city administration and police department, which are currently separated by several blocks. It is being constructed with concrete masonry and brick masonry with natural limestone. The edifice also includes an emergency shelter-in-place space for city personnel, which will also act as the city's hub for emergency management during a crisis.

Community shows tremendous generosity

The spirit of generosity enveloped Erlanger-Elsmere Schools with an overwhelming outpouring of support during the 2021 holiday season.

The following is a list of some of those who have donated items, held toy drives, provided holiday meals, sponsored students or families, or held special events at their location.

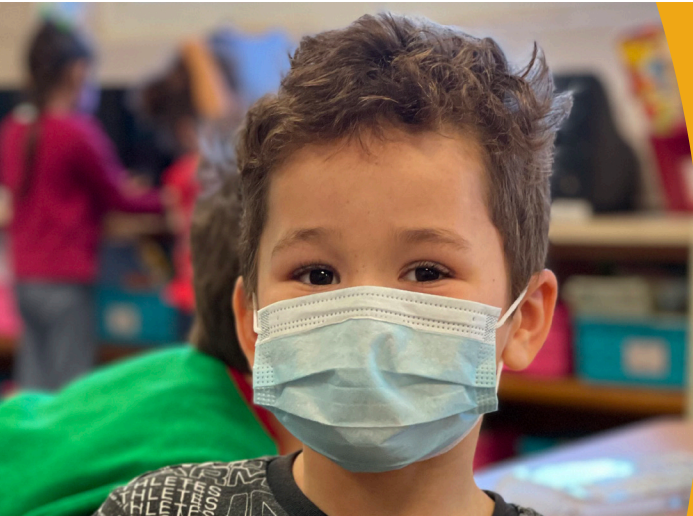
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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A-1 Driving School | Heat Transfer Warehouse |
| Any Weather Roofing | Ignite Institute in Partnership with |
| Chelsea Ryann Festival of Hope | Toys for Tots |
| Cinderella's Closet | Indelac Controls |
| City of Erlanger | Kentucky Auto Service & Towing |
| Elsmere Fire Department | Mazak |
| Elsmere VFW/ Ladies Auxiliary | Premiere Athletics |
| Emerge | Private Donors |
| Erlanger City Building | Seven Hills Church |
| Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education | St. Elizabeth |
| Erlanger Lions Club | St. Henry Catholic Church |
| Erlanger Police Department | Various Staff Members |
| Florence Elks | Viox & Viox |
| Gary Williams Martial Arts | |

Thank you to all who donated and supported our school district this holiday season. Everyone involved in these efforts not only helped many of our students have a happier holiday season, they also showed them they're part of a community that truly cares. We are extremely grateful for each and every gift.



Erlanger-Elsmere Schools
500 Graves Avenue
Erlanger, KY 41018

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our vision

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools will provide essential opportunities for all students to reach their greatest potential.

our mission

It is the mission of the Erlanger-Elsmere Schools to embrace and attend to the individual needs of our students, regardless of the obstacles.



stay in touch

Visit us on the web: www.erlanger.kyschools.us
Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ErlangerElsmere
Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/erlangerelsmere

sign up for our e-newsletter

Send your name and email address to:
engage@erlanger.kyschools.us

write to us at...

Engage, Erlanger-Elsmere Schools
500 Graves Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018
or email: engage@erlanger.kyschools.us

Please let us know if you receive
duplicate mailings of **engage**.

we like to hear from you!

Central Office859.727.2009
Lloyd Memorial High School859.727.1555
Tichenor Middle School.....859.727.2255
Arnett Elementary.....859.727.1488
Howell Elementary.....859.727.1108
Lindeman Elementary.....859.727.1188
Miles Elementary.....859.727.2231
Bartlett Educational Center859.342.2460
Erlanger-Elsmere Preschool.....859.342.2427
or 859.727.2009

board of education

Tom Luken • Jeffrey Miller • Serena Owen
Rachel Retherford • Sarah Shackelford

The Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Dietz Auditorium, 450 Bartlett Avenue, Erlanger.

central office administrators

Chad Molley, Superintendent • Matt Engel, Assistant Superintendent
Chris Klosinski, Director of Special Education • Shawn Neace,
Director of Pupil Personnel • Laura Deters, Chief Information Officer • Lisa Goetz,
Finance Director • Michael Goodenough, Director of District-Wide Programs
Stefanie Stubblefield, Instructional Coordinator - Technology • Al Poweleit, Instructional
Coordinator - Student Services • Donna Schulte, Preschool Director

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools

LLOYD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL • TICHENOR MIDDLE SCHOOL
ARNETT ELEMENTARY • HOWELL ELEMENTARY • LINDEMAN ELEMENTARY
MILES ELEMENTARY • BARTLETT EDUCATIONAL CENTER