

Dear ECS Families,

We wanted to let you know about a collaborative initiative amongst the school administration and Parent Community of ECS - the Grade Representatives Committee. This committee is comprised of school principals and volunteer representatives from each grade level. The purpose of the Grade Reps program is to collect trending concerns and feedback from each grade to share with the administration with an eye toward problem solving when needed. We welcome your questions and concerns and look forward to addressing them during these monthly meetings. The next meeting is Friday, December 2nd. Feedback / notes will be shared through the room parents and can also be found online: <http://ecspco.org/volunteer/grade-representatives/>.

If you have a comment or concern to be presented, please feel free to reach out to the grade representatives via the link above.

Notes from 11/9/16

General Points of Discussion:

- Reviewed mission of the Grade Reps
- Grade Reps work to communicate concerns, recognize accomplishments and encourage positive change at ECS; as a result of meetings last year lunches at the lower school were extended and changes have been made to the math curriculum.
- Hearing positive feedback regarding new, school-wide Communication protocols, which include the ECS Monday Blast and Grade Level emails sent on Fridays.
- Concerts will be at Allderdice; contracts are being finalized
- Important information regarding the NEW Math Curriculum:
 - Updated scope and sequence in accordance with the recently purchased Eureka math curriculum which aligns with PA Common Core. This means there is a set of expectations for each grade level.
 - Every teacher has been trained and will continue to be coached to implement this curriculum.
 - There have been some growing pains, but when we see kids get over the hurdle of the new language they are really growing in their math abilities
 - Differentiated instruction is part of the Eureka curriculum; this happens via teacher-student and peer interactions
 - ECS is Committed to maintaining the alignment of Eureka
 - Maintain this curriculum as the baseline
 - Take from that baseline and plug in projects years down the road

Lower School:

- Is the Second grade lunch 20 minutes instead of 25???
 - New schedule increased it to 25 this year

- New format for LS morning meeting seems meaningful and well-received

Upper School:

- 5th Grade PAT Time - if students don't meet certain goals PAT time can be taken away
 - Students miss for reflection
 - This can be perceived as punitive but the intention is to implement a system where students are earning instead of removing time
 - Helping students learn the one goal and refocus per class
- There is a Pray for Humanity poster located in a classroom and some objections have been raised.
- Is there a group punishment happening in 4th grade during lunch? Administration will look into this.
- 8th graders have been observed using their cell phones during time outdoors and elsewhere. It seems the no phone rule is not enforced and that students are largely unsupervised while outside.
- Concerns we expressed regarding use of foul or otherwise 'inappropriate' language by older students when in presence of younger students at school