

## Grade Level Representatives Notes

Dear ECS Families and Faculty,

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. Feedback / notes will be shared through the room parents and can also be found online: <http://ecspco.org/volunteer/grade-representatives/>.

## Notes from Wednesday November 7, 2018

### LOWER SCHOOL

- **Kindergarten-3rd grade**
  - Nothing to report!
  
- All of Lower
  - Q: It seems there has been a lot of turnover with therapists. Who are the therapists and what is their contact information? How do I know if my child is getting help and the logistics that go along with that?
    - A: Will send out introduction of therapist. Include contact info here!
      - [Tess Roberts](#)- Speech
      - [Tanya Walters](#)- OT
  - Q: Lower school drop off- safety/crossings (East End Ave and Lyman - no stop sign)
    - A: A traffic reminder will be placed in the Monday Blast concerning having vehicles being mindful of their speed limit as they drive up East End Avenue towards the school. I will be contacting our local safety department concerning monitoring the intersection of East End Avenue and Lyman. Also, in the Monday Blast we will include safety information around the crosswalks on East End Avenue and Brashear and East End Avenue and Waverly.
  - Q: What are the guidelines on write ups?
    - A: Assistant principal email- judgement call
    - Q: How is it handled with the child it happened to? If necessary, parents prefer to be communicated via email.
      - A: Physical or emotional safety, we will call both sides
        - Minor- may not call other side
        - If it's in a classroom- teacher managed and then moved

forward

- If brought to the office- you will likely hear

## UPPER SCHOOL

- **4th grade**

- Nothing to report!

- **5th grade**

- Q: Homework Information

- A: We encourage parents to reach out to teachers if they have concerns about their student and homework. There is variation from team to team in the amount of homework given, however, the general guidelines in grades 4-8 are 10 minutes per grade level, and in 4th and 5th grades, nightly reading may also be assigned.

Homework in 5th grade often follows a predictable routine - work is assigned on Monday and is due on Friday - and resources are provided in Friday newsletters. Teachers work with students at the start of the week to plan out how to accomplish the assignments on time, and students are asked to write the plan down in their agendas. Literacy offers a menu of homework options. Doing a little each night whenever possible can be a useful approach.

- Q: Concerns about orchestra being afterschool (same with clubs): equity for parents who aren't able to get here after school

- A: We share your same concerns. Students are able to receive instrument lessons during the regularly scheduled day even if they are unable to stay for after-school practices. Mr. Weston, Ms. Perdue, and the administration are considering how to facilitate full participation for all interested students at the middle school level. Our current space and schedule don't allow us to hold full rehearsals during the day. However, we are looking into making band and orchestra a graded elective as part of the school day beginning next year.

- Q: Concerned about after school transportation needs. Is there anyway that students can be transported home after doing after school programs?

- A: No, PPS doesn't do activity busses, so there is no way to transport kids after school hours. Check in with others in your club or neighborhood for these needs.

- **6th-8th grade**

- Nothing to report!

## CAMPUS WIDE

- Dwight talked about ECS being a School-Wide Program which means all students are

considered Title I. The Title I program funds the coaches. Title IV helps fund our social worker and counselor (training and salary). Title IIa provides professional development for coaches and teachers.

- Communication from school
  - We try our hardest to get communications out to you as soon as possible. Sometimes we may only push things out on Facebook if they are not urgent. For example: on October 30 we were waiting to hear back from PPS on a dismissal schedule because of the possible delays from the rally. Since there was no change in schedule- there was no need to communicate an official change. We just wanted to keep you in the loop of what was happening on our end!
  - **COMING SOON!** School Wide Emergency Notification System, which includes texting, phone calls and emails! We are so excited to have this system and are hoping to have it up and running sometime in late February. Follow your Monday Blast closer to the release date for more information.
- Q: Why have there been fewer after school clubs/less non-athletic clubs?
  - Chess Club Update
    - Chess Club Interest for 4th and 5th Grade: ECS after school is partnering with [The Queen's Gambit Chess Institute](#) this year! We already have them scheduled for a session at the Lower School for spring and we are looking to confirm interest before we schedule them for 4th and 5th grade at the Upper School for a winter session. Is your child interested? [Please fill out the form!](#)
  - When will they know about next seasons clubs?
    - [This document](#) has details of upcoming winter and spring clubs. Stay tuned for more dates.
- Q: What do the move up days look like, when are they, and other info?
  - A: Traditionally, Move Up Day is a day when current 3rd grade spends about 1/2 the day at Upper. They hike over together, have an intro meeting with principals, go to lunch at US, then rotate through recess, a building tour, and Q&A with some of the teachers they'll have next year. This is typically held towards the end of the school year when 8th grade is on their overnight trip (3rd grade takes 8th grade lunch time and uses 8th grade classrooms for the Q&A and building tour meeting points). Because this is a unique transition year, a whole team has been working together to discuss transition supports. We do not have the final details on this and may have to refer you back to principals to keep you up to date on transition plans as they evolve.
- Open Houses
  - Q: Something in addition for current parents?
    - A: If parents want additional information they should contact their building leaders, as these events would be for current students and not prospective or new students.
    - A email was sent to all upcoming 5th grade families from Jaleah inviting them to the open house, since the curriculum changes.

- Open House notes should be included in grade level emails.
  - The middle school booklet was shared with parents through teachers. This booklet was shared since curriculum changes in the middle school.

## ROGERS

- Safety Update: Rogers and other schools in response to Tree of Life
  - A: We were all deeply saddened by the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue. In response to the incident, our Crisis Management Team met to ensure our students and staff were feeling supported in the days and weeks following the crisis. This year, our school safety initiatives involve increased staff training, engaging both a security consultant and state trooper to complete risk and vulnerability assessments of the new Middle School and our procedures, looking into a new sign in system for visitors and Act 44 compliance. Our goal is to focus on both the physical and emotional safety of students and staff. We feel that strong relationships are crucial when it comes to student safety. When students feel that they have a trusted adult at school and home, they are more likely to say something when they see something concerning. We will continue to learn from others and make changes to our systems when necessary. We are always open to suggestions and partnerships when it comes to keeping our students safe!
- Q: Can architectural plans of Rogers be public for parents to see? (The ones that were shown on the boards at the open house)
  - A: We are working to get additional boards displayed at the Upper School in the coming weeks.
- Q: When will we find out the time school starts, transportation schedules? Will there be shuttles that go between schools for after school activities?
  - A: We are working hard to get this information out to parents as soon as we can. We do not yet know how Pittsburgh Public will want to run the busses with the 3 buildings, but when we know that information we will share it with the community.
- Q: What will Eday, clubs, and athletics look like for expansion? What grades will they be offered to?
  - Clubs/Eday A: This has yet to be determined.
  - Athletics A: Aaron Coleman- Athletics will be offered for students grades 3-8 starting in the Fall of 2019. Unfortunately, there will no longer be any athletic opportunities offered for students grades K-2. More information regarding specific sports will become available at a later time.