

December 15, 2023



A Note from the Interim Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you had the opportunity to attend our wonderful concert events this winter season. It is always a pleasure to see the hard work and efforts of our students come to fruition and watch our students perform on stage. Their joy, enthusiasm and exuberance never cease to amaze me. We are most fortunate to have a robust and growing music program here at East Lyme Middle School. Our music department has partnered with East Lyme High School to continue to enhance and expand the musical talents of our students beyond their middle school years. A big thank you to the collaborative efforts of both ELMS and ELHS! As you will see below, today's curriculum fellow update is from Ms. Renski, who will further highlight and share updates.

At ELMS, our boys' and girls' basketball teams have begun their season. They had a great first outing and played very well. We had a lot of student support at our first home game to cheer on our student-athletes on the court. We encourage enthusiastic following but expect our student fan base to be respectful, courteous, and positive. This is the essence of sportsmanship and the values we want to uphold at ELMS. Please help us remind and reinforce our students of the atmosphere we want to maintain. Thank you in advance for your support.

Regards,

Claudine Kelly

@eastlymems



East Lyme Middle School

Pick-up Drop-off reminder:

A safety and security issue has been brought to my attention regarding the well-being of our students. It seems that many children are being dropped off in the morning and are being picked up at the end of the day at the Youth Center. When this occurs, no adult is there to monitor the children in the lot or manage the cars. I kindly ask that parents use the back of ELMS for the allocated drop off/pick up procedures. While I recognize that a line may form at times, the well-being of our children and the supervision and management of safety measures is of utmost importance. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation. - Claudine Kelly

Music Curriculum Fellow
December 15, 2023

The ELMS Music Department has had a busy year so far! It is concert season, so all ensemble classes have been practicing for their performances. The Winter Choir Concerts were held at ELMS on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6 and 7pm. The Winter Band concert was at ELHS on Tuesday, December 6, 2023. The Winter Orchestra concert was at ELHS on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. All ELMS music staff and ELMS faculty are so proud of all of the hard work our musicians did to make these concerts special for the community. Band, choir, and orchestra students will also be performing for their peers in two in-school concerts on Friday, December 22nd.

Following highly successful Winter concerts, band, orchestra, and choir are now starting preparations on new songs. This is always a great time in the concert cycle to review and reinforce sight reading strategies. Choir has a collaborative concert with East Lyme High School coming up in March as well the Spring concert in May. All grade levels have at least one song in a language other than English, as well as a more familiar student choice song. Orchestra and Band will have their Spring concerts in June. In preparation for their Spring concerts, band students are rising to meet the challenges of pieces in less comfortable key signatures with more complex rhythms including dotted rhythms, triplets, and syncopation. 5th grade band and orchestra students have been excited to begin work on their first non-unison arrangements and are all doing a great job!

5th and 6th grade general music classes are currently reviewing what they have learned in the first half of the year. This includes music literacy, ukulele, and world drumming. The second half of the year will be largely project based learning based around piano, composition, and music technology.

7th and 8th grade general music is a semester-long class, so January meant wrapping up final projects with the semester one students, and welcoming in the semester two students. These classes review music notation and basic piano skills before moving into guitar, rock band, and music technology. We're excited to get started with our new groups of students!



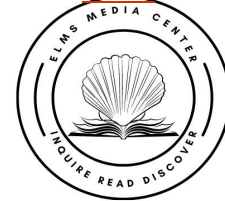
Dates to Remember

December 22nd	Early Dismissal for Students; 11:55 AM
December 25th - January 1st	NO SCHOOL; School Holiday
January 15th	NO SCHOOL; School Holiday
January 25th	Student Early Dismissal; 11:55 AM Staff Professional Day

[Counseling Office Link](#)



[Media Center Link](#)



ELMS 23/24 Yearbooks On Sale Now!



SCAN HERE TO ORDER TODAY

EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2024-2025 CALENDAR

August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025
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31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31

[Click here to see the 2024-2025 ELPS Calendar](#)

Around Town

[ELHS Cocoa with the Clauses](#) - December 16, 2023

[Leadership Program](#) - Tuesdays starting January 9, 2024

[Girls Circle](#) - Mondays starting January 28, 2024

[ELHS - Sponsor a Scholarship](#)

ELMS PTA



December 2023

Families,

We wish you the warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year! Please remember you can always reach out to any board members with questions or ideas. We welcome all ideas and suggestions to help support all students at ELMS.

Exciting Happenings:

NEXT MEETING - We do not have a December meeting. Our January meeting will be Thursday, January 18 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the ELMS cafeteria.

MEMBERSHIP/NEW MEMBERSHIP SITE - Please complete the [membership form](#) and return it with your child. You can still be a member. This is required in order to volunteer at PTA-sponsored events and vote on any items. We are very excited to share that our membership form has gone digital! You can now become a member without sending in checks. Please visit <https://elmspta1.memberhub.com/> to join us today. The digital payment platform has a small fee (less than \$2).

SPIRIT Wear - Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. Are you still interested in buying spirit wear? Do you want to buy more spirit wear for the holidays? The website is still open and we have added new winter apparel! Items purchased can only be delivered to your home; no pickup available - [Holiday Spirit Wear Link](#) We will have a PTA-sponsored spirit day in January - kiva color day! More information is forthcoming. Most recently, the student leadership team met with PTA officers and a survey was provided to all students gathering information on what spirit days they would like to have!

FUNDRAISERS - Our next fundraising event will be butter braids which will be happening in late February with delivery in time for Easter.

If you'd like to opt out of fundraisers and just donate funds towards the PTA-sponsored activities, please consider using the alternative PTA form - [Alternate Fundraising Form](#) or donate digitally <https://schoolfundr.org/fund/elmsptaaltfundraiser>

PTA SPONSORED ASSEMBLY - We are looking to sponsor a spring assembly. If you have ideas for a motivational speaker or presentation appropriate for middle school students, please contact us!

Volunteer Forms: Forms are required to be completed to help with events, per school policy - [Volunteer Process Forms](#)

February Dance - The PTA-sponsored dance is scheduled for February 9th, More information is forthcoming but if you are interested in helping, please contact us!

You can always reach us on the East Lyme Middle School PTA Facebook page too!

As always, please remember you can always reach out to any PTA board members with questions or ideas!

President: Rita Quiles-Glover
ritaglover@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Nila Kaczor
ncascio@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Danielle Deeble
danielledeeble327@gmail.com

Secretary: Tina Conlin
3peaparents@gmail.com

Don't forget to join our East Lyme Middle School facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1042924832497235/>

