



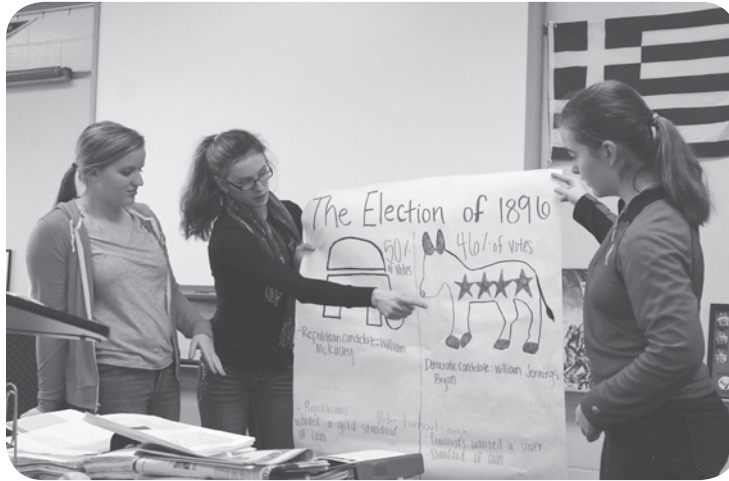
HIGHLIGHTS

ELKHORN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Winter 2015 • Volume 29, Issue 1

ELKHORN NAMED TO COLLEGE BOARD'S AP HONOR ROLL FOR A THIRD YEAR

Elkhorn Public Schools is the only school district in the state to be part of the 2014 Advanced Placement Honor Roll. This marks the third year in a row EPS has been selected to receive this honor. Nationwide, EPS is among 547 school districts in the U.S. (and parts of Canada) being honored by the College Board with placement on the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll. The award recognizes school districts for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement course work while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's AP program because it indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit most from rigorous AP course work.



"There is a culture at our high schools that pushes rigorous coursework for all students and our teachers have worked hard to establish that," said EPS Superintendent Steve Baker.

Between the 2010-11 school year and the 2013-14 school year, EPS increased the student enrollment in AP courses from 506 to 971. "I'm excited and proud to see our students are taking full advantage and excelling in these courses," Baker said.

More than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the U.S. offer college credit, advanced placement or both for a score of 3 or above on an AP Exam — which can potentially save students and their families thousands of dollars in college tuition.

"The devoted teachers and administrators in this district are delivering an undeniable benefit to their students. When coupled with a student's hard work, such opportunities can have myriad outcomes, whether building confidence, learning to craft effective arguments, earning credit for college, or persisting to graduate from college on time." said Trevor Packer, the College Board's senior vice president of AP and Instruction. "We applaud your conviction that a more diverse population of students is ready for the sort of rigor that will prepare them for success in college."

SITE SELECTED FOR ELKHORN'S 10TH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



In January, the Elkhorn Board of Education approved the school site for the District's 10th elementary school in the Arbor View II neighborhood, just west of 204th and Fort Streets. The elementary school will open in fall 2016 and will relieve crowding at Westridge elementary and help to accommodate growth in the northwest part of the district.

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PROJECT SEARCH: WORKFORCE READINESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



This year EPS partnered with Valmont Industries, Project SEARCH, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to provide a transition into the workforce for students with disabilities. Project SEARCH, is an on location, total workplace immersion program that combines career exploration, classroom instruction and hands-on training.

Eligible students are in their last year of schooling, have the necessary skills to work in a manufacturing environment and will spend that final year of schooling on-site learning job skills through

different rotations. Valmont Industries manufactures products such as irrigation equipment, utility poles and windmill support structures. Project SEARCH interns work at the Valmont location in Valley and have job training through rotations in irrigation, coatings, tubing, structures and shared (food) services.

Students in the Valmont SEARCH program come from several area districts including Elkhorn, Bennington, Gretna, Fremont and Wahoo. Across the state and within the Omaha metro area, Project SEARCH has thirteen partnership locations.

The model focuses on skills students will need to be successful in the workplace, said Elkhorn's Project SEARCH teacher, Andrea Street. "They're doing all the same things the employees do," she said. "Project SEARCH isn't about creating jobs for the student, it's about teaching them how to be successful in existing jobs."

Street leads classroom studies focusing on workplace etiquette, independent living and job searching skills each day before the interns report to their rotation. "Our interns spend the rest of the day working in their assigned jobs," Street said.

During the last few months of the program, students focus on securing employment with help from the local Vocational Rehabilitation Office. "The students have shown significant improvements in their vocational skills and we are very hopeful this will help them secure employment at the completion of Project SEARCH."

Students who are interested in being a part of the Project SEARCH program must apply the February prior to their last year of school. A parent information night is scheduled for February 2. For more information contact Kendra Schneider at kschneider@epsne.org or 402-289-2579.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES SCHEDULED

Parent-teacher conferences provide a unique opportunity for parents and teachers to share information and build mutual support vital to each child's progress in school. Also, conferences help teachers better understand all the circumstances that may impact a child's learning. All parents are encouraged to attend parent-teacher conferences Tuesday, Feb. 10 and Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Elementary conferences will be scheduled through the building's principal from 3 to 7 p.m. both days. Middle school conferences will be held from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. both days, with high school conferences running from 5 to 9 p.m. All District schools will be dismissed one hour early on both days of parent-teacher conferences.

For more information please visit the website at www.elkhornweb.org or contact your school.





KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

The Elkhorn Public School District invites all children who will be kindergarten students in the 2015-2016 school year and their parents to the annual Kindergarten Roundup scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20, 2015. Parents are encouraged to attend a parent meeting prior to Kindergarten Roundup.

There will be no school for current kindergarten students on Friday, Feb. 20.

Kindergarten Roundup serves as an introduction to all things kindergarten and allows students to meet teachers and get familiarized with their school. Parent meetings/Kindergarten Roundups have been scheduled as follows:



| SCHOOL | PARENT MEETING | KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Fire Ridge Elementary | Feb. 16 , 6:30 p.m. | Feb. 20 , 9 a.m. |
| Hillrise Elementary | Feb. 17 , 6 p.m. | Feb. 20 , 9 a.m. |
| Manchester Elementary | Feb. 16 , 6 p.m. | Feb. 20 , 9 a.m. |
| Sagewood Elementary | Feb. 16 , 6 p.m. | Feb. 20 , 9 a.m. |
| Skyline Elementary | Feb. 16 , 6 p.m. | Feb. 20 , 9 a.m. |
| Spring Ridge Elementary | Feb. 16 , 6 p.m. | Feb. 20 (Two Sessions) 9 a.m. (<i>Last names A-K</i>) 12:30 p.m. (<i>Last names L-Z</i>) |
| West Bay Elementary | Feb. 16 , 6:30 p.m. | Feb. 20 , 9 a.m. |
| West Dodge Station Elementary | Feb. 16 , 6:30 p.m. | Feb. 20 , 9 a.m. |
| Westridge Elementary | Feb. 16 , 6 p.m. | Feb. 20 , 9 a.m. |

KINDERGARTEN AGE REQUIREMENTS

Students attending kindergarten in the fall are required to be five years old by July 31. Parents may opt to hold their child out of kindergarten for an additional year. However, Nebraska state law mandates that a child, who will be age six on or before Dec. 31, must start school in the fall (prior to turning 6 years old).

KINDERGARTEN 101

During Kindergarten Roundup, parents may apply to enroll their 2015-16 kindergarten student in Kindergarten 101. This will be the fourth year the District will offer the summer kindergarten readiness program focusing on social, academic, behavioral and motor skills necessary for success in kindergarten.

Kindergarten 101 is primarily designed to serve children who: have limited pre-school experience or demonstrate a need for additional support. In addition, a reserved number of spots will be offered for children who will serve as peer role models.

Classes will take place for three hours a day, four days a week during the last weeks before school begins. For more information visit your school during Kindergarten Roundup, or contact your elementary building principal.



EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN PROCEDURE

Nebraska Statute 79-214, allows school districts to admit children as early entry kindergartners through: documentation of previous attendance in another school district kindergarten program, anticipated attendance through relocation to another school district where kindergarten admission will be allowed within the current school year, or a locally designed testing program. Qualifying children must turn five on or after Aug. 1 and on or before Oct. 15.

Parents must apply for early entrance to kindergarten prior to Aug. 1 of the early entrance school year. For further information about early entrance to kindergarten, contact your elementary principal or the Director of Student Services, Lee Frye, at (402) 289-2579.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OPEN ENROLLMENT

As part of the Learning Community, any student in the 11-member school districts may opt to apply for "Open Enrollment." The Open Enrollment system replaces the option enrollment process used prior to the 2009-10 school year. Students may choose to apply at any school within the Learning Community.

The Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties' Open Enrollment form is now available for the 2015-16 school year. Applications for the 2015-16 school year must be submitted to the Open Enrollment School District of the school building to which Applicant is requesting Open Enrollment by either U.S. mail (postmarked on or before March 15, 2015) or personal delivery received by the Open Enrollment School District by the end of the last school day prior to the March 15 deadline. Applications may also be completed online (by 5 p.m. on March 15, 2015) at learningcommunityds.org.

Student preference will be based on the following:

- Students with siblings who will be enrolled as continuing students in the same program for which they have applied.
- Students who contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at the individual building.
- Students who do not contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at the building in which they applied will be considered based on building capacity.

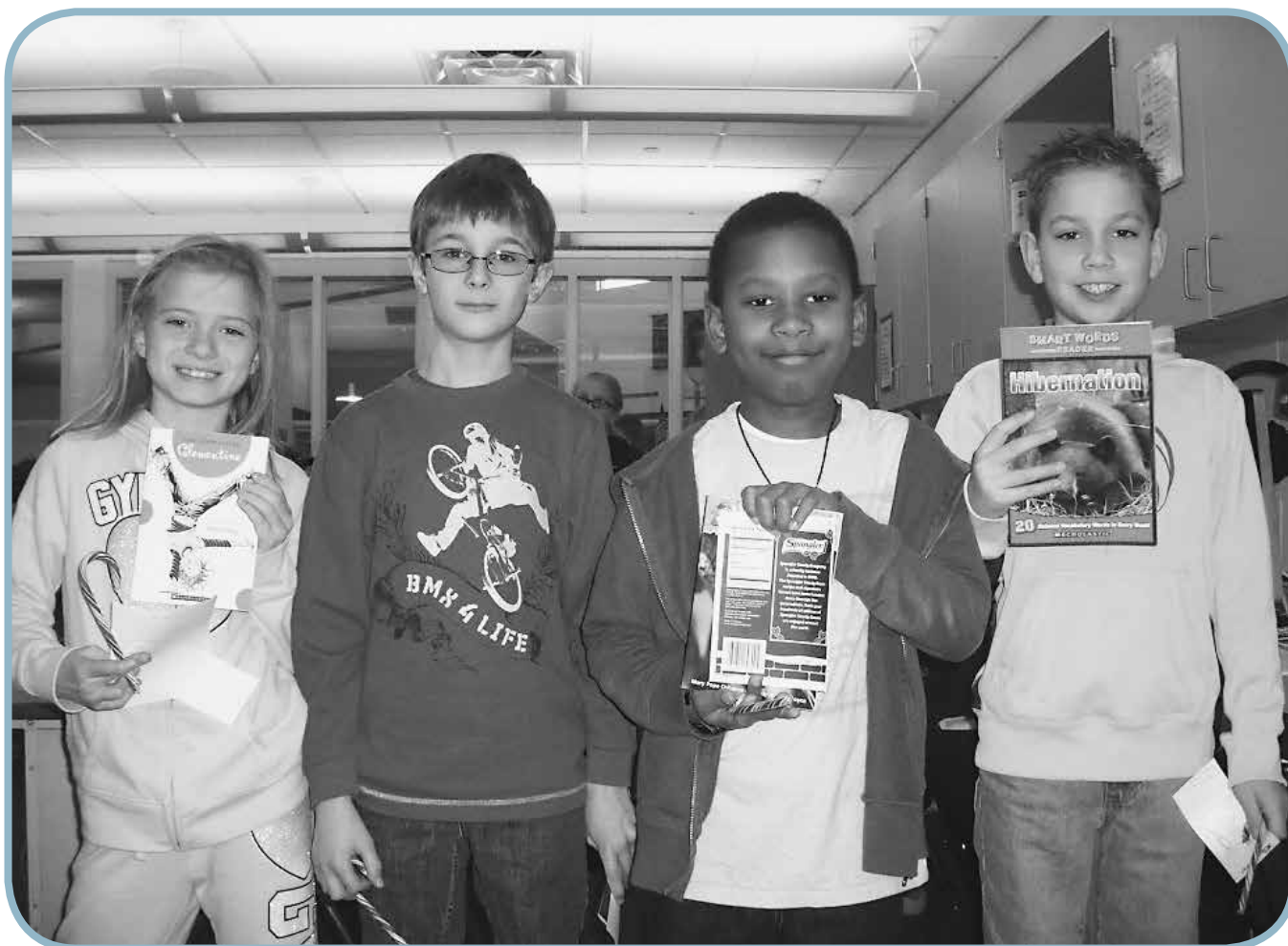
Open Enrollment applications and a listing of available seats in the Elkhorn Public School District (by grade and school) can be found on the District website (www.elkhornweb.org). For additional information please visit the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties website at www.learningcommunityds.org.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Elkhorn Public Schools unites students, families, educators, and the community to ensure a challenging and enriching academic environment that inspires students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

ABOUT THE HIGHLIGHTS

Elkhorn Public Schools distributes the *Highlights* four times throughout the school year in order to keep our community informed about important things taking place in our schools. We encourage you to read the *Highlights*, participate in activities in your neighborhood school, and offer feedback on information you would like to see included in the *Highlights*. Questions or comments can be directed to the District Administration Office, (402) 289-2579 or email at jbrock@epsne.org.



ATTENTION BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The distribution of individual fliers, handouts and advertisements to students through the schools is not permitted. In place of this practice, the Elkhorn school district publishes *Elkhorn Express* ten times during the school year and distributes a copy to K-5 students. The *Elkhorn Express* features advertisements, notices and messages that are of interest to children and families in Elkhorn. For a schedule of publication dates and advertisement costs, please contact the Office of the Superintendent at (402) 289-2579 or Mike Overmann at the *Post Gazette* (402) 289-2329.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.elkhornweb.org

The Elkhorn Public Schools website contains valuable, up-to-date information for staff, students, parents, District homeowners and other interested parties. The site includes the Annual Report, Board of Education information, Learning Community news, general District information, maps, calendars and much more. For additional information about the District or any other public school district in Nebraska, visit the Nebraska Department of Education website at www.education.ne.gov.



The Elkhorn Public Schools publishes the *HIGHLIGHTS* for the sole purpose of informing district residents of the programs, procedures, and progress of the school district. Questions or comments should be addressed to: Superintendent Steve Baker, 20650 Glenn Street, Elkhorn, NE 68022, (402) 289-2579

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The Elkhorn Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, marital status, age or disability in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities.

CONTACTS

Enrollment Information/Building Use

Contact Building Principal

Elkhorn High School

Dan Radicia..... (402) 289-4239

Elkhorn South High School

Mark Kalvoda..... (402) 289-0616

Elkhorn Middle School

Mike Tomjack..... (402) 289-2428

Elkhorn Ridge Middle School

Kevin Riggert..... (402) 334-9302

Elkhorn Valley View Middle School

Chad Soupir..... (402) 289-0362

Fire Ridge Elementary School

Anne Doerr..... (402) 289-0735

Hillrise Elementary School

Deb Madden..... (402) 289-2602

Manchester Elementary School

Amy Christ..... (402) 289-2590

Sagewood Elementary School

Jan Peterson..... (402) 289-9078

Skyline Elementary School

Andy Luebbe..... (402) 289-3433

Spring Ridge Elementary School

Laurinda Petersen..... (402) 637-0204

West Bay Elementary

Jen Coltvet..... (402) 289-9045

West Dodge Station Elementary School

Pam Wahl..... (402) 289-2773

Westridge Elementary School

Troy Sidders..... (402) 289-2559

CONTACTS

Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation

Stacey Falk..... (402) 289-1727

Before/After School Kids Campus

Amy Whorlow..... (402) 289-1727

Early Education Center

..... (402) 289-2579

Activities/Athletics

Contact Activities Directors

Roger Ortmeier (ESHS)..... (402) 289-0616

Mike Zeplin (EHS)..... (402) 289-4239

Special Education/Gifted Programs

Contact Director of Special Services

Lee Frye..... (402) 289-2579

Human Resources - Teacher Vacancies

Contact Director of Personnel

Don Pechous..... (402) 289-2579

Personnel/Open Enrollment

Contact Assistant Superintendent

Bary Habrock..... (402) 289-2579

Curriculum/Assessment

Contact Associate Superintendent

Dr. Cindy Gray..... (402) 289-2579

District/Board of Education/Enrollment Option

Contact Superintendent

Steve Baker..... (402) 289-2579

General District Information - Contact

Elkhorn Public Schools

20650 Glenn Street, Elkhorn, NE 68022

info@elkhornweb.org

Ph. (402) 289-2579, FAX (402) 289-2585

TDD/Voice All Schools

Web Site: www.elkhornweb.org