



# GATOR TRACKS

ESTILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2025 Update

## Custodian Appreciation Day



Thanks Mr., Early, Ms. Simmons, Mr. Gregley, and Mr. Gadson for all you do!

On October 2nd, EMS celebrated Custodian Appreciation Day with heartfelt enthusiasm! Students lined the hallways with colorful signs and cheers of gratitude as they honored our hardworking custodial team. Staff members joined in the celebration by stepping into the custodians' shoes—taking on tasks like mopping, sweeping, and cleaning the cafeteria after lunch. It was a wonderful day to recognize and thank our custodians for all they do to keep our school clean, safe, and welcoming every day.

## Lowcountry Food Truck Distribution

On October 2nd, EMS hosted the annual Lowcountry Food Giveaway, welcoming the Lowcountry Food Truck to campus. Led by Mr. Wendell Johnson, our dedicated Communities in Schools advocate, brought our school community together in service. EMS students lent a helping hand by bagging and organizing food items, ensuring families received the support they needed. It was a wonderful example of teamwork, compassion, and community spirit in action!



# Baillie Players Musical Theater – Oh, Pandora!



## EMS Students Shine in “Oh, Pandora!”

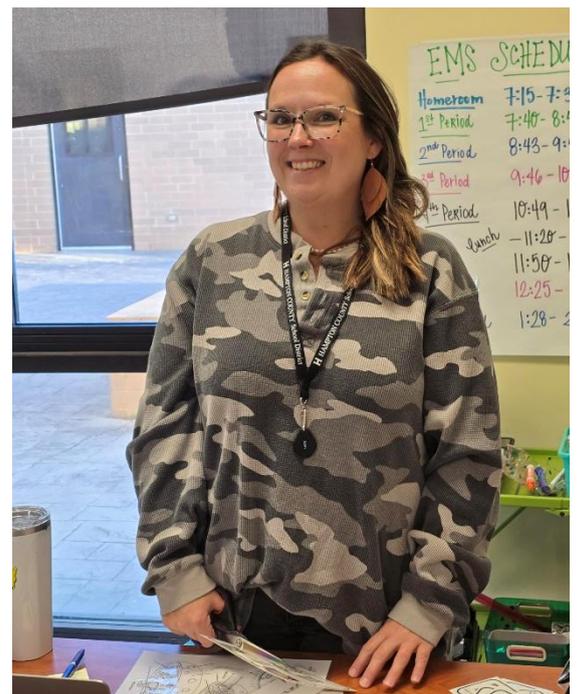
In just a few days, EMS students rehearsed and performed a spectacular production of *Oh, Pandora!*, inspired by O. Henry’s classic short story *The Ransom of Red Chief*. The Baillie Players Touring Musical Theatre Company, in collaboration with Mr. Milner Martin, has supported Estill Middle School for a few years through the CARE Project. The CARE project funds an artist-in-residence to work with students in theater production. CARE project initiatives develop and sustain arts-rich learning environments—helping ensure equitable educational opportunities for all students.

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Estill Middle School welcomes Mrs. Elizabeth Wright as our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher. Mrs. Wright brings lots of energy and great strategies to help student learn science content. She has already had 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells. Students needed to be able to:

1. Identify living vs. nonliving things based on cellular structure.
2. Explain the difference between unicellular and multicellular organisms.
3. Model both types using craft materials (beads, paper, Play-Doh)
4. Use magnification tools like microscopes and hand lenses to collect data

Ms. Wright loves to do creative things when she is not working. She loves to create flower arrangements, decorate her house, and bake and cook!



# Homecoming



MR. & MISS GREEN & GOLD



EMS - HOMECOMING 2025

MR. & MISS GATOR



EMS - HOMECOMING 2025

MR. & MISS EMS



EMS - HOMECOMING 2025

KING & QUEEN



EMS - HOMECOMING 2025

Homecoming Day was a beautiful celebration for our Gators! The weather was perfect as our team faced off against North District Middle School. Although we didn't come away with a win, everyone enjoyed the game and the spirit of the day. All week long, students showed their Gator spirit through our Homecoming Week activities, which were full of energy, laughter, and fun memories.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the crowning of our Homecoming King and Queen — Kerwin Thompson and Jaida Jones! Congratulations to both for representing our school with pride and excellence.

A huge thank-you goes out to Coach Rudonsey Devore for his dedication and leadership, helping our players grow with every game. We also extend our appreciation to our amazing cheerleading coaches, Mrs. Grant and Ms. Colon, for keeping the energy high and spirits lifted.

Finally, thank you to all our parents, staff members, and community supporters for cheering on our Gators throughout the season. Your encouragement means the world to our team!

# Career Development Update

In September, EMS students collaborated with our CDF to explore the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources career cluster by planting and caring for vegetables during their science classes. Mr. Charlie Johnson helped students prepare the planting area and after planting the seedlings, showed them how to keep the soil moist but not soggy as the crops grow. We are happy to report that some of the collard greens have been harvested!



## Red Ribbon Week

## Awards Day Program

**RED RIBBON WEEK**  
October 27th - October 31st

"LIFE IS A PUZZLE, SOLVE IT DRUG FREE"

- Monday** **I'M TOO BRIGHT FOR DRUGS**  
My future is bright without drugs! Wear your favorite neon shirt with your uniform pants.
- Tuesday** **TEAM UP AGAINST DRUGS**  
Wear your favorite team shirt with your uniform pants.
- Wednesday** **RED OUT DRUGS**  
I am "RED-Y" to be Drug Free! Wear a red shirt with your uniform pants to show your commitment to be drug free.
- Thursday** **DON'T LET DRUGS SNEAK UP ON YOU**  
Wear red sneakers with your uniform to help stamp out drugs.
- Friday** **I'M A "JEAN-IOUS", I'M DRUG FREE**  
Wear your jeans and a shirt to match your house team.



Sheriff Anthony Russell spoke to students about the importance of making smart, drug-free choices during Red Ribbon Week. His message encouraged everyone to lead healthy, positive lives and stay committed to their goals.

Click on the [link](#) to watch our First Nine Weeks Awards Day Program. Special thanks to Mrs. Erin Long for putting the piece together. One of the awards given on Awards Day On 10/29/25, was a token to students that passed 25 or more lessons for our iReady initiative. The goal is for students to work on their Individualized Learning Paths on foundational skills to help support their understanding of grade level standards. Students who passed 25 or more lessons in reading or math received a token to go on the Rolling Video Game truck,



5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders wore their Halloween costumes to school.



