

East Points



chaska middle
school east

Eastern Carver County Schools
Exceptional, personalized learning

[Website](#)

[District Website](#)

[Parent Portal](#)

January, 2019

CMSE
1600 Park Ridge Dr.
Chaska, MN 55318

Main Office
952-556-7600
Fax 952-556-7609

Office Hours
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Quick Links

[2018-19 School
Calendar](#)

[A/B Block Day
Schedule](#)

**Parent
Communication**
Our **CMSE Website**
will have the most
up to date
information on
latest news and
events happening in
our school. **Watch
for monthly East
Points newsletter!**

Attendance

To see
our **Attendance
Procedures** [click
here](#).

School Counselors
[Bridget Borner](#)
952-556-7633

News From Principal Holm

We are excited to welcome everyone back from winter break! We hope you and your family had a relaxing time off and are ready for the new year. The month of January will mark the end of 1st semester - below you will find more information about grades and what to expect on the report card. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

We are also excited to welcome Joe Beckman to speak to our 7th and 8th graders on January 10th over at CMSW. Make sure to ask your children about the message that was shared.

Semester 1 Grading

Middle School Parent Information

As we approach the end of Semester 1, we want to explain how mid-year progress information will be communicated for students in Middle School. Most courses at the Middle School level are full year courses, and our instruction and grading practices for these courses reflect this. Therefore, learning does not reset after each artificial "grading period" as learning and growth continues throughout the course of the full year. Gradebooks at the Middle School level for full year courses now reflect this reality. What this means is that learning from Semester 1 and 2 will be tracked to create a final cumulative grade, and the final cumulative grade will be posted to the report card at the end of the school year. Therefore, GPA will be calculated at the end of the school year, and grades from semester long courses will also be reflected in the end of year GPA.

Learning progress is updated throughout the year, however the end of the semester is a good time to make sure you check-in on your student's progress. You will be able to find information about where your student is at anytime in Empower and/or Parent Portal. Please click on the links below to view instructions on how to access Empower and/or Parent Portal, as well as information on how to check on your student's

7th Grade
6th Grade A - K

[Katie Sheehan](#)

952-556-7632
8th Grade
6th Grade L-Z

Registrar/Scheduler

[Laura Thom](#)

952-556-7631

Food Service

[Julia Zieman](#)

952-556-7604

Transportation

Positive

Connections

952-361-0899

Koch Bus Shakopee

952-445-8129

Koch Bus Waconia

952-442-3370

District

**Transportation
Department**

952-556-6163

SEAC

**Special Education
Advisory**

Committee

[2018-19 Flyer](#)

progress. As always, you can contact your student's teacher for additional information on learning progress.

NOTE: Click the links below for more information and visuals on progress reports:

-Empower Login Directions ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) | [Getting Started with Empower Empower Info Parent Portal](#)

If you are unable to login please contact the [Digital Learning Coach](#) in your building.

AP Scoop Assistant Principal Gilbert

Last month, our school community lost a teacher, colleague, and friend to ovarian cancer. Gina Ford had been a music teacher for the past 19 years at the middle level in our district, primarily at middle school East and West. She was diagnosed 20 months ago with cancer, but continued to teach throughout her courageous battle. A former student (Nolan Litschewski) recently shared in a Chaska Herald article, "Last year, she was directing the band, at the same time she had been going through chemotherapy. I was watching her direct - she was so happy," he said "To see she could stay positive in such a hard time in her life, I just think that's so amazing". When many of our own middle schoolers were recalling their time with Ms. Ford, they shared how they will remember her smile, her positivity, her love for music and her strength to battle through tough days.

Gina was very active in our music department, not only directing our middle school concert band and orchestra, but supporting student music development through individual and group lessons, honor band, jazz band, and the middle school marching band. A few years ago, our district wanted to offer orchestra for students. Gina volunteered to take on this challenge of building a middle school orchestra program at East and West. She spent the spring and summer preparing herself for this transition by taking violin lessons, studying string pedagogy, and developing orchestra curriculum with another district director. Over the past few years, the orchestra program has grown under her direction - this year, East has two separate 6th grade orchestras to accommodate the growing numbers. Gina Ford's passion, dedication, and care for students will be missed, but her legacy and impact will continue to live within her students as they carry forward the lessons learned from her.

Our three middle schools held a 5K run in Gina's honor last week.

[Here is the link to the video.](#)

Parent Pick-Up Reminders

Please do not block the entrance to the back road leading to the dome: Watch for new signage to come. Thank you for your cooperation.

District News

School calendars approved for next two years

At its regular meeting on Dec. 10, the School Board approved the school calendars for the next two years. *All students, Kindergarten through 12th grade, will start school the day after Labor Day.* New next year: the district has added two assessment days for grades K-5 during the week before Labor Day.

[Learn more HERE.](#)

Learn more about equity in Eastern Carver County Schools

In September, E. Carver Co. Schools hired Equity Coordinator Michelle Milstein, Ph.D. Her role is to bring greater depth and focus to the district's work to ensure schools are inclusive of all people. To promote understanding of what equity means, and to report to our community about our progress, please [click here to access the website](#) for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Jan 2	School Resumes	
Jan 10	Speaker Joe Beckman - 7th-8th gr.	2:15 @CMSW
Jan 11	PTO/Partnering with Parents Mtg.	2:00 PM
Jan 21	No School Students Workshop Day	
Jan 25	Ellis Island Day	PRMS
Jan 31	MS Transition Night	6:00 - 7:30 PM @ East
Feb 4 - 15	Boxtop Contest	
Feb 14	Two Hour Late Start	
Feb 15	PTO/Partnering with Parents Mtg.	2:00 PM
Feb 18	No School President's Day	
Feb 21 - 24	MS Musical	Chanhassen HS
Feb 28	Parent/Teacher Conferences	4:00 - 7:00 PM @ East
Mar 4	No School Students Workshop Day	
Mar 5	Parent/Teacher Conferences	4:00 - 7:00 PM @ East
Mar 8	PTO/Partnering with Parents Mtg.	2:00 PM
Mar 19	Showcase of Talent	5:30 - 8:00

Stigma 180 Speaking Series

[Click here](#) for information on upcoming mental health education sessions.

Nurse Notes

Our next Children's Dental Services clinic at myHealth For Teens & Young Adults will be on **Wednesday January 16th 9:00-4:00**. The clinics fill up fast, so encourage those interested to call and schedule early. [Click here for the flyer.](#)

Deep Portage

Deep Portage 2018 was a huge success! Learners experienced the joys of learning in an outdoor classroom. Students who didn't attend Deep Portage enjoyed the outdoor experience at the Carver Refuge. A special thank you to all the parents who took time away to spend three days with us on this adventure. Everyone created memories that will last a lifetime.



Ellis Island Experience

Volunteer Opportunity for the Ellis Island Experience!

On **January 25, 2019** Pioneer Ridge Middle School will be transformed into Ellis Island. On that day 6th grade

students from East and throughout the district will travel to Ellis Island and experience the challenges of entering through the busiest immigration center of the United States at the turn of the century. To make this simulation a great learning experience **we need around 200 volunteers.** As a volunteer your commitment on that day would be from about 8:45am - 11:40am. If you are interested in volunteering please click on the link below for more information and to sign up.

[Ellis Island Information and Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Registration (6th & 7th Grade)

The 2019-2020 Registration Timeline is here!
[Click on the link for more information.](#)

Middle School Musical

District 112 Middle School Theatre Presents:
Shrek Jr.

Thursday, February 21, 7:00 pm
Friday, February 22, 7:00 pm
Saturday, February 23, 2:00 pm
Saturday, February 23, 7:00 pm
Sunday, February 24, 2:00 pm

Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold on
<https://district112.ticketleap.com/>

All performances will take place in the Chanhassen High School Theatre.

Ski Club

Interested in hitting the slopes of Afton Alps with your friends from East this Winter? If yes, this Ski Club is for you! This club is for beginner or experienced skiers and snow boarders.

There are three more ski/snowboard trips to Afton Alps scheduled for the 6th - 8th graders at East: **January 10, January 31 and February 21.** Students who are registered to go on a trip will leave for Afton Alps at 2:20 from CMSE and will return to CMSE by 9:15 p.m.

Rental equipment is available at Afton Alps and lessons from the pros at Afton are free! Contact Mr. Tornquist for more information. Sign-up sheets are in the office and Mr. T's room.

Washington D.C. 2019 Trip

To the Parents of 7th Grade Students

A letter from **School Tours of America** will be arriving in the mail the early part of January with details on the Washington D.C. Trip. Please be on the lookout for

this letter as it includes information on how to register your child.

Below are a few important details about the trip:

- 8th grade Washington D.C. Trip Dates:
Wednesday, October 16 - Saturday, October 19, 2019
- Trip introduction: Tuesday, January 8th in 7th grade Social Studies classes
- Scholarship applications due: Wednesday, January 16
- Optional parent informational meeting: Tuesday, January 8th at 4:00 PM or Wednesday, January 9th at 7:30 AM at CMSE (meeting locations will be posted on the front doors)

All registration and payment is done thru School Tours of America!

If you'd like more information [please check out the website:](#)

Makerspace Spotlight

December's DIY Spa WIN session was a big hit! 50 kids made scented Lip Balm, Sugar Scrubs, and Foot Soaks to give as gifts. We'd really like to offer this again before Valentine's Day and so are looking for donations. We need about 10 lbs. of sugar, 2 boxes of food coloring, essential oils like lemon, grapefruit, lavender and peppermint, a large container of [coconut oil](#), bags like [these](#) and containers similar to [these](#) or [these](#). If you don't want to do the shopping, you can send money and we'll do the running. Donations can be dropped off in the office or the Learning Center.



Love INC

Do you or a family member need help? Not sure where to turn? Love INC is here for you.

[Click here for more information](#)

PTO News

For December meeting minutes, [click here](#).

Keep clipping those Box Tops! \$497 were earned during the Fall contest. Our final Box Tops collection will take place February 4 - 15. There are additional ways you can help the school earn money while shopping - through Shoparoo, Office Depot/Office Max Give Back to Schools, and the Coca-Cola Give program.

The school received \$103 from Shoparoo for earnings from last school year. \$127 has been earned through Coke bottle tops. More information on these opportunities can be found at <https://cmsepto.wixsite.com/cmsepto/fundraising-donations>.

Don't forget about Shoparoo receipt program and Coca-Cola products rewards that run all year long. [click here](#) for ways to support CMSE.

[Welcome from PTO](#)

Yearbook

It is never too early to order a yearbook for your child. They are all hardcover books available for \$20. [Click here](#) for details on how to order online.



Nutrition Services

For news from Nutrition Services, [click here](#). Get pricing for lunches, how to access your student's lunch account to make payments, and online free and reduced forms. [Unpaid Meal Charge Procedure](#)