

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



April 24, 2009

**Martinsville East Middle School
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[HTTP://MSDADMIN.SCICAN.NET/EAST](http://MSDADMIN.SCICAN.NET/EAST)

**Principal – Eric Bowlen
Assistant Principal and Athletic Director – Kyle Stout**

**Counselors – Jayne Mertz
Lisa O’Neal**

EMS Office Hours: 7:00 A. M. – 3:00 P. M.



OOPS! **Find the Error.** Please read through the newsletter carefully. Somewhere, within the articles of the newsletter, a misspelled word and/or a typo can be found. The first three students who come to the office and identify this error in the newsletter will receive a bottle of Coke. Read, read, read!



Words from Mr. Bowlen

Greetings! I want to welcome the parents and guardians of our incoming sixth graders to our newsletter. I hope you find it informative. We have very important information for everyone throughout this issue. Please read through it carefully, as there is important end-of-the-year information.

On a bitter-sweet note, this newsletter announces the retirement of Mrs. Judy Staggs after nearly twenty years of dedication to the youth at Martinsville East Middle School. Many of you reading this newsletter have been impacted in some very positive ways by Mrs. Staggs. I know that she will be missed greatly by the faculty, staff, and students here at EMS. The front office will not be the same without her involvement. She has been a “pillar” of strength, guidance, direction, and stability in our school on a daily basis. Join me in wishing Mrs. Staggs a joyous and healthy retirement for many years to come.

We have had a great school year, and we hope that your children have enjoyed their experience here at East Middle School. We appreciate the help and cooperation each of you has provided to our school. Together, we can and do make a difference in the lives of our children.

Since this is the last newsletter for the year, I want to wish everyone a restful and fun summer. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Please note the following dates and mark your calendars accordingly:

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- The EMS Library is hosting a BOOK FAIR the **week of May 11, 2009**. It will also be open the night of 6th Grade Orientation.
- Incoming 6th GRADE ORIENTATION will be **May 14, 2009, at 6:30 P. M.** in the gymnasium.
- The 8th GRADE HONOR PROGRAM will be **May 27, 2009, at 8:30 A. M.**
- The 6th and 7th GRADE HONOR PROGRAM will be **May 28, 2009, at 8:30 A. M.**
- The 8th GRADE GREAT TIMES TRIP (tentative) will be **May 29, 2009, from 8:30-11:30 A. M.**



Mr. Stout's East Middle Athletics News

Athletic Physicals Available on May 9, 2009 at Martinsville High School!

Athletic physicals are a requirement prior to participating in any sport (**including try-outs**) offered at East Middle School. Martinsville High School, in conjunction with Morgan Hospital and Medical Center, will be offering all MSD of Martinsville students the opportunity to obtain a physical on Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 8:00-11:00 A. M. The cost is \$25 per student athlete. Physicals obtained after May 1, 2009, will be valid for the school year 2009-2010. Physical forms will be available at the high school on May 9, in the EMS front office, or on line at www.msadmin.scican.net/east under *Athletics*. **Please make sure that the form is signed and completed in its entirety.**

The 2008-2009 school year has seen many student athlete and team successes. Coaches and athletes have worked very hard throughout the year and have represented our school and community in a positive manner. The community, as a whole, should be very proud of our programs and accomplishments.

EMS celebrated Jr. Mid State Conference Championships in 7th grade girls' volleyball and 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball. In addition, EMS celebrated Morgan County championships in 7th and 8th grade girls' volleyball, 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball, and 7th grade girls' basketball. Eighth grade boys' basketball also enjoyed a championship in the annual Santa Claus Tournament held at West Middle School.

EMS track is off and running! Despite awful weather, both the boys' and girls' teams defeated Batchelor in the opener on April 14 at the high school track. They will participate in the Morgan County meet on May 6th and the Jr. Mid State meet on May 13th.

Please continue to support our EMS Athletic Department, coaches, and student athletes in a manner in which we can all be proud. Thanks for all your efforts throughout the year!

Be Proud! Be Loud! Be Positive!



Environment Club: Here are some things everyone can do to help save money and help our planet at the same time:

1. Go to the Spring Tox-Away Day on Saturday, May 16, at Mooresville High School from 8:00 A. M.- 1:00 P. M. You can safely get rid of old fuels, anti-freeze, motor oil, paints, CPU's, cleaning agents, weed killers, and lot of other things you don't want to keep around the house.
2. If you're looking for a new lawn mower, consider buying a battery mower. No more pull starts, smelly fumes, and gas going bad. This new mower, like the Neutron Lawnmower (neutronpower.com) is lighter, just as powerful as a regular mower, and much quieter. It can run for an hour on one charge. Best of all, no pollution!
3. Check your tire pressure in your vehicles. Properly-inflated tires will save you on mileage and make your tires last longer.
4. Take your aluminum to Adkins Recycling and make a few dollars. Adkins is located at 1010 Blue Bluff Road near the Martinsville Area Senior Citizen Center. You can also take aluminum, paper, cardboard, and plastic bottles (numbers 1 & 2) to the City Transfer Station, 45 Rose Street, first street to left past Adkins Recycling.
5. Switch your incandescent bulbs to compact florescent bulbs. They are 70% more efficient, don't put out as much heat, and last longer. There is a wide variety of bulbs from which to choose. You can select 3-way bulbs (dimnable to soft or white light), candelabra, or flood light bulbs.
6. Consolidate your driving. Doing all your errands in one trip will save you gas and wear and tear on your vehicle.
7. Drive to maximize fuel efficiency. Accelerate gradually and coast to stop signs and stop lights instead of making hard stops. Also, going the speed limit will save on gas.
8. Avoid the fast food restaurant drive-thru. Go into the restaurant to order instead. This will keep you from idling your vehicle for an extended time which is not only hard on the engine but adds pollutants to our environment.

The EMS Environment Club recognizes the beauty of our part of the state and wants to encourage everyone to do all we can to help keep it clean and healthy.



Note from the School Nurse:

The Indiana State Department of Health and the Indiana Department of Education have asked that school systems provide important information to parents and guardians of students about pertussis (whooping cough) and the vaccines available to prevent this serious illness.

Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. Pertussis is spread by infectious airborne droplets created when a person who is infected coughs or sneezes. Infants and

young children are typically vaccinated against pertussis, but the vaccine loses effectiveness as children get older and vaccinated children can become infected.

Adolescents and adults who have been previously vaccinated may have milder disease, but they can still spread pertussis to others. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a routine pertussis booster for all 11-12 year old children and for anyone older who did not have a booster at 11-12 years of age. The pertussis booster (Tdap) is combined with tetanus toxoid and takes the place of one tetanus booster shot. The Tdap vaccine can be given as soon as one year after a regular tetanus booster.

Please talk with your child's healthcare provider about the Tdap vaccine. Additional resources for families to obtain information about pertussis disease include the following websites:

The Indiana State Department of Health

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/22191.htm>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/default.htm>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Walker, EMS School Nurse at 765/341-6675, extension 2030.



Notes from the library...

On behalf of the library and the staff at East Middle, I would like to thank the East Middle School Parent Council for its generosity and support this year. Parent Council has provided the money for *Infotrac*, our online magazine subscription service, and *Facts on File*, a database which includes Issues and Controversies. Both programs provide students with facts and materials to help complete classroom projects. Students are able to access these programs at school and at home using the Internet. In addition, Parent Council will be purchasing eighteen books to honor this year's EMS Honor Students. Honor students are chosen by a nomination of all staff and faculty based on: Scholarship (40%), Leadership (20%), Cooperation (20%), and Attitude (20%). Six students are chosen each trimester, and it is considered quite an honor to be selected from over 700 students.

The library will be sponsoring a **BOOK FAIR** beginning Monday, May 11 through May 15. All profits from the book fair are used to purchase new library materials. This year we are excited to announce that the library will be open on Thursday, May 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. during the incoming sixth grade orientation. This will provide both the students and their parents an opportunity to visit the book fair. Each EMS student will have an opportunity to visit the Book Fair during his or her English or reading class during the school day. The Book Fair will be buy-one get-one free in an effort to promote summer reading. Parents, please encourage your son or daughter to read over the summer. Reading practice helps ensure higher reading scores and increases both comprehension and vocabulary skills. By reading 3-4 books over the summer, your child can help prevent learning loss from the previous year. Attached you will find a "Summer Favorites Reading List."



TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE

Meet the following criteria and you are eligible:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Maximum Annual Income</u>
2	\$25,900
3	\$32,560
4	\$39,200
5	\$45,880
6	\$52,540

For each additional person in your household, add \$6,660.

The Twenty-first Century Scholars program helps sixth, seventh, and eighth graders from moderate-to-low income families pay for college by providing a full tuition scholarship to Indiana colleges, universities and trade schools. In exchange for the scholarship, the middle school students promise to graduate from high school, get a C average, avoid using illegal drugs or alcohol, and avoid committing crime. Once in the program, Scholars receive free support services such as college visits, career workshops, summer programs, and much more.

To enroll, pick up an application in the EMS Guidance office, call 1-800-880-5213, or apply online at <http://www.scholars.in.gov>. As an extra incentive, any students accepted into the program between now and the June 30, 2009, deadline will be invited on a field trip to the Indianapolis Colts Training Camp this summer, and parents are welcome to tag along!

Additional information is available in the attached *Twenty-first Century Scholars Information Sheet*. Please feel free to call counselors, Jayne Mertz (ext. 2045) or Lisa O'Neal (ext. 2050), if you need assistance.



EMS Dress Code

We expect all students to come to school clean and dressed in a manner that will promote their learning and the learning of others. Teachers will send students to the office if their clothing is inappropriate. Inappropriate clothing will be held in the office, a change of clothes will be provided by the clinic, and a letter sent home. Students may be given the opportunity to contact their parent for a change of clothes. Repeated violations of

the dress code could result in after-school detention or ISS and eventually suspension from school. In particular, we establish the following:

1. No clothing can be worn which promotes or advertises drugs, alcohol, or tobacco or is in any way suggestive of gang-related clothing.
2. No clothing can be worn which has profane or indecent language or suggestive pictures.
3. No short shorts, short skirts, or indecent clothing can be worn. "SHORT" usually means not extending below finger tips with arms loosely at their side but inappropriate length is also at the discretion of the administrator.
4. All shirts, tops, or dresses MUST have sleeves and cover midriff at ALL times. No tank tops, strapless tops, net tops, or bare midriff tops.
5. No sunglasses, bandanas, or hats can be worn inside the building.
6. Spray-painted or glittered hair is prohibited.
7. Coats and jackets (including zip-up hoodies) are not permitted in classes and must be placed in lockers.
8. All pants and slacks must be worn at the waist. No undone belts will be allowed or undergarments revealed (while standing or sitting).
9. **NO** holes in clothing (including pants). Torn or ripped clothing is considered inappropriate dress.
10. Shoes must be worn at all times.
11. For reasons of safety, students are not to wear jewelry in physical education class or while participating in athletic activities.
12. Attire that may damage school property or cause personal injury to others (such as chains or studded items) is not to be worn.
13. Any other attire or mode of dress that is determined to be a distraction or disruption to the school process is prohibited. Examples might be some forms of body and/or facial piercing, writing or drawing on parts of the body, hair dyed an unusual color, etc.

The school reserves the right to determine appropriate dress for school purposes. The school dress code is to be followed at all school and school-related functions unless special permission is granted by the principal.

Attachments:

- Twenty-first Century Scholars Information Sheet
- Music Notes
- Summer Favorites Reading List
- Notebook Offering from Matrix Integration
- May Activity Calendar (Please see calendar on school's web page for updates)
- May Breakfast and Lunch Menus

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER





Twenty-first Century Scholars Information Sheet

What is the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program?

The Twenty-first Century Scholars program was developed to help Hoosier families pay for the ever-increasing cost of a college education. The program was established to increase the number of Hoosier students entering college, decrease drug and alcohol use, decrease the number of students who withdraw from high school before graduation, and improve the overall quality of life for Indiana residents.

Who is eligible for the Program?

To qualify for the Twenty-first Century Scholars program you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen as well as a resident of Indiana.
- Be enrolled in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade at a school recognized by the Indiana Department of Education.
- Meet the income eligibility requirements listed on the Twenty-first Century Scholars application.

How do I apply for the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program?

To apply to Twenty-first Century Scholars, you and your parents must complete a Twenty-first Century Scholars application and submit it to the Scholars office in Indianapolis. You can do this by completing and mailing in a paper application, which will be distributed to you through your school, or by going to www.scholars.in.gov, and completing the application online.

What will the Twenty-first Century Scholarship pay for?

Twenty-first Century Scholars will pay for up to four years of undergraduate college tuition at an eligible Indiana public or private college, university or proprietary school. By the time students enrolling in the program now are ready for college, four years of tuition will be approximately \$50,000.

What must I do to receive the scholarship?

To receive your Twenty-first Century Scholarship, you must honor the Scholars Pledge:

- I will graduate with an Indiana High School Diploma from a charter school, freeway school, or other Indiana school recognized by the Indiana Department of Education.

- I will achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- I will not use illegal drugs or alcohol, or commit a crime.
- I will apply for admissions to an eligible Indiana college, university or proprietary institution as a high school senior.
- I will apply on time for state and federal student aid.

2008-09 Income Maximums

If your family income does not exceed these income maximums, complete each section of the application form and return the completed form no later than June 30, 2009. Only complete applications received in our office by June 30, 2009, will be processed.

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Maximum Annual Income</u>
7	\$25,900
8	\$32,560
9	\$39,200
10	\$45,880
11	\$52,540

For each additional person in your household, add \$6,660.

- We may need to verify the financial information that we use to determine if you're eligible for the program. Your family may need to show us certain financial documents, including federal income tax forms and W-2 forms. If your family can't supply the requested information by the stated deadline, we will terminate your enrollment in the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program.
- Families reporting income from self-employment (farm or non-farm) will need to include a copy of their 2008 Federal Income Tax return along with the completed application.

Where can I get more information about Twenty-first Century Scholars?

You can learn more about the Twenty-first Century Scholars program by going to its official Web site at www.scholars.in.gov, or by calling (800) 880-5213.