

Epping Middle School

January 18, 2018

Epping Middle School continues to be a busy place with lots of activity for students and staff. While the weather has been disruptive, we all know that winter can do that! We are excited to being our second semester at the end of this month!

WIN Interventions and Enrichment: We completed our first WIN cycle on 12/15/18. I am very proud to report that students did improve their skills and all students were offered opportunities to reflect on their progress. We asked students in reading interventions to answer the following questions about their progress. Here are some of their responses:

1. **Share 3 observations you noticed about your data?** (Students reviewed their own data with their reading coach)
 - a. That I am absent a lot. That I have been increasing in my number of words. Every week, I start off low, but my words read increase.
 - b. Usually when I read I try to set a goal so I can read more. Usually when I have a break in between I don't progress. When I read every day, I improve.

2. **What does the data tell you about how you are doing?**
 - a. It is helping read at a faster pace. I am improving as a reader, I feel more confident reading out loud.
 - b. When I read more often I get better. My reading out loud has improved. I used to be so bad at it but now I am okay at it.

3. **What does the data tell you about the strategies you are using?**
 - a. I try to read at a good pace. When I try to read extra fast I skip over words and make mistakes. I try to set a goal.
 - b. Slowing down my reading is actually helping me read more words, but if I read fast I might get it done but have a lot of errors. I have been doing better reading out loud. I used to stutter a lot and now I'm reading without stuttering and more smoothly.

One particularly interesting insight: This year for reading it is going really good. Last year, I could read really well, but this year I can read longer, stronger and faster and read harder things, too. I enjoy reading this year.

Data analysis and review is in process and students receiving interventions in reading and mathematics achieved some terrific gains!

Single Lunch Time for EMS Students: PILOT 12/18-12/22/17 In order to provide an uninterrupted WIN time for two grade levels, we condensed our two lunches into one. With the dedicated and effective efforts of Ronnie Bush, her team and all EMS staff, the transition has gone amazingly well. Initially, we added time on to the lunch block to ensure all students had time to get their lunches and to eat. We have been tracking information about this and found students have been very efficiently fed with plenty of time to eat. While reviewing this, the staff

asked that we consider adding a second "Gym Time" to our daily lunch schedule. All agreed and we will be able to get more students up and moving every day!

Epping Lions Club brings its vision to Epping schools! In December, the Epping Lions Club performed 276 vision screenings for the middle and high schools. I want to thank Deborah Brooks and Mr. Brooks for coming to our school and working with our students all day! Your support for our school community is so appreciated. We are very lucky to have this organization's contribution of time, attention and expertise focused on our students' well-being.

Washington, D.C. Update

Our Washington, D.C. trip is planned for March 26th through the 29th. We are in the thick of organizing students into their tour groups, deciding roommates, and getting security clearance for a self-guided tour of the White House. We have also secured tickets to view the permanent exhibit at the Holocaust Museum. Needless to say, students and staff alike are getting excited about our upcoming trip!

Work Study Practices

With the end of quarter two fast approaching, our collaborative group of elementary, middle and high school staff have gathered to discuss our Work Study Practices. A plan for how our students and staff will conference about the WSP Self-Direction has been created and communicated to staff. We will be utilizing our Delayed Opening Schedule to allow for two hours in the morning for students to conference with staff. We plan to have light refreshments available to all students and staff to reinforce that these conferences are a celebration of learning and self-discovery. The Work Study Practice of Self-Direction will be reported out to parents on our Quarter Two Student Achievement Report which will be made available electronically on February 9th.

Clubs and Activities going on at EMS: Debate Club, Table Top Games Club, Slime Club, Chess Club, Youth 2 Youth, Activity Nights, Movie Nights and tomorrow, 38 students will be going to Vertical Dreams as a culminating activity for Adventure Club.

The holiday concert, 12/19/17, with performances by the **Band and Jazz Band**, led by Mr. Jon Ludwig and the **Middle School Chorus**, led by Mr. Brian Freed demonstrated the talent and the dedicated efforts of students and staff! The music was challenging and the performances of students put a smile on the face of every person in attendance.

Scholastic Art Awards: February 4, 2018 at Stockbridge Theater, Pinkerton Academy
Congratulations to Amber Kondrup and Jade Gagnon!

Chaos and Kindness is our theme for February! Recycled Percussion is coming to EMS!
February 7, 2018 at 1:00 PM in EMS Gym

PTO: Our newly formed PTO is working hard to support students at EMS! A reminder to the community our Little Caesars Pizza fundraiser helps our school and helps our individual

students raise and accrue money for their own trips in 7th and 8th grades! Please support our school and our students and buy your Super Bowl snacks from EMS students!

A special thank you to our parent volunteers! Your help popping popcorn, helping with events, running our snack table and doing anything that needs doing is a contribution that we can never repay! We appreciate you so much! Our PTO and Helping Others groups have been incredible gifts to our students and our school community!

Thank you to all the staff, students, parent volunteers and families for their dedication to providing the best experiences for all! First semester is almost behind us. Well done, all!

Respectfully submitted,

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Deanna DeVizio, Special Education Coordinator