

# East High Spring Newsletter

Rockford East High School  
2929 Charles St. Rockford, IL 61108  
(815) 229-2100

## From the Principal

We can hardly believe the school year has only two months left! What a fantastic year to come to Rockford East High School. Our facilities are updated, students are energetic and involved in a variety of activities and athletics, and students work every day to advance towards graduation. As the warm weather becomes more frequent, I would like to remind students to stay focused and maintain a high level of effort. Parents can be especially instrumental at this time of year by helping students budget their time to include an appropriate amount of time set aside for study, even on those beautiful spring days.

We have entered our testing season with the PARCC assessments being completed. As you already know, the PARCC assessment is now a graduation requirement. PARCC assessments are completed based on the course, not the grade level, and tests were administered to students through those specific classes. Students who did not complete testing during the original window were expected to make up testing during the week of March 21. Students who missed both windows will be required to take make up testing sessions after school beginning in April.

A second major assessment is the ACT, which will be given on April 19. On this day, all junior students will take the ACT test at school. Following completion of this test, students will be bused home. Freshmen students will take a new practice assessment this year, the Pre-SAT (PSAT). Sophomore students will take the practice SAT. These assessments are similar in format to the ACT, and they will help students prepare for the newly adopted SAT assessment, which has been approved by the Illinois School Board of Education for the 2017 testing season. More information about this assessment will be published in the coming months.

Our seniors are finishing their final weeks, and they complete all studies on May 13. Please watch for information about graduation practice as we get closer to that time.

As a final note, I would like to highlight the importance of parental involvement at this time of year. Spring in a high school is an incredibly busy time with ongoing assessments, Spring Break, Prom, Final Exams, and ultimately, graduation. Please stress with your students the impor-

tance of maintaining a consistent schedule with good eating and sleeping habits, along with a healthy dose of regular exercise. Keeping a healthy lifestyle will help students finish strong at school and prepare for an action filled summer.

Thank you,  
Peter J. Verona, Ed.D.  
Principal, Rockford East High School

## Warmer weather reminder

Please be mindful of students walking and riding bicycles to and from school as the weather warms up. Pedestrians: please use marked cross walks. Drivers: please slow down and be mindful of pedestrians in those crosswalks. Remember to obey posted school-zone speed limits. Also, RPS 205 provides pick-up and drop-off sites on school grounds. Avoid parking in private business lots to drop off or pick up students from school; the school has no authority to use those lots.

## Annual Art Show

**Rock Valley College Juried High School Art Show**  
Estelle M. Black Library (ERC), March 2 - April 6.

## RAM 75th Young Artist Show

Rockford Art Museum, March 6 - April 3.  
Congratulations to award winners: Angelica Gonzalez - RAM Staff Choice, Vanessa Hines - Honorable Mention

## DAF All City Digital Arts Festival

Auburn High School, May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

## East Fine Arts Show & Senior Showcase

East Commons, May 12 from 4-7 p.m. (Same day as East's Carnival.) Enjoy the Art Display, and then get your face painted!

## Calling All Artists:

**Rolling Green Mural Project:** Artists interested in working on the mural project need to see Mrs. DalPra. Work will begin May 9.

**Face Painters Needed:** Barnes & Noble East Book Fair April 10. Face Painting Booth @ East Carnival May 12. See Mrs. DalPra for times and details.

## Join the EHS Family Reading Contest!

Join the 5th Annual EHS Family Reading Contest. It's not too late to join the all school family reading contest now through April 10, 2016. The mission of the EHS literacy team is to cultivate a culture of literacy and a community of readers. To this end, our school holds a reading contest for all students, staff, and families during the third quarter. The purpose is to get students, families, and staff reading and talking together about books and to increase student achievement by building stamina, communication skills, vocabulary and background knowledge through volume and breadth of choice reading.

Research shows that students who read for enjoyment demonstrate higher achievement in vocabulary, comprehension, verbal fluency, and general background information. Effective programs to promote reading include parental involvement, community involvement, and collaboration with significant adults.

The EHS reading contest brings together all of the elements of research in choice reading. Teachers have posted "I'm Currently Reading" posters and share their favorite books with students through book talks, book clubs, and informal conversation. Community businesses supply food, prizes, and books so that all participants can receive a ticket to a celebration lunch and a free book of their choice.

Choice reading is most effective when it is a shared experience. Join the contest yourself! Click fill it out in Google Forms to register and log the pages you read. Start anytime and share what you are reading with your student. Also, see 10 Things Parents Can Do to Help Prepare Students for the Literacy Demands of College and Career for more ideas for reading at home.

If you have questions, ideas, need books for your home library, or would like to participate in reading contest activities, please call Cindy Doering, EHS Literacy Leader at [cindy.doering@rps205.com](mailto:cindy.doering@rps205.com) or call 815.229.2137.

### 10 things parents can do to help prepare students for the literacy demands of college and careers

1. Read together! Designate a block of time for family reading at certain times during the week. Drop everything and read! Every family member can read silently or you can choose a family read-aloud. Even adults love a good story read with great expression. Have fun!
2. Play word games such as Scrabble, Hangman, or Words with Friends.
3. Encourage vocabulary development! When family mem-

bers come across a new word, they can post it on the refrigerator. Share the meaning of the word and the context in which it was found. Make it fun: award points for using the word in everyday speaking or writing.

4. Read in front of them. Be a model for literacy. Let them see that reading is important in the lives of adults as well as students.

5. Share with them the reading and writing you do for your job. Teach your student that reading and writing are relevant parts of everyday life.

6. Share a good book. Talk about a book you are reading or have read and how it impacted your life, interested or entertained you. Encourage them to read the book, too. When you are reading the same book, talk about it and find out how it impacts them.

7. Know your child! Watch for topics that interest and motivate them. Suggest books and reading material they might enjoy.

8. Read the book, then watch the movie! Do this with one child or with the whole family. When everyone has read the book, celebrate by watching the movie together.

9. Teach your student to write a letter or send an email. Students are adept at "texting" language such as lol or ttyl but are not always proficient in written communication. Write to a relative, create a cover letter for a resume, or send an email to conduct business.

10. Create charts, graphs, and lists in order to problem solve and accomplish tasks. Require them to manage their school planner, including calendar, to do lists, and time management charts. Draw or write a plan for completing a project. Show them how you manage similar tasks in your own life and business. These are literacy skills that will prepare them for college and career! Read Every Day!

### Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Join us on the last day of this year's reading contest for the Barnes & Noble Book Fair on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at the Cherry Vale Mall. Students will perform in vocal and instrumental ensembles, art, face painting and balloon art, reading and craft time with children and many other activities throughout the day. Every year, community members and book store staff compliment East for the fine job that our students do in serving the community through this event. If you have been considering a book purchase, buy in store on that day or online April 10-14 using our voucher number, and our school will receive a portion of all sales to purchase books for classroom libraries. Tell friends, neighbors, and relatives—don't miss it!

## Celebrate Shakespeare

Did you know that 2016 marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death? In celebration of his life and works, E-Rabs have embraced the rich language, complex characters, and multi-faceted plot lines of the Bard.

If you struggled through Shakespeare when you were in high school, you may be wondering why we inflict such cruelty on your student. For one thing, we want to share our love of the power of Will. For another, research supports our endeavors. In fact, a study conducted by scientists, psychologists, and English academics at Liverpool University found that "reading the works of the Bard and other classical writers has a beneficial effect on the mind, catches the reader's attention, and triggers moments of self-reflection" (Henry, 2013).

So, as our sophomores and seniors conclude their readings of *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth*, and our freshman embark on their journey through *Romeo & Juliet*, please know that the teachers of the East High English Department hope to not only provide interesting, challenging texts, but also to remind that with education, our opportunities are limitless. In the words of the great one, "We know what we are, but know not what we may be."

*\*Henry, Julie. "Shakespeare and Wordsworth Boost the Brain." The Telegraph. 3 Jan. 2013. Web. 16 Mar. 2016.*

## Congratulations to scholarship winners

Congratulations to Chito Mihigo, DeaJana Longstreet and Dorcas Mwangi who were the RAMM scholarship winners from East High School. Chito and Dorcas are planning to go to RVC and study Nursing; DeaJana, who is currently a dual credit student at RVC, will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study Biochemistry.



Kenneth Fuzzell-Partee won the Rockford Firefighters' Scholarship Award and the Martin Luther King Scholarship. He is planning on attending Tennessee State University to study Business Management.

These students were recognized with the scholarship and a reception at Giovanni's on Friday, Feb. 26. RAMM was founded in 1980 by local leaders to provide support for African-American students in Rockford.

Please also extend congratulations to our two East High

School students, Victoria Zwicky-Reed (HPS) and Erica Bibalou (BAMIT), who won Rockford Promise scholarships. The students completed a rigorous application process, interviewed, and maintain strong cumulative GPAs.

These scholarships award students full cost of tuition at Rock Valley College or up to \$12,000 at Rockford University.

## Spring Musical

East High School's Theatre Department will be presenting "The Addams Family" on April 14 at 7 p.m., April 15 at 7 p.m., and April 16 at both 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Come, be spooked, and enjoy a good laugh!

## French Club is selling raffle tickets

French Club is hosting the third annual Carnival Basket Raffle at the East High Carnival Thursday, May 12. Tickets at the Carnival will be \$1 each, but from April 25-May 11, you can buy 4 for \$3! Contact Mme. Witt at wendy.witt@rps205.com. Details on the baskets will be available on Mme. Witt's website, <http://tinyurl.com/mmewwitt>, after April 24.

## Upcoming senior events

- April 19: No School
- May 2-13: Final Exams
- May 2: AP Psychology and AP Chemistry Exam, 8 a.m.
- May 4: AP Literary & Composition Exam, 8 a.m.
- May 5: AP Calculus Exam 8, a.m.
- May 8: Paint the Dam, 12 p.m. at Aldeen Park (Only water and latex-based paint will be allowed.)
- May 10: AP Government Exam, 8 a.m.
- May 11: AP Macroeconomics Exam, 12 p.m.
- May 12: AP Statistics and AP World History Exam, 8 a.m.
- May 13: Last day of school for seniors
- May 14: Prom, dinner at 6 p.m. at Rockford Country Club
- May 19: Graduation practice (details coming soon)
- May 26: Graduation, 10 a.m. at BMO Harris Bank Center

*A detailed events calendar for all E-Rabs is located on the back of this page.*

## Yearbook delivery

Students can get their yearbooks early at the Yearbook Early Release Party, which will be held Wednesday, May 11 from 4-5 p.m. in room 227. Admission is \$3 and includes snacks.

Regular yearbook distribution is before and after school in room 227 on May 13 for seniors and May 16 for everyone else. Students need a photo ID to pick up their books. Sharpie markers will also be available for purchase for \$1.

A limited number of yearbooks are still for sale for \$75 (cash only) in room 227. Once yearbooks are sold out, no more will be ordered, so get yours before they're gone!

# EHS Spring events calendar

## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 -GSA	2
3	4	5 -Boys' Tennis—Home	6 -YWLO Meeting	7 -Key Club Meeting -Girls' Soccer— Home	8 -Softball---Home -GSA	9
10	11	12	13 -Baseball—Home -Softball—Home -YWLO Meeting	14 -Key Club Meeting -Girls' Soccer— Home	15 -GSA	16 -Baseball—Home
17	18 -Baseball—Home -Softball—Home	19 -ACT Testing -Seniors NO SCHOOL	20	21 -Key Club Meeting -Boys' Tennis— Home	22 -Earth Day -Baseball—Home -Softball—Home -GSA	23 -Journalism Team Sectional Competition
24	25	26	27 -Baseball—Home -Softball—Home -YWLO Meeting	28 -Key Club Meeting	29 -Baseball—Home -Softball—Home -Journalism Team State Competition -GSA	30

## May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 -AP Psychology Exam—8 AM -AP Chemistry Exam—8 AM	3	4 -AP Literary & Composition Exam—8 AM	5 -AP Calculous Exam—8 AM	6 -AP US History Exam—8 AM	7
8 -Paint the Dam (Senior Event)	9	10 -AP Government Exam—8 AM	11 -Senior Final Exams -AP Macroeconomics— 12 PM -AP Language and Composition Exam—8 AM Yearbook Early Release party--4 PM in room 227	12 -Senior Finals -AP Statistics Exam—12 PM -AP World History—8 AM -Annual East High Carnival— 4 PM-7 PM	13 -Seniors' Last Day -Senior Finals	14 Prom
15	16	17	18	19 -Graduation Practice @ BMO Harris Bank Center	20	21
22	23	24 -Final Exams	25 -Final Exams	26 -Graduation @ BMO Harris Bank Center— 10 AM	27 -Final Exams -Last Day of School	28
29	30 -Memorial Day	31				