

February 9, 2024



@eastlymems



East Lyme Middle School

A Note from the Interim Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am excited to share that the Board of Education recently approved expanding our East Lyme Middle School athletic offerings starting in the 2024/25 school year. In addition to offering cross country in the fall and boys' and girls' basketball in the winter, we will be adding boys' and girls' soccer in the fall, cheerleading in the winter and we will be expanding our volleyball program between the winter and spring seasons. Additionally, I am happy to announce that an assistant Athletic Director position has been approved to support the expanded athletic programs at ELMS. We are in the process of hiring for these positions.

Our hope is to communicate with our families soon, so you will have time to discuss with your child in anticipation of ELMS sports opportunities for Fall 2024. We will share more information in our weekly newsletters as it becomes available.

To our grade 8 students and families, another reminder to save the date for our upcoming East Lyme High School Grade 8 Rising Vikings event. This event is being held on February 22nd at 6:00 PM. For more information on what to expect, please visit the attached link [Grade 8 Rising Vikings](#).

Every day at ELMS, our faculty continues to support students by providing a nurturing and effective learning environment. Their focus throughout the year has been on utilizing explicit instruction in our classrooms. This approach relies upon our staff to clearly model skills, strategies, and concepts, providing direct guidance and explanation to students. This methodology aims to make learning transparent, ensuring that students understand what is being taught and why it is important. This allows children to develop and acquire a deep understanding of core concepts and skills.

Lastly, a reminder that on Friday, February 16th, school will be in session. This was originally planned as a snowflake day, however due to a snow day in January, school will be open.

I wish everyone a great weekend and Happy Friday!

Regards,

Claudine Kelly

Grade 5

Students have been using area concepts to represent and solve problems involving the multiplication of two fractions, and generalize that when they multiply two fractions, they need to multiply the two numerators and the two denominators to find their product. They have also reasoned about the relationship between multiplication and division to divide a whole number by a unit fraction and a unit fraction by a whole number.

What can you talk about at home?

- Whenever you have leftovers, you can talk about fractions of fraction! For example, "Last night, our family ate half the pan of lasagna. Tonight, we're splitting the rest between our family of 5. What fraction of the whole lasagna does each person get? How did you think about it? What was your strategy? What is a math expression that represents this situation?"

Grade 6

Students will soon begin a study of operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) with decimals. When adding and subtracting, students will need to consider the place value of each digit. When multiplying, students will learn various strategies such as area models, decomposing decimals, and the standard algorithm (the way you learned it!). When dividing decimals, students will also use a variety of strategies including partial quotients, long division (you'll like this way), and models.

What can you talk about at home?

- With students exploring several different strategies for decimal operations, find a problem on their homework one night, ask them any of the following questions, and just listen. ☑

What is a good estimate for an answer? How do you know?

How would you do this problem in your head?

How would you do it on paper?

Can you think of more than one way to solve it?

After, you can always ask "Can I share how I see it?". The answer to this might be "no thanks!" and that's okay too.

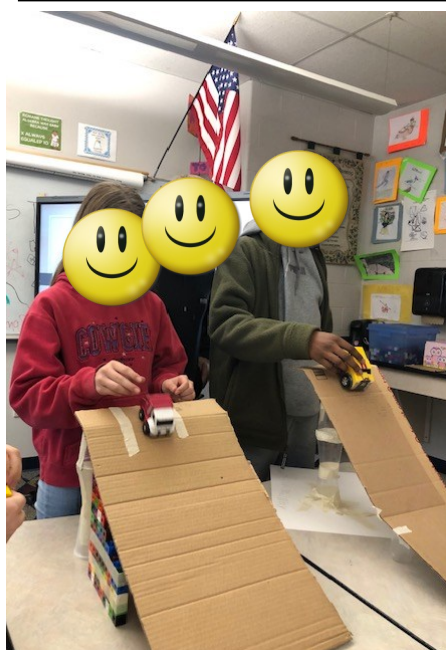
Grade 7

Students have recently begun or will soon begin their unit on algebraic reasoning. In this unit, students will learn to simplify and expand algebraic expressions, solve two-step algebraic equations, and solve and graph two-step inequalities.

What can you talk about at home?

- Play "Guess my Riddle" while in the car or during dinner. Depending on your student, you can vary the complexity of your riddle by changing the number of operations/"things" that happen to it. Here are some examples of different levels of riddles. For a twist, have you child make one up for you to solve!

Mild 🌶️	Medium 🌶️ 🌶️	Spicy 🌶️ 🌶️ 🌶️
When you multiply my number by -3, the answer is 33. What's my number?	When my number is multiplied by 2, then added with 4, the answer is 10. What's my number?	When my number is divided by -5 and subtracted by 12 the answer is -6. What's my number?



Students are introduced to the concept of slope by first designing ramps for different types of races.



Students race to beat a world record before representing their linear relationship using tables, equations, and graphs.

Grade 8

Students are wrapping up their unit on linear functions, which is a very important pre-Algebra unit in Grade 8. In this unit, students learned how to represent situations that have a given starting point, and continue at a constant rate, using equations, graphs, tables, and words. They also learned how to create distance-time graphs for a wide variety of real-world situations.

What can you talk about at home?

- Consider a distance you could measure over time. Ask your student "what would this relationship look like on a graph?". Examples include:
 - ◇ Your distance from home as you take multiple trips to bring groceries in from the car.
 - ◇ Height of a ball off the ground as you shoot baskets.
 - ◇ Distance of a ball away from you as you play pass back and forth.
 - ◇ Distance from school as you drive home.

Note: Your student is also about to start a unit on solving algebraic equations. See the Grade 7 "Number Riddles" above for more ideas of what you can talk about at home!

Algebra

Congratulations to our Algebra students on their completion of their very first midterm exam! Students will soon begin a unit which explores representations and analyses of data in one and two-variables. Students will learn about measures of center, quartiles, outliers, box-and-whisker plots, histograms, scatter plots, correlation, trend lines, and linear regression.

What can you talk about at home?

- Look for any two variables that might have a relationship (or not). You could come up with a pair, or ask your student to. Examples of variables include:
 - ◇ Minutes practiced and free throw percentage
 - ◇ Age and hairs on head
 - ◇ Oscar nominations and box office earnings
- Then ask your student about the relationship:
 - ◇ What type of correlation do you think these variables might have? Why would that be?
 - ◇ What would scatter plot of this relationship look like?

Around Town



STARS to STEM Regional Planetaryarium

At The East Lyme High School • 83 Chardon Lane Road • East Lyme, CT 06322

Winter 2024 Planetaryarium Series

Saturdays 11:00am-1:00pm 3rd through March 16th



One World, One Sky

This 27-minute full dome planetaryarium show that follows Suzanne Shweat's Big Bird and Elmo as they explore the night sky with Hu, Hu Zhi, a Muppet from Zhong Jin, the Chinese co-production of Suzanne Shweat. Together, they take an imaginary trip from the Cosmos Stream to the moon, where they discover how different it is from Earth. At the end of the show, Big Bird, Elmo, and Hu Hu Zhi pick a friendship star to remind them that no matter how far apart they might be, they can always look into the night sky and cherish their shared memories.

One World, One Sky is a production of Roger Rosenblatt, Executive Producer, and Suzanne Shweat, Producer. It is a production of the National Science Foundation. It is a production of the National Science Foundation. It is a production of the National Science Foundation.

**Show times: 11 AM for noneducational children/adults and their families.
2 PM show is for all audiences.**



Back to the Moon for Good

In case you haven't heard, the Moon is trending again... and in a big way. Narrated by Tim Allen (voice of Buzz Lightyear), this is a complete behind-the-scenes feature on the \$30 million Google Lunar XPRIZE, the largest recentral prize in history. Adapted from the award-winning digital planetaryarium show, the 24-minute movie chronicles 18 years from around the world seeking to make history by landing a privately funded robotic spacecraft on the Moon. This global competition is designed to spark imagination and inspire a renewed commitment to space exploration, not by governments or countries – but by the citizens of the world.

Show time: 12 PM



Dark Matter Mystery

This 38-minute show focuses on exploring a Cosmic Secret: What does keep the universe together? What are the building blocks of the so called "glue" we know but don't yet know that makes the universe look the way it looks today? This planetaryarium show takes you an extraordinary journey. You will see why we know that there must be dark matter at all and how this search becomes one of the most challenging and exciting scientific quests particle physics has to offer. Join the scientists on their hunt for dark matter, may it be in space or deep underground. Will they be able to reveal the dark matter mystery?

Show time: 1 PM

Admission \$30.00 per person.

Visit <http://www.stars-to-stem.org/tickets> or use the QR code to purchase tickets.



ENRICH Your Relationship with Your Child

FREE parenting workshop sponsored by ELPS

3 Zoom sessions
Learn new techniques
Get support
Applicable to ALL ages
All parents and caregivers welcome

You may choose to attend one, two, or all three sessions
Register for FREE at bridges@elpsk12.org

Session 1: Encouraging children, showing and teaching empathy, naming emotions & managing negatives in life. **February 28, 7:45-8:45 pm**

Session 2: Respect, the use of reasoning, the benefits of redirection, the importance of identity & various levels of parental involvement. **March 6, 7:45-8:45 pm**

Session 3: Communication, consequences, humor, health, & happiness and some specific strategies for resilience. **March 13, 7:45-8:45 pm**

Zoom meeting link will be sent
to all participants.
Email: bridges@elpsk12.org
to register

Presented by Dr. Debbie Kruenegel-Farr, founder of Flourishing Families, and a passionate parent coach, consultant, and educator. Dr. Farr's book "ENR.I.C.H Your Relationship With Your Child" goes with the class and can be purchased through Amazon.



**WINGS
OF
FIRE**

Book Party

Wednesday
March 20
3:00 - 4:00
at the
East Lyme
Public Library

Ages 9 and up
Pre-registration required
860-739-6926 ext. 2


East Lyme
Public Library
Let's discover it together!

The Clubhouse

Come join us and be a part of our inaugural after school program during the winter months at The Clubhouse!

The ClubHouse is located at 36 Industrial Road, adjacent to East Lyme Middle School, offering the perfect opportunity for students interested in sport performance training after school! Take advantage of this opportunity to keep your children off their devices and get them moving!

Our After School Program will run from 3 to 5:15 to 4:30PM, Monday thru Thursday (full school days only) starting on Tuesday January 2nd. Each class will be taught by a certified personal trainer from G's Fitness (Christian Brown). This athletic training program will be centered around balance, speed, strength, and agility training/conditioning, and is not an open gym concept.

Christian Brown is the director of Sports Performance training at G's Fitness. He is a certified personal trainer and specializes in the training of youth, high school, and college athletes. Christian's passion is in the field of strength and conditioning along with his experience provides his athletes with up-to-date training methods. His custom training programs for speed, strength, and agility have proven to improve performance in his athletes.

- *Grades 5 thru 8
- *Spaces will be limited
- *Sibling discounts offered

PORTION OF REGISTRATION FEES TO BENEFIT ELMS ATHLETIC FUND

www.clubhousect.com/afterschool

January Session:
16 dates (January 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31)
Cost: \$350


February Session:
14 dates (February 1, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29)
Cost: \$315

SPECIAL OFFER: Sign up now for both sessions (January and February, 30 total dates) and receive a special \$100/- 2-month package (30 sessions)!

East Lyme Public Library

EAST LYME PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

AUTHOR
NADIA LIRA



Saturday, March 9th, 3:00 PM
in the East Lyme Room

Join us with middle school author Nadia Lira
as she talks about her children's novel
"The Crystal Quest". Copies will be available
for purchase and signing.

Registration recommended at
860-739-6626 ext. 2.



Families,

Thank you for your continued support! We received so many donations for our upcoming PTA-sponsored dance - we are grateful! We also have many volunteers who have signed up to support the evening. Remember we cannot hold these activities without the volunteers. We plan to have more spirit days this year, including the upcoming Kindness Spirit Week. Thank you to those who attended virtually or in-person to our meeting on Thursday, January 18. A big thank you to Jeff Newton, Superintendent, who shared the proposed budget during our meeting. Finally, from our spring 2023 PTA-sponsored all-school assembly there is a new painting in the hallway of ELMS. The Emotions into Art assembly incorporated an artist who created 3 to 4 paintings live on stage, set to powerful music while delivering an inspirational message. ELMS was able to keep one of the paintings that aligned with the district's goals on diversity, equity, and inclusion.



EXCITING HAPPENINGS:

NEXT MEETING - We will not be meeting in February due to the shortened month. Our next meeting is **March 21st at 6:30 PM** in the cafeteria. You can join virtually or in person! More information forthcoming on agenda and zoom link details in March.



SPIRIT DAYS: 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! Our next spirit week begins February 12th and ends February 16th! In addition to spirit days to promote kindness we will also collect non-perishables for Care and Share throughout the week and beginning at the dance! Check out the flyer for more information - [Kindness Spirit Week](#)

PTA-SPONSORED ASSEMBLY - We have chosen a Spring assembly for March 25th! We are very excited to sponsor a professional BMX athlete who will provide a message centered around motivation and hard work.

8th GRADE COMMITTEE - A big thank you to Lindsey Adams, 8th grade parent, who will be leading this committee. Please reach out to her at Lindsey.adams@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping to organize this important event! She will be scheduling meetings.

FUNDRAISERS - Our next fundraising event will be butter braids which will be happening in late February with delivery in time for Easter. Here is the link for information - <https://my.mcmfundraising.com/signup/ZYJR> If you'd like to opt out of fundraisers and just donate funds towards the PTA-sponsored activities, please consider using the [Alternate Fundraising Form](#) - Alternate Fundraising Form or donate digitally <https://schoolfundr.org/fund/elmsptaaltfundraiser>

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

MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP SITE - Please complete the [membership form](#) and return it with your child. You can still be a member. This is required 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).

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

