Summer 2023





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TABLE OF CONTENTS

East Jackson Elementary School	3
East Jackson Secondary School	7
Prom 2023	9
Graduation	10
Top 10 Seniors	11
Athletics	13

Transportation Food Service

National Custodian Day

16 **District Calendar**

The East Jackson Community Schools is a positive, productive and successful learning community for all students.



Ray Printing Co., Jackson, Michigan

Steve Doerr

MBRACING OUR

Every new school year brings excitement and challenge. Our school district is a great place for the students and the community to come together-where everybody knows your name and you belong.

Being a part of the EJ family means that you embrace our core values. We are strong believers that these core values will guide the next generation to a better future:

- 1. Our district is a positive learning community.
- 2. We are focused on growth and achievement for all.
- 3. We are committed to best practice and excellence for every
- classroom and facility.

 4. Every child entrusted to our district has gifts to nurture, and deserves a quality education.
- 5. All students deserve a viable career pathway.

All of our K-12 programs are centered on these core values. This summer, East Jackson again offered robust programs for summer learning and credit recovery. Elementary students enjoyed spending extra time learning with teachers and paraprofessionals during our Camp Invention. High school students worked closely with teachers to overcome learning loss. Each of these programs were a monumental success and we hope to continue supporting our students who have needed this extra learning time and support. We continue to develop our PRIME program to offer unique opportunities for students in advanced manufacturing in area industries. Our JČEC program gives students the opportunity to jumpstart their college studies. No matter the goal, you will find an opportunity to succeed at East Jackson

The district continues to focus on our partnership with Phoenix Early Learning to expand quality, affordable preschool opportunities at two sites—EJ Elementary and Memorial Elementary. Finding quality preschool has grown more challenging during the past three years and our district is excited to continue providing this support. It is difficult to find quality, affordable child care and pre-K programming, but this partnership makes it easy for families to jump start their child's success.

Inside this edition of the Trojan Press, pictures share the story of how our district has been able to bring our community together. This edition showcases the many successes of our K-12 students and provides valuable information for the start of the school year.

For daily updates on student successes, please consider following us on social media as we share our story on any of the platforms below.

EastJacksonCommunitySchools Facebook:

@eastjacksoncs Twitter: Instagram: @eastjacksoncs

It's time to take a fresh look at East Jackson--Great things are happening.

Go Trojans!

Steve Doerr Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION



President Ken Straub, Secretary Jan Maino, Vice President Mishele Wilkins, Treasurer Mikey Cromley, Trustee Amy Boatright, Trustee Misti Bell and Trustee Lisa Hendricks.

Unless otherwise noted, the regular meetings of the East Jackson Community Schools Board of Education are held on the second Monday of each month in the East Jackson Elementary Community Room located at 4340 Walz Rd., Jackson, Michigan 49201 starting at 6:00pm.

Board of Education Meeting Schedule

July 17, 2023 August 14, 2023 September 18, 2023 October 9, 2023 November 13, 2023 December 11, 2023







Greetings East Jackson Community,

Welcome to a new school year, this is always one of our favorite times of the year. We enjoy having students fill the halls and classrooms and are looking forward to a year full of opportunities for our students and families. We hope to see you at Parent-Teacher Conferences, and many of our Title I Parent-Involvement events. Please check the school calendar for a full list of events that will be happening throughout the 2023-24 school year. We look forward to having families in the building.

A strong partnership with parents/guardians will make a great difference in a child's education. At EJE we look forward to working with you to help your child grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We recognize that children need support from both home and school to be successful. Our PTCO is always looking for volunteers to help support our students and staff in any way you can. We offer an in-person or Zoom option to attend the monthly meetings, which will be scheduled soon. Please contact the PTCO at ptcoeastjackson.org with any questions. We also welcome you to fill out a volunteer form to help with the many events we will be hosting throughout the year.

We will continue to support all students in the building through PBIS efforts, social-emotional learning, and social work support. Students can continue to earn tokens to visit the book vending machine with positive behaviors in their classroom, around the building, or by reaching a goal they've set in their classroom; the possibilities are endless. We will also continue to recognize students who follow CHAMPS expectations in different ways throughout the year.

Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns, or positives you would like to share.

Together We Thrive! Mrs. Hager & Mrs. Blackledge

becky.hager@eastjacksonschools.org amy.blackledge@eastjacksonschools.org

FIELD DAY 2023

During Field Day, the second grade students in Ms. Bordine's class took a moment to gather together and take a picture of their teammates whom they had the opportunity to build memories and learn together during the 2022-2023 school year. Their motto was, "Second grade is the best." We wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you next year!





6TH GRADE TRACK AND EXPLORE FIELD TRIP

The entire 6th grade class had the opportunity to once again return to Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, MI. This time, students had the chance to ride on the track and walk up the 18 degree bank that keeps the cars on the track when racing. This experience, taught by Adrian College students, seemed to be the favorite class of the day. It also included stopping at victory lane and playing a game of "red light, green light", posing for a class photo, and autographing the starting line.

Another fun activity was the Egg Drop station. Students collaborated on designs and materials and were successfully able to build and drop their boxes, keeping their eggs from breaking. Many of the boxes protected the eggs until they were dropped from the fifth level of steps. Other classes included a nature walk and animals, such as ball pythons, turtles, and rats. A great big thank you goes to Adrian College and MIS for bringing back this event after four years.













YOGA AND MINDFULNESS DURING TESTING

In the spring, there are always a lot of standardized tests that students need to take. In order for them to do their best, students in Mrs. Helland's resource room have been practicing yoga to prepare their bodies and minds for testing. Yoga poses, such as rag doll, help to increase oxygen levels to the brain which aids alertness and memory. Poses, such as the warrior series, allow students to set their intentions for doing their best during testing periods.



4TH GRADERS CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP WITH HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CLASS AND BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF JACKSON COUNTY

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, Mr. Kenyon's 4th grade class continued its partnership with Mrs. Punches' high school leadership class for the classroom to classroom mentoring program with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County. This program has taken place at East Jackson Community Schools for several years now. Many students may need an extra role model in their lives and through the partnership with the leadership class, the students receive just that. This program took place from the beginning of the school year through May.

Sometimes, the best place to help a child reach their full potential is at school. Throughout the school year, littles have enjoyed meeting with their bigs at school for a variety of activities that help form friendships and connections. During the program this past school year, the bigs met with their littles and played games, enjoyed outdoor activities, worked with their littles on financial literacy activities in partnership with Comerica Bank, and just enjoyed each other's company. The high school and elementary students were sad to see this year come to an end right before graduation because of the positive relationships that were formed through this program.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest, largest, and most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States and East Jackson Community Schools is lucky enough to have the ability to partner with them to bring this wonderful mentoring program to our students. We look forward to continuing this partnership and program in the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.







KINDERGARTEN TAKES ON POTTER PARK ZOO









To celebrate all the learning that students have done this year, students from Mrs. Burris' and Miss Lindsay's Kindergarten classes, along with Mrs. Goostrey's Young Fives, honored the school year with a field trip to Potter Park Zoo. Students have been learning about different animal species and their environments all year during science lessons. Kindergarten and Young Five students were able to experience this first hand with their classmates and families by observing animals in their natural habitats at the zoo. Much fun was had on this ZOO-pendous end of year field trip!





LEARNING ABOUT LIFE CYCLES

Students in Mrs. Mast's 1st grade classroom learned about different life cycles including butterflies, frogs, plants and flowers. They did various activities to learn about each life cycle. We also learned about plants and flowers needing water, soil, and sun to grow. The students really enjoyed planting their own flower seeds and then took their planted seeds home to watch them bloom.









GIRLS ON THE RUN IS SO MUCH FUN!

This past spring, 28 girls in grades 3-6 participated in the Girls on the Run program at EJE! We finished 10 weeks of practices and lessons, completed a community service project together and ended the season with a 5K in Ann Arbor! Each girl finished the run, received a medal, and gained confidence, life skills, and crushed their goals! We are so thankful for Girls on the Run of Southeastern Michigan and look forward to continuing this program for many years!













S.T.E.M. AT ALLSKATE

In June, the fifth grade scientists in Mrs. Mejia and Ms. Cannons' class took a trip to Allskate Fun Center to participate in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) adventure! Students learned that science, technology, engineering, and mathematics can be found in everyday experiences, even fun experiences like ROLLERSKATING! The students received an hour of S.T.E.M. Education and 2 hours of Physical Fitness through skating. This

was a great experience that opened their









EAST JACKSON ELEMENTARY CLIMBS ON

After many years of little or no use at all, the climbing wall at the elementary school is back in use. Before climbing, students engaged in lessons about trust, safety, equipment use and climbing commands. Climbers quickly learned how important these lessons were when they experienced their first climbs.

Students are not required to climb but are offered the opportunity to be challenged by choice. This means that they may accept or decline any challenge offered by Mr. Soper or their spotter. Incredibly, climbers challenged themselves way beyond expectation! The feedback from students, parents, and teachers was overwhelmingly positive. Climb on East Jackson!



GOLDEN CHAMPS TICKETS

This past year we deployed "Golden CHAMPS Tickets" as a way for our students to earn an extra recess (and maybe a Popsicle or prize) if their golden ticket is drawn. Students earned these tickets by showing CHAMPS behavior in the hallway going to and from recess and during recess. Students who were "caught" being safe, respectful and kind to others during recess received a golden ticket which was entered into the weekly drawing. Each week 20 tickets were pulled and the last week of school 30 tickets were pulled! The students were eager to earn their ticket and their eagerness helped recess stay a positive, safe and fun activity for all.





EAST JACKSON SECONDARY SCHOOL



The middle school ended the year with a bang and a lot of fun for the kids. Students enjoyed many incentives that got them out of school and expanded their experiences. In May, 7th and 8th grade students earned attendance at a Lansing Lugnuts baseball game based on their academic and behavior success. Taking in a professional baseball game on a beautiful day was a first for many students and it was a great event to take part in. Middle school leadership students took a field trip with the high school leadership to build comradery and celebrate the year.

The last day of school we kicked off the day with an honors assembly in the Bruce E. VanEyck auditorium. Students were recognized for their academic excellence from the school year. The two big awards handed out were All A Honors and The Heather Jacobs Citizenship Award. Landin Hendricks and Layla Stokely were the two students who had ALL A's for the entire year. Heather Jacobs was able to attend the assembly and hand out her award to Landin Hendricks and Chelsie Johnson.

After the assembly, students enjoyed indoor and outdoor activities and a cookout under the pavilion. The day culminated with the end of the year goals drawing. Students gained tickets for good deeds throughout the 2nd half of the year. Huge kudos to Mr. Smith for organizing the day and Mr. Kramarczyk for securing the amazing assortment of prizes for the goals drawing.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to welcoming students, parents, and staff back in August!

Go Trojans!

Jeff Punches Middle School Principal

East Jackson Middle School Students of the Month



January - Emmalina Baldwin
February - Layla McClure
March - Landon Richardson
April - Isaiah Jones
May - Nora Scott

TROJANS

GOALS DRAWING











EAST JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL 4TH MARKING PERIOD HONOR ROLL

All A's
Emmett Armstead
Kaytlin Jessup
Chelsie Johnson
Layla McClure
Nora Scott
Nolan Cary
Emma Elmo
Layla Stokely

All B's
Karson Farrell
Kaidyn Gibson
Isaiah Jones
Lance Parshall
Karsyn Smith
Daniel Toomer
Brennan Zegarlowicz
Lily Beck
Kaelie Gettings
Kayson Lovett
Carter Raffensberger
Landon Richardson
Sierra Sallows





TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

















Dear Trojan Family,

Summer is here! Summer break is a very exciting time but there is also a lot of work that needs to be done. The focus at East Jackson Secondary Schools continues to be on preparing students for life outside of school, whether that is in a vocational career or pursuing higher education. In the past couple years we have continued to add classes to our schedule that are focused on giving our graduates the skills needed to be productive and successful members of society. Our newly created Senior Transitions/Senior Communications class was wildly successful and our Senior students were able to learn valuable life skills, as well as interview skills, resume building, etc... Our newly created Prime Manufacturing class was also a smashing success. Many of our Prime students were able to graduate with numerous certifications that allow them to enter directly into the workforce while making a robust hourly wage.

I cannot thank our teachers and support staff enough for all of their hard work and dedication. I also want to give a special shout out to four outstanding EJSS educators that have spent countless hours educating and mentoring our students. Ray Hill, Cory Hunt, Staci Hunt, and Cathy Kelly are all retiring this year and the four of them have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of our students both inside and outside of the classroom. While we are thrilled for them to move on to their next adventure we will miss all of them dearly.

Summer break is the perfect time to reflect and refresh because it will be mid-August before you know it! Thank you again for trusting us with educating your student(s) and we will continue to work and refine things to make the 2023-2024 school year the best it can be.

Joel Cook High School Principal

PROM WENT FULL GLAM IN HOLLYWOOD!





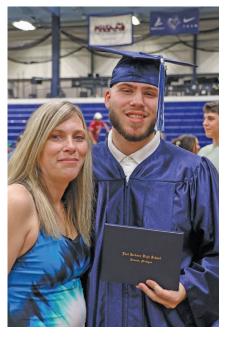


2023 COMMENCEMENT



Congratulations 2023 Trojans!

























TOP 10 SENIORS



Addisyn Rudd



Aysia Eader



Bree Baxter



Cooper Pelton



Devon Neely



Emma Mapes



Kyleigh McClure



Laura Vickers



Mallory Griffith



Mason Dingee



Congratulations to our East Jackson Seniors, and a special shout out to these students who maintained the highest GPAs and earned a spot on the EJ Academic Wall!

Addisyn Rudd - Addisyn is attending Eastern Michigan University, where she is going to obtain her nursing degree. Addy appreciated all of her friends and teachers at East Jackson who believed in her and pushed her to achieve her goals. Addy participated in golf, volleyball, basketball, and track. She will miss the staff and teachers who supported and showed her kindness because it never failed to make her day.

Aysia Eader - Aysia will be attending Jackson College to earn her associate's degree before transferring to a university to obtain a bachelor's in the medical field. Aysia's focus has been on her academics while also working part-time. Aysia has always been determined and self-motivated to be the best she can be and has worked hard to achieve high grades. She wants to thank her family for supporting her throughout her high school career. Aysia would like to leave these words of wisdom for EJ underclassmen: Work hard and don't give up. No matter how hard it is, it will all be worth it in the end. Also, just because someone else is doing something doesn't mean you have to, don't be afraid to be yourself.

Bree Baxter - Bree plans on attending Michigan State University to study Visual Arts. Throughout high school, Bree participated in volleyball, softball, bowling, band, and theater. She was most influenced by her friends and family, who always pushed her to do her best. Bree will miss the memories she made with her friends at school the most. She also wants to give the underclassman advice to enjoy their time but not to slack off.

Cooper Pelton - Cooper is committed to his 13th year at Jackson College, which will allow him to get his associate's degree before transferring to a university. Cooper participated in football, powerlifting, and baseball throughout his high school career and is going to miss all of the team bonding and games. Cooper would like to thank his family and Mrs. Collier for influencing him to be the best he can be.

Devon Neely - Devon is attending Jackson College and is entering the Line worker Pre-Apprentice program. He is a hard-working student and a self-motivator. Once he sets his mind on something, he will do what is needed to reach that goal. Devon is grateful to his family for accepting and helping him transfer to EJ, where he highly enjoyed playing both basketball and baseball.

Emma Mapes - Emma is committed to her 13th year at Jackson College and plans on attaining her degree in Sonography. Emma also plans to give back to the East Jackson community by becoming a Volleyball coach. Throughout high school, Emma participated in volleyball, cheer, and softball. Her parents have motivated her to achieve anything she sets her mind to. Emma will miss her friends and the relationships she has built in the school but is excited to start the next chapter in her life.

Kyleigh McClure - Kyleigh will be attending Michigan State University to study Criminal Justice in the fall. Kyleigh participated in volleyball, bowling, and band during her time at East Jackson. One of her proudest accomplishments was being named a drum major her senior year. Kyleigh wants to thank her friends, family, and teachers who have encouraged her to challenge herself and pushed her academically beyond what she thought she could do. Kyleigh would also like to leave this advice for the underclassman: Enjoy high school while it lasts, even the bad parts.

Laura Vickers - Laura plans on attending Jackson College in the fall, then eventually transfer to another school to obtain a degree in Biology, or Medical Science. Laura was an active member in theater throughout her high school career. She consistently showed great attendance and academic rapport with her teachers. Laura was one of the few seniors to take AP World History this year and excelled in it. When asked, Laura stated she wanted to leave the following advice for the underclassman: Turn in all your assignments and stay out of the drama.

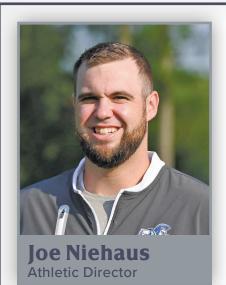
Mallory Griffith - Mallory is attending Jackson College this fall to obtain her associate's degree before transferring to a university. Mallory has primarily focused on her academics and works part-time when she is not in school. Mallory has been motivated by her mother and has always been a go-getter.

Mason Dingee - Mason received a full-ride scholarship to Michigan State University, where he plans to study business. He said he will miss his friends and the entire East Jackson community. Mason would also like to specifically thank Mr. Hudson and Mrs. Collier for being two of the biggest influences in his academic life.



Our Top 10 Seniors had the opportunity to attend The Senior Academic luncheon at Ichiban Steakhouse with Administration and Board of Education Members!





The Trojans continued an impressive athletic year this spring. Both the baseball and softball teams competed hard and walked away with several all-conference and all-district players. The track team finished with multiple conference champions and a long list of state qualifiers with Michael Allen and Addisyn Rudd bringing home all-state honors. The spring teams definitely capped off a great year of Trojan Athletics.

The start of the 23-24 campaign holds a promising outlook for multiple teams! We look forward to having everyone back and competing soon!

Go Trojans!

Joe Niehaus Athletic Director

E-SPORTS





Senior Athletes Addisyn Rudd and Mason Dingee received our Senior Athlete Awards during our 2023 Commencement Ceremony.

SENIOR ATHLETE AWARD





SPRING ATHLETE RECOGNITION

ALL-CONFERENCE

Michael Allen - Track - 3200 relay
William Kennedy - Track - 3200 relay
Mariah Kerley - Track - Discus
Javin Mericle - Track - 3200 relay
Randy Reddick - Track - 3200 relay
Addisyn Rudd - Track - Pole Vault
Landon Roberts - Baseball - Outfield
Bryce Fowler - Baseball - Infield

ALL-COUNTY HONORS

Track - 3200 Relay Michael Allen William Kennedy Javin Mericle Randy Reddick

ALL DISTRICT - BASEBALL

Bryce Fowler Caleb Weaver Jake Saunders Logan Stump

ALL DISTRICT - SOFTBALL

Aubree Bell Kilah Boatright Emily Uyttenhove

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS - TRACK

Michael Allen — 3200 run Mariah Kerley — Shot Put, Discus Addisyn Rudd — Pole Vault

STATE QUALIFIERS - TRACK

Michael Allen, William Kennedy, Javin Mericle, Randy Reddick – 3200 Relay Michael Allen – 3200 Run Kennedy Goodwin – Pole Vault Mariah Kerley – Shot Put, Discus Randy Reddick – Long Jump Addisyn Rudd – Pole Vault, 200 Run

ALL-STATE - TRACK

Michael Allen - 8th Place 3200 Run, 10:14.03 Addisyn Rudd - 3rd Place Pole Vault, 9'9"



BUS RIDERS OF THE MONTH



Lucas Town Elise Daly Morghan Dingee Harmony Eubanks Abraham Miller Logan Kurts (NP)





Kaycee Moffat Miranda Mcreynolds Lyrik Belkiewicz Lilly Miller Peyton Haskell Alivia Vieta

APRIL 2023



Kevin Ide Angelina Ramirez-Ramirez Caroline Wixson Christopher Baines Kaiden Roberts Luciana Vasquez-Sanchez (NP)

MAY 2023

BUS RIDERS OF THE YEAR

Emery Brooks
Kaycee Moffat
Lilly Miller
Miranda Mcreynolds
Kevin Ide



SCHOOL BUS RULES

- FACE FRONT AT ALL TIMES!!
- NO FEET IN THE AISLE!!!
- NO FIGHTING OR NAME CALLING
- NO BEING DISRESPECTFUL
- NO STANDING UP WHILE BUS IN MOVING
- NO MOVING SEATS OR HORSE PLAYING
- NO PICTURES OR VIDEOS
- NO THROWING THINGS
- CLASS ROOM VOICES ONLY!
- **NO** SPRAYING PERFUME OF BODY SPRAYS
- NO EATING ANYTHING
- <u>NO</u> BACK TALKING TO THE ADULT TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED TO RULE BREAKERS





FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Cheryn DeLosh Food Service Director

Dear Parents and Guardians,

East Jackson Community Schools is pleased to inform you that all students are eligible to participate in the CEP (Community Eligibility Program) for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Household Information Reports will be sent home with your child and should be completed and returned to Cheryn DeLosh Food Service Director. This form is also available online and is easy and secure. eastjackson.familyportal.cloud

This report is not to determine eligibility but is critical in benefiting our schools for various State and Federal funds. All information given is kept confidential.

Breakfast served EJSS 7:25-7:40am EJE 8:25-8:45am

Milk- \$0.40 Students- Free Breakfast and Lunch Adults- \$3.00 breakfast/\$4.50 lunch plus Tax Ala Carte is available at EJSS

Students at EJSS will be eligible again this year to participate in the After School Snack Program. All 7-12 students who stay after school for Academic help or Athletics can get a snack from 2:30pm - 2:45 pm.

Please visit our website at www.eastjacksonschools.org Click on Food Icon or Food Services under Departments.

Food Service Director, Cheryn DeLosh 517-769-8958

NATIONAL CUSTODIAN DAY - OCTOBER 2, 2023

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

2023-2024 East Jackson District Calendar

Aug, 21	Open Houses EJE 6:00 p.m 7:30 p.m. EJSS 6:30 p.m 8:00 p.m.	Dec. 25–Jan. 5	No School Winter Break (Return to School Jan. 8th)
Aug. 21	All Staff Report Professional Development	Jan. 15	No School (Students) Professional Development Day (Staff)
Aug. 22	Teachers Report Professional Development	Feb. 15*	Half Day Students and Staff
Aug. 22	Kindergarten Orientation 6:00 p.m 7:00 p.m.	Feb. 16-19	No School Presidents Day
Aug. 23*	First Day of School Half Day (Staff and Students)	Feb. 22*	Parent Teacher Conferences Half Day (Staff and Students)
Sept. 1–4	No School Labor Day	Feb. 23*	Half Day
Oct. 16	No School (Students) Professional Development Day (Staff)	Mar. 11	Students and Staff No School (Students)
Oct. 18-19*	Parent Teacher Conferences Half Day (Staff and Students)		Professional Development Day (Staff)
Oct. 20*	Half Day Staff and Students	Mar. 22–29	No School Spring Break (Return to School April 1st)
Nov. 22–24	No School Thanksgiving Break	May 27	No School Memorial Day
Dec. 22*	Half Day (Students) Records Day (Staff)	June 6*	Half Day - Last Day of School (Students) Records Day (Staff)



*Half day release times will be as follows:

EJ Secondary School: 12:00 p.m. EJ Elementary School: 1:00 p.m.

CONTACT US!

Administration Office

1404 N. Sutton Rd., Jackson, MI 49202 517-764-2090

EJ Secondary School

1566 N. Sutton Rd., Jackson, MI 49202 517-764-1700

EJ Elementary School

4340 Walz Rd., Jackson, MI 49201 517-764-1810

WAY Alternative School

345 N. Dettman Rd., Jackson, MI 4920 517-769-8770

Transportation

1404 N. Sutton Rd., Jackson, MI 49202

Food Service

1566 N. Sutton Rd., Jackson, MI 49202 517-769-8958