

Good Things Going on at ECMS

The fall semester at ECMS has proven to be a very busy time for students as they have just completed their first grading period of the new school year. As students have been hard at work in the classroom, so too have they been active with extra-curricular areas of interest. To date our attendance rate is 95.51% - showing that students like coming to school. This participation rate keeps students involved both in the classroom as well as outside in other areas, where they have the opportunity to explore topics of interest and activities which spark their curiosity. Here are some of our many accomplishments so far this school year.

Several middle school students are participating in high school marching band. This year we have 18 participants. These students are an important part of the success of the Engineer Marching Band. Directed by Jason Bowles, assisted by Audrey Worrell, this group continues to add to their accomplishments by placing at the top in their categories each Saturday with their eyes set on state finals at Eastern Kentucky University. Our younger students will help ensure a talented feeder program

for the high school. This group now travels to state semi-final competition in Danville this Saturday!

Cheer and dance teams have been hard at work since early August. Under the direction of Kayla Albright, these girls have been honing their gymnastic abilities and dance movements in order to help cheer the Patriots on to victory. They are entering a very important time of the year where they will be busy working the crowds at home sporting events. Check schedules and come support the teams as we enter our next round of sports action.

Soccer teams wrapped up their seasons in October. The Lady Patriots were coached by Matthew Hall, Jennifer Hall, and Sophie Peterson while the boy's team was led by Daniel Folk, Darren Somerville, and Ryan Sutter. Soccer participation has been on the rise at ECMS with more interest being generated through our county youth soccer program. Coaches report many positives from the season and want to build upon the momentum already established. Players not only improved skills, but had great fun and comradery in the process.

Coaches Ruth Hughes,

Bob Young, Mike Long, and Lori Collins continue to have success with our girls' basketball program - one of the best in recent years. Our sixth grade team was runners-up in the conference tournament. The seventh grade team placed third in the conference tournament. Eighth grade Lady Patriots, with a record of 26-3, finished both regular season and tournament champions.

Football teams have seen success this year as well. Coaches Jeremy Niece, Russ Swim, Brian Covey, and Stevie Stevenson have directed the seventh grade team into the playoffs with a record of 7-2, while the eighth grade team saw a much improved record from last season. We are proud of these players in the classroom as well with twenty-one being on the honor roll and five having a GPA of 4.0.

Robotics is on the move. Brian McKinney, Allyson Banks, and 4-H sponsor Isaac Hollon brought a new and exciting concept to ECMS. The robotics team meets after school to design, build, and program their robots to compete in various activities. Last year they participated in state

competition for the second straight year.

Science Olympiad team members have been busy problem solving under the sponsorship of Lois Webster, Tony Belcher and Linda Belcher. This team works to solve real-world problems using science, technology, engineering, and math. Students join this group and participate in competitions across the region. For many years this group has participated in state competition on the campus of Western Kentucky University. They have had many respectable finishes at WKU and help promote the academic focus at ECMS.

Academic team accomplishments have proven most successful over the years. Evidence of this can be found in the trophy case located in our building's front lobby. This group is a perennial powerhouse among schools in our league. Leslie Cornett, Donald Norton, and Lavelle Tipton have been instrumental with continued success. Students participate in various components ranging from written assessment, quick recall, and future problem solving. This group routinely qualifies for state level competition. We have teams travel to

compete in international competition against teams from other countries.

Our student council, under the leadership of Mike Flynn, is a very active group participating in many real-world experiences. This group elects officers and has a full slate of activities that range from leadership retreats to community service events, to regular monthly activities during the school day. Student council members have the opportunity each year to travel to different states and participate in national events. Over the years student council groups have been recognized for regional, state, and national accomplishments. Mr. Flynn also guides SLIP members (Student Leadership Initiative Project) in building leadership capacity among members. Members are selected based on leadership qualities among other attributes.

Yearbook and other media groups under the direction of Brian McKinney and Samantha Young help keep our students informed in print and electronic media. Visit our school website www.estill.k12.ky.us/ecms to find links to these resources. Many students work hard

to carry out the duties involved in making sure our school has the resources for stakeholders to view.

Club day activities allow all students to be a part of a group of their choosing. These 30+ clubs offer each student the opportunity to explore something of interest to help foster a sense of belonging and relationship building. Examples include cooking, archery, pep, and Lego builders. Club days are currently being conducted twice each month.

Last but not least, many of our students participate in other high school sponsored events. These include the fall activities of golf, volleyball, and soccer. Middle school students have already been involved in both district and regional competitions for these groups.

In summary you can see that students and staff at ECMS are not only busy in the classroom, but are involved in their chosen events outside of the school day. Second semester will bring about new opportunities for students and these activities will be summarized at a later time - stay tuned.

Tim Burkhardt
Principal - Estill County Middle School

KMEA State Marching Band Championships

RICHMOND, KY. (October 27, 2014) - Eighty of the one hundred seven bands that began the trek to the KMEA State Marching Band Championships in August have completed the final step toward Semi-Finals competition on Saturday, November 1st.

The top eight bands from each regional competition - a total of 16 bands in each class - will meet for semi-finals competition on November 1st at the following loca-

tions, all of which are in the Richmond/Lexington area:

- Class A - Bryan Station High School in Lexington
 - Class AA - Bates Middle School in Danville
 - Class AAA - Bourbon County High School in Paris
 - Class AAAA - Madison Southern High School in Berea
 - Class AAAAA - Roy Kidd Stadium at Eastern Kentucky University
- Schedules for the four

semi-finals competitions may be found on the KMEA website <http://www.kmea.org>. Other information including directions to sites, information on photography and video information is also included at that link.

The top-four scoring bands in each class will move on to the finals competition to be held beginning at 6:00 p.m. EST on November 1st at Eastern Kentucky University's Roy Kidd Stadium. The event will conclude

with the naming of a state champion in each class.

Tickets for semi-finals are \$10. Tickets for the finals competition are \$12, \$15, and \$20. Tickets can be purchased at the event sites. Tickets purchased at the event sites are on a cash basis and may be purchased the day of the event.

For more information contact KMEA at 859-626-5635 or log on to www.kmea.org for information about the events.



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Sales Tax 0.96	Sales Tax 1.58	Sales Tax 1.81	Sales Tax 0.00
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****Seniors, 65 and older, may deduct \$2.50 from above totals**

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