

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/>.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your Grade Level Rep or the Board.

Notes from Wednesday, March 6, 2019

CAMPUS WIDE

Gifted Program

- There was a notification to 3rd grade families about gifted evaluations.
 - Screening process aims to catch every student who could benefit from gifted support service
 - Level 1 - Group norm assessment (CoGAT) - verbal and nonverbal. Administered to all students in a classroom setting.
 - Level 2 - Brief IQ Assessment
 - Students are screened individually, but do not know that they're getting screened for the gifted program, just another benchmark activity.
 - Final Level - Full gifted evaluation with school psychologist to determine eligibility
 - Process of implementation
 - Gifted program is inclusive with enrichment delivered throughout the day through small groups, me/prime time, and additional activities. It is not in a separate classroom.
 - Students with a GIEP are automatically placed in enrichment opportunities (even if they are not demonstrating abilities through their grades). Other students can move in and out of enrichment based on what they're doing currently and who could benefit from certain projects/interest area based on content
 - Examples: book clubs, math groups...
 - Outside enrichment- battle of books, shakespeare (announcements in grade level newsletters)
 - PPS vs ECS gifted programs
 - Kids at PPS are taken out of class - getting enrichment in that

Growing Into Events

- Only newly enrolled families attend
 - No new information is distributed- talking points dress code, what makes ECS unique, class schedules, ME time, handbook details. This information is only relevant to new families.
 - Middle school events are happening in March and April
- This year 26 new students who get in and top 20 on the waiting list are invited to this event- this means 100 families going to the Growing Into Middle School event. Because of the large number of new families we are creating separate events for current Middle School families to learn about the Rogers Campus and new classes.
 - **Middle School Open House for Current Families March 25 or April 8**
Mark your calendars, ECS Upper! We have some exciting things planned for you! On March 25th and April 8th from 6:00-7:30, we're hosting open houses for our current 5th through 7th grade families. You'll get the inside scoop about next year in five sessions with teachers, school counselors, principals, and more. You'll also want to keep an eye out for a special **middle school social media takeover** throughout the month of April and **virtual tours of our new building** at Earth Nite on May 3rd. Let us know you're coming to an open house by signing up! We can't wait to see you!

Open House Sessions

1. Communicating with Your Middle Schooler
2. A Sneak Peek at the ECS Middle School
3. Q&A with Ms. Robinson and Ms. Micco
4. Athletics, Clubs, and Extracurricular Opportunities
5. The ECS Academic Program: What's tried and true? What's new?

RSVP:

ecspgh.schoolmint.net/rsvp/middle-school-open-house-for-current-families-march-25-or-april-8

LOWER SCHOOL-

- **Kindergarten**
 - Q: Are children required to say the Pledge of Allegiance?
 - A: No one is forced to say the pledge. Decision is up to the family- please talk to your teacher or school principal about this.
- **First**
 - Q: Has there been less hiking this year?
 - A: We have logged about the same number of outdoor experiences as we did this time last year.
 - Q: There seems to be an increased amount of screen time in school- assessments,

honey pot, indoor recess, bus room

- A: Teachers do use GoNoodle- dance breaks for the students to get up and get the wiggles out between classes, during the holidays many classes watch movies, but we do focus on limiting screen time and getting outside. Sometimes in the winter this may be a little tricky because of weather/temperatures.
- **Second- nothing to report**
- **Third**
 - Q: Use and overuse of taking away recess?
 - A: A tally is given after multiple warnings, redirections, reminders and reflections on a specific behavior. Yes, recess is the last.

UPPER SCHOOL

- **Fourth**
 - Q: What to do if there is a screen on bus that is being used inappropriately?
 - A: Tell principals
 - Content needs to be addressed
 - K-5 middle school might not be on the same bus next year
- **Fifth**
 - Q: Use and overuse of detention/taking away of recess?
 - A: Micco talked to team and we are addressing the problem
 - The team rarely uses recess detention. Their primary form of consequence is lunch detention. If a student receives recess detention it is because of not meeting expectations in lunch detention or for an incident that happened at recess. Please reach out to the team if you have specific concerns that you would like to address.
- **Sixth- nothing to report**
- **Seventh- nothing to report**
- **Eighth- nothing to report**