

Winter 2024



# THE TROJAN PRESS



East Jackson Community Schools  
1404 N. Sutton Rd.  
Jackson, MI 49202

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## HOME OF THE TROJANS

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



**TROJANS**  
EAST JACKSON

Designed & Manufactured at Ray Printing Co., Jackson, Michigan



**Steve Doerr**  
Superintendent

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS AND GROWING TOGETHER

What an exciting time of year as we continue to celebrate student success. Our schools are a safe, nurturing place where everybody knows your name and you belong.

Inside this edition of the Trojan Press, pictures share the story of our district as a great place for the students and the community to come together. Many successes of our K-12 students are showcased.

These pictures and stories also display our district accomplishing our educational mission. We are excited to witness the elementary students play and learn while enjoying our wonderful playground and facilities every day. Older students can be seen enjoying our quality educational programs, athletics programs, and annual Snow Fest activities. If you would like to see more of what is happening in our district, please consider following us on social media as we share our story on the platforms below.

Facebook: EastJacksonCommunitySchools  
 Twitter (X): @eastjacksoncs  
 Instagram: @eastjacksoncs

This year, Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for April 24 and April 29. This is an important part of a strong start in school. Slots are limited, so don't wait. Contact the elementary school office today at (517) 764-1810. For more information, you can visit our website at [eastjacksonschools.org](http://eastjacksonschools.org)

All East Jackson staff continue to work hard daily on our mission of educating and supporting the leaders of tomorrow.

**Go Trojans!**

**Steve Doerr**  
Superintendent

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



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

**Budget Hearing**

June 24, 2024

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

- March 11, 2024
- April 8, 2024
- May 13, 2024
- June 10, 2024
- July 15, 2024
- August 12, 2024
- September 9, 2024
- October 14, 2024
- November 11, 2024
- December 9, 2024

# EAST JACKSON ELEMENTARY



**Becky Hager**  
Principal

Greetings East Jackson Community,

We are thankful each day to share many fun and educational experiences with the students and staff here at EJE. We appreciate working together with the community, board members, youth league, and our PTCO to help organize those experiences.

School Board Appreciation Month was in January. We celebrated here at EJE by inviting school board members to join the staff for a potluck lunch. Students made cards, signs, and placemats to celebrate and thank the board members for all that they do.

The EJ Youth League organized the opportunity for students to participate in basketball. Those who joined a team had a great time. They will soon move on to softball and baseball season. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for details. Thank you to all parents and guardians who organize events, volunteer their time, and support their kids during these activities.

Our PTCO continues to meet monthly to plan and organize events that support students and staff. Most recently they have provided snacks for teachers during parent-teacher conferences and organized the KISS (Kids Invite Someone Special) dances.

Don't hesitate to contact 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



**Amy Blackledge**  
Assistant Principal

## WHY MUSIC?

Whenever and wherever humans have existed, music has existed also. Since music occurs only when people choose to create and share it, and since they have always done so and no doubt always will, music clearly must have important value for people.  
-Housewright Symposium on the Future of Music Education, 2000

In music specials, the students sing, play music, and play body percussion. They also learn pitch, melody, rhythm, posture, diction, steady beat, focus, improvising, key center, inferring and sequencing song stories. While listening to music, the students learn instrument names, sounds, shapes, genres of music, families, and music terms such as timbre, tempo, libra, dynamics, articulation, and mood.

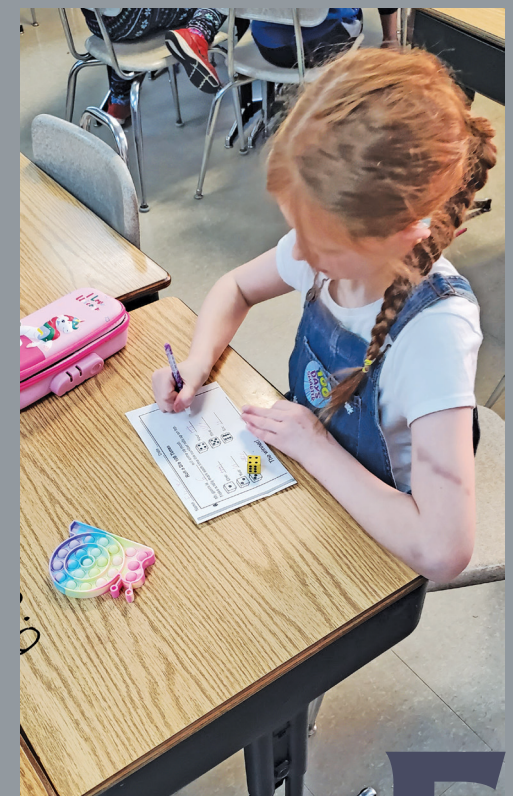
Read and listen to sound stories about music and instruments; Kids learn how to identify instruments by sound and sight, practice inferring, sequencing, plot, characters, and actions with words and musical sound snippets.

Analyze music 's connection with other disciplines; Kids learn how music connects with ELA & Math doing cross-curricular activities along with musical SEL themes that make connections to their life.

Our beginning band at East Jackson Elementary has rolled out the percussion instruments including the snare and bass drums, bells, suspended and crash cymbals along with continuing their wind instruments from the woodwind and brass families. This year, we are having lots of fun together with students playing multiple instruments. They are learning each instrument with lightning speed. This year's beginning band students are motivating each other, leading their ensemble, and making commendable progress during their first year in band. Their energy and talent bring great excitement as we look towards their future in the EJ Band program. A special thank you to the EJE PTCO for the purchase of two trumpets for us to play and become our best musicians.

## 100TH DAY MATHEMATICIANS

Miss Knaggs' third-grade students celebrated the 100th day of school with many exciting activities. They predicted which number they would roll the most if they rolled a die 100 times. They tested this and found differing results. They also looked at numbers and color-coded them by the hundreds place. Their favorite part of the day was sorting 100 snacks and subtracting them individually to fill their bellies. Great job mathematicians!



## MAKING CONNECTIONS

February was a month full of friendship, kindness, and connections. Do you know how many adults go out of their way to make daily connections with your child? I can only share a few pictures, but they show a wide range of connections in a small part of the day. A few examples: adults not only watching students jump rope but teaching them how during our after school Reaching Higher program, adults teaching students how to cook, and an adult coaching a youth league basketball team. Are these the only ones? Absolutely not. Now is a great time to have a conversation with your child about who they made a connection with today.



## HANDS ON FUN!

Nothing is better than getting a chance to be creative! Students in Miss Fleming's 2nd grade class are always finding new ways to be creative and hands-on with their learning. They made different creations with Legos, created mimic robots, and even got to make pumpkin pie in a cup. In the fall students made their own Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloon! Students love thinking outside the box and making different creations. You never know what these 2nd graders will create next!



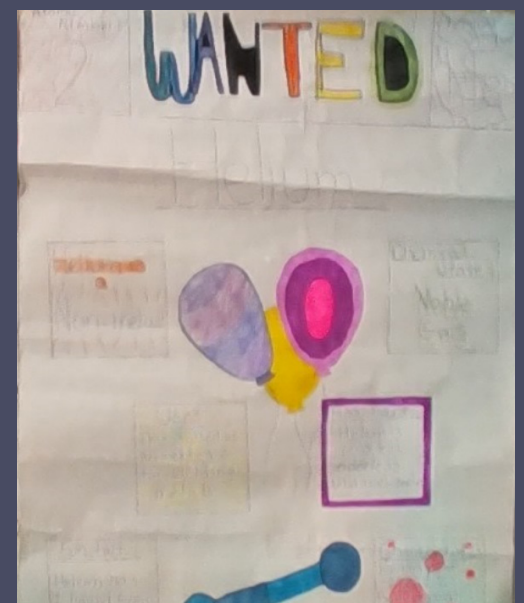
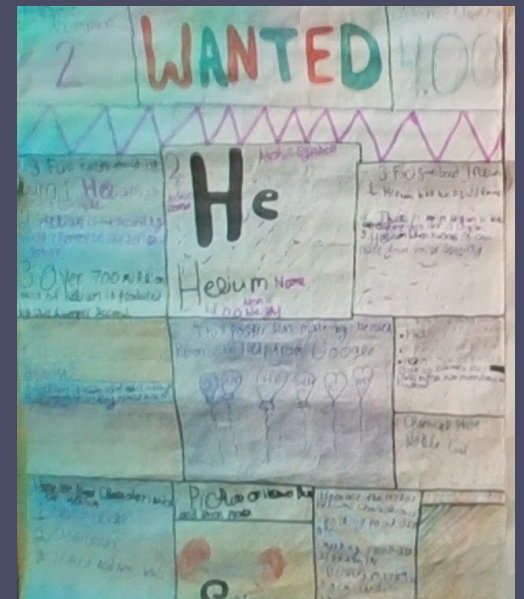
**E** East Jackson Community Schools

## GETTING THERE WITH MS. VOGT'S CLASS

Sixth graders have been hard at work preparing for the big move up to the secondary building next year. They have covered many learning targets, such as, scientific notation, number forms, fraction operations, cells, photosynthesis, chemical/physical changes, social scientists, and the five themes of geography. The students have researched, prepared, and presented many projects or taken exit tickets related to these targets.

Many students took part in band this year and have been learning to read music and play an instrument. Others took part in an explorer class and learned about study skills, managing their time, and how to stay on top of their grades using PowerSchool. The students also researched topics that interested them and created projects that showcased all they had learned. These projects were then shared with the class so we all could gain knowledge from them!

We are all looking forward to our final quarter in elementary school and all the exciting things it may hold!



## EDUCATION THROUGH EXPERIENCE

The students in Mrs. Luna's class had an amazing experience using math and reading to conduct an experiment! The students read *Freckle Juice* by Judy Bloom and were then given the opportunity to make some freckle juice of their own! Using a freckle juice recipe, the students measured and mixed their ingredients in an attempt to make the perfect freckle juice. At the end of the activity, the students were able to drink their juice but don't worry, not a single student's drink worked; no one developed freckles.



## NEW TITLE ONE PARA-PROFESSIONALS HELPING OUR STUDENTS LEARN

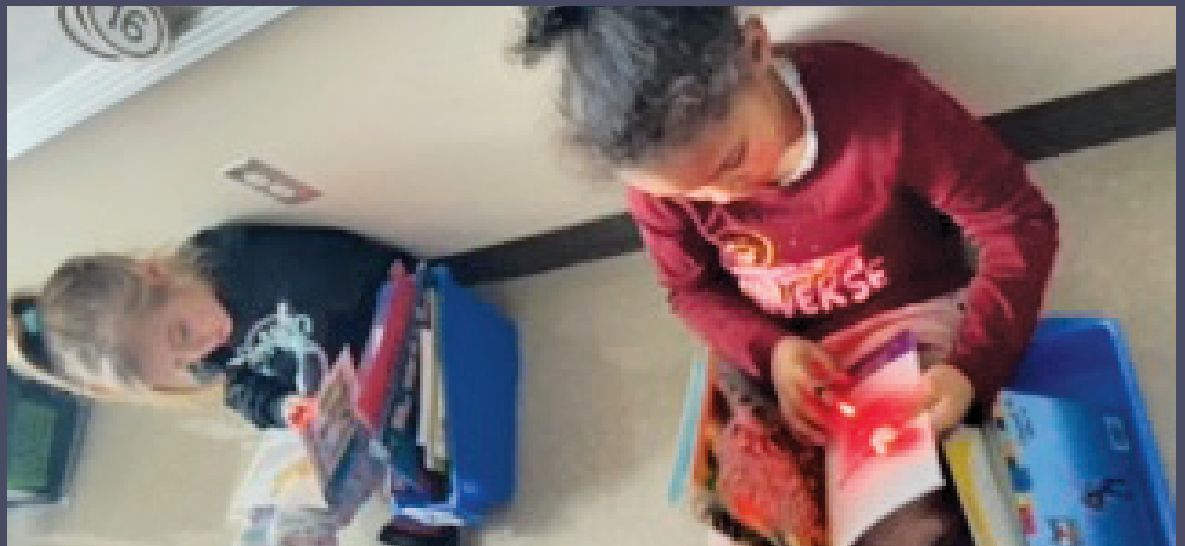
Two East Jackson moms have joined the staff at East Jackson Elementary as Title One Paraprofessionals. Taylor Miller and Jeannie Padgett-Olivier are helping our kindergarten through third grade students receive extra support in reading or math. They can be seen pushing their carts filled with books, learning games, fun pens and pencils to write with, and many other educational tools to use while working with our students. We are so excited to have these two wonderful ladies here helping our students and staff to be the best that they can be.

Here is a picture of Taylor and Jeannie with some of the amazing students that they work at our Dress Like a Snowman Day in December. They both joined in on the fun with the students and the rest of the staff.



## MRS. HOLMQUIST FIRST GRADE CLASS

For our 100th day of school celebration, students measured out the 100 items they brought from home to see who had the longest. They also counted to 100 by ones, twos, fives, and tens. On a different day, each student was able to use finger lights while reading their book during reading time. The students then read with their partners while using the lights.





Greetings EJE Students and Families!

We have had a wonderful year so far at EJE. It is hard to believe we just celebrated the 100th day of school! Did you know that February 14-20 is National Random Acts of Kindness Week? I encourage you to talk to your student(s) about how they can participate in making someone's day special. Here are some other ways to connect with your student:

- Ask about their day; Listen to what they are learning about in school, check their backpack for classroom news, homework, or grades.
- Focus on their strengths; Compliment your student on what they do well. Positive reinforcement makes a difference!
- Spend time together! Go for a walk, play a game, or bake cookies.

If you have questions or would like more information on ways to connect with your student, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,  
Katie Morgan, Social Worker  
katie.morgan@eastjacksonschools.org  
517-764-1810

## CROSS-GRADE BUDDIES

Miss Chapman's young fives meet weekly with their first-grade buddies from Mrs. Maples' room. During buddy-time, the kids have done many projects and activities. They've used teamwork to create paper chains to decorate the halls for Trojan Treat Night, they've been engineers competing to build the tallest towers, they've put their art skills to the test to disguise turkeys before thanksgiving, and so much more. They work on skills in all subject areas, as well as social-emotional skills. Our young fives learn a lot from their first-grade buddies, and our first-grade friends love being mentors! The students always look forward to Friday buddy meetings!



# EAST JACKSON SECONDARY SCHOOL



**Jeff Punches**  
Middle School Principal

The middle school closed out 2023 by continuing to give back to the community and helping others. EJSS was able to support families in need by giving out 38 dinners. A special thank you to Marshall Motors, MC Lions Club, and Our Lady of Fatima who graciously donated to help make this happen. Additionally, our students were involved with the local "Shop with a Hero" event. Mrs. Punches' and Ms. Winterstein's Leadership students teamed up with a Hero to help an EJE student choose gifts for their family members.

The middle school capped off the month of December with a bowling incentive at Suburban Lanes and a GOALS drawing. We continue to reward students this school year with monthly drawings and phone Fridays.

On March 7th the College and Career Access Center hosted an immersive 8th grade field trip to Henry Ford Jackson Hospital and Wardcraft Conveyor. The students concluded the day with lunch and a tour of Adrian College.

The end of the school year is quickly approaching, and we still have lots of things to do.

Upcoming events:

- MS Track starts - April 1st.
- 8th Grade M-step/PSAT 8 testing in May
- Lugnuts baseball game on May 29th
- GOALS drawing on June 6th

**Mr. Punches**  
Middle School Principal



## MIDDLE SCHOOL FORMAL DANCE

Middle School students danced the night away at their formal school dance. Students were able to dress up and have a fun evening with friends, while creating memories for their middle school years.



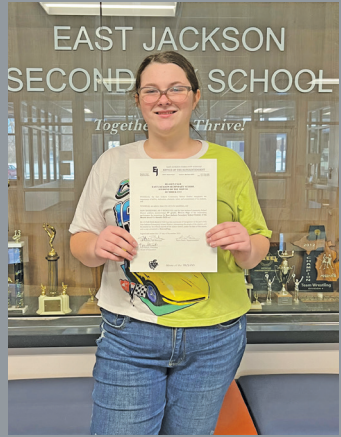
## East Jackson Middle School 1st Semester Honor Roll

**All A's**  
Kalep Connell  
Vincent Covell  
Elise Daly  
Kaytlin Jessup  
Chelsie Johnson  
Isaiah Jones  
Layla McClure  
Te'rale Overton  
Nora Scott

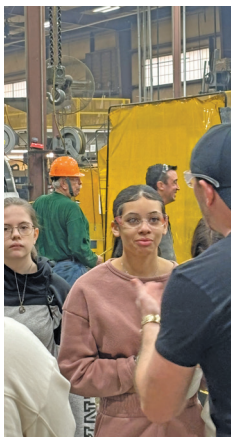
**All A's/B's**  
Olivia Barnes  
Martin Bradley  
Kyleigh Cary  
Avery Desy  
Morghen Dingee  
Isabella Grove  
Kevin Ide  
Mikaela Janski  
Rachel McArthur  
Kaiden Roberts  
Cullen Wilson  
Emiliano Zamilpa Torres  
Jordan Allain  
Emmett Armstead  
Serena Rogers  
Karsyn Smith



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH



## 8TH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO HENRY FORD HEALTH AND WARDCRAFT CONVEYOR



## SHOP WITH A HERO







**Joel Cook**  
High School Principal

Dear Trojan Family,

First semester flew by very quickly this year and at this point in the second semester students are working diligently to finish the school year strong. Attendance and tardies have been much better this year and this is still a strong emphasis for us as positive attendance is strongly correlated with strong academic performance. As always, we encourage all our students to participate in extracurricular activities. Spring sports will be starting soon, and we have opportunities to join our Robotics team, E-Sports team, Spanish Club, etc....

Another important aspect of academic success is parent/guardian involvement in your student's education. All grades and assignments are accessible in PowerSchool so we strongly encourage you to access these grades daily or weekly so you can see how your student is doing. If you are unsure how to access this information, please contact our front office and they can assist you with getting that set up. If there is anything I can be of assistance with, you can always contact me directly and I would be happy to assist.

While we will continue to have a strong emphasis on academics, I also want to reiterate that our goal is to teach all our students "life skills" such as showing up on time, strong communication, always respecting everyone, helping out those that are in need, etc.... We want all our students to be prepared for life outside of school, whether that is the vocational path or the higher education path.

**Joel Cook**  
High School Principal



**Important Dates to Remember - Seniors 24**

<b>Wednesday, April 10th</b>	No School for Seniors (Junior SAT day)
<b>Saturday, May 4th</b>	Junior/Senior Prom (@ Ella Sharp Museum)
<b>Wednesday, May 7th</b>	Decision Day
<b>Tuesday, May 14th</b>	Top 10 Luncheon (Approx. 11:00-1:00)
<b>Friday, May 17th</b>	Seniors Last Day!
<b>Thursday, May 23rd</b>	Cap and Gown Hand Out 9:00-10:30 Honors Assembly Practice 9:00-10:30
<b>Friday, May 24th</b>	Senior Honor Assembly 9:00-10:30 Senior Graduation Practice 11:00-12:00 Senior Lunch (Catered) 12:15-1:00 Graduation 7:00-8:00 Project Safe Graduation
<b>TBD</b>	Senior Trip- Zap Zone XL & Beach (potentially)



## SNOWFEST ASSEMBLY

East Jackson High School hosted a school wide assembly in honor of snowfest week. Dress up days happened during the course of the week and students loved being able to take part. On the Friday of Snowfest, students gathered in the gym to compete against each other - grade vs. grade. Chanting competitions and lip-sync battles were a couple among the assembly.



Freshman Journey Palmer takes over center court during the 9th grade lip sync.



Senior Colton Raffensberger dials up his inner Elvis during the Lip Sync battle at the Pep Assembly.



The Juniors can't hide that Trojan Pride as they scream out the victory cheer.



The Sophomores were "lights out" during the lip sync battle.



Juniors Savannah MacGuinness and Bryce Sajdak recreate a scene from Tangled during the lip sync battle.

## SNOWFEST GAME AND COURT



## THE LEGEND OF PHYLLIS PHILLIPS - BELOVED SCHOOL SECRETARY PREPARING TO START THE NEXT CHAPTER

When a student or a visitor walks into East Jackson Secondary School, they are very likely to be greeted with a wide smile and a pleasant conversation. Mrs. Phyllis Phillips has been on the front line for over 26.5 years at East Jackson Community Schools. Though Mrs. Phillips loves her job and her interactions with students and staff, it is time for her to enjoy the fruits of her labor and join her husband, Dennis, in retirement.

Mrs. Phillips has had a significant impact on EJ students and staff and there are truly no words to describe how much she will be missed.





**Joe Niehaus**  
Athletic Director

The Winter Sports Season has come and gone, and it was a successful one! Both basketball programs were competitive in the new Cascades Conference and EJ finished with 3 All-Conference Basketball Players: Caleb Weaver, Mariah Kerley, and Priya Mericle. Competitive Cheer was able to complete a full season for the first time in a few years and senior, Clayton Clark, our first All-State wrestler in 13 years placed 4th in the 157 lb. weight class. East Jackson finished the season by hosting one of the most competitive boys basketball districts in the entire state. We hosted over 2,000 fans on two separate nights, which was a great atmosphere to show off our new gymnasium.

As we shift gears to spring sports, it's looking like it is going to be another great season! Keep an eye out for our boys' track team as they look poised to have many state qualifiers!

**Go Trojans!**

**Joe Niehaus**  
Athletic Director

## SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

### VARSIITY TRACK

4/6	Clinton Invite	9:00 AM
4/12	Napoleon Invite	TBD
4/16	Leslie, Grass Lake @ Leslie	4:30 PM
4/23	@Manchester	4:30 PM
4/26	Leslie Invite	TBD
4/30	Michigan Center	4:30 PM
5/3	Stockbridge Invite	TBD
5/7	Napoleon	TBD
5/10	Dome Classic	3:00 PM
5/21	Conference Meet	3:00 PM

### VARSIITY GOLF

4/18	Grass Lake Jamboree - Calderone GC	10:00 AM
4/23	MC Jamboree - Lakeland Hills	10:00 AM
4/26	Leslie Jamboree - Hankered Hills	TBD
5/3	Columbia Jamboree - Clark Lake GC	8:30 AM
5/6	Homer Jamboree - Marshall CC	TBD
5/8	EJ Invite - Calderone GC	TBD
5/10	Western Invite - Arbor Hills GC	TBD
5/14	VCL Jamboree Sharp Park GC	TBD
5/16	MC Scramble - Lakeland Hills	TBD
5/23	Cascades Conference - Sharp Park GC	TBD
5/28	Regionals - Calderone GC	TBD

### VARSIITY SOFTBALL

4/2	@Concord	4:00 PM
4/4	Springport	4:00 PM
4/10	Hanover Horton	4:00 PM
4/15	Grass Lake	4:00 PM
4/17	@Homer	4:00 PM
4/22	@Leslie	4:00 PM
4/24	Vandercook Lake	4:00 PM
4/26	Stockbridge	4:00 PM
4/29	Manchester	4:00 PM
5/1	@Columbia Central	4:00 PM
5/6	@Michigan Center	4:00 PM
5/8	Jonesville	4:00 PM
5/11	Dome Classic	9:00 AM
5/13	Napoleon	4:00 PM
5/15	@Addison	4:00 PM
5/17	@Litchfield	4:00 PM
5/28	Districts - TBD	TBD

ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### VARSIITY BASEBALL

4/2	@Concord	4:00 PM
4/4	Springport	4:00 PM
4/9	Lansing Eastern	4:00 PM
4/12	@North Adams Jerome	4:00 PM
4/15	Grass Lake	4:00 PM
4/17	@Grass Lake	4:00 PM
4/22	@Leslie	4:00 PM
4/24	Leslie	4:00 PM
4/26	Stockbridge	4:00 PM
4/29	Manchester	4:00 PM
5/1	@Manchester	4:00 PM
5/6	@Michigan Center	4:00 PM
5/8	Michigan Center	4:00 PM
5/11	Dome Classic	9:00 AM
5/13	Napoleon	4:00 PM
5/15	@Napoleon	4:00 PM
5/17	@Litchfield	4:00 PM
5/20	Crossover - TBD	4:00 PM
5/22	Crossover - TBD	4:00 PM
5/23	Addison @ Toledo Mud Hens	4:00 PM
5/28	Districts - TBD	4:00 PM

### MS TRACK

4/15	@Grass Lake	4:30 PM
4/22	Manchester	4:30 PM
4/25	Dome Relays	4:30 PM
4/29	@Michigan Center	4:30 PM
5/1	Grass Lake Invite	4:30 PM
5/6	@Napoleon	4:30 PM
5/8	Napoleon Invite	TBD

# WINTER TEAM SPORTS PICTURES



**VARSITY BOYS BOWLING**



**VARSITY GIRLS BOWLING**



**VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL**



**VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL**



**VARSITY WRESTLING**



**CHEERLEADING**



# TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

We're

**HIRING**

Be A School Hero...  
Drive A School Bus!

- \* Paid Certified CDL Training
- \* No Experience Necessary
- \* Must be 21 years of age
- \* Must have a clean driving record
- \* Competitive Wages & Incentive
- \* Must pass DMV/County/State/Federal Fingerprint Background check
- \* Holidays, Weekends & Summers off

**East Jackson Community Schools**

Regina Hoskins | 517-769-8806

Send Resume to:

[regina.hoskins@eastjacksonschools.org](mailto:regina.hoskins@eastjacksonschools.org)

To apply online go to:

[www.eastjacksonschools.org](http://www.eastjacksonschools.org)



**Regina Hoskins**  
Transportation Supervisor



## FOOD SERVICE

**Cheryn DeLosh**  
Food Service Director



**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**

Please visit our website at [www.eastjacksonschools.org](http://www.eastjacksonschools.org)  
Click on Food Icon or Food Services under Departments.

**Food Service Director, Cheryn DeLosh**  
**517-769-8958**



East Jackson Community Schools



## 2024 Kindergarten and Young Fives Registration

Wednesday, April 24th and Monday, April 29th

Call 517-764-1810 TODAY to make your appointment!



Bring your child, during their scheduled time, to EJ Elementary, located at 4340 Walz Rd.



Meet the kindergarten teachers and learn about the amazing opportunities available at East Jackson.

*Home of the TROJANS!*



# 2023-2024 East Jackson District Calendar

Mar. 22–29	No School <i>Spring Break (Return to School April 1st)</i>
May 27	No School <i>Memorial Day</i>
June 6*	Half Day - Last Day of School (Students) <i>Records Day (Staff)</i>

**\*Half day release times will be as follows:**

EJ Secondary School: 12:00 p.m.

EJ Elementary School: 1:00 p.m.



## Home of the TROJANS

## Vote Tuesday, May 7, 2024 Bond Election

This bond vote is structured as a NO MILL increase from the current levy.

- A “NO” vote will not cause your property tax rate to decrease.
- A “YES” vote will not cause your property tax rate to increase.

You may vote either:

- In-person in the location where you normally vote in local, state, and national elections. In-person voting is open on Tuesday, May 7 from 7AM - 8PM.
- Absentee Ballots will be available at your local Township Clerk’s Office beginning March 28.

Bond proceeds CANNOT be used for:

- General operating expenses or maintenance
- Classroom textbooks or educational materials
- Administration, professional or support staff benefits, salaries, or wages

Please feel free to contact the district office for more information: (517) 764-2090 ext.7

## 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 49202  
517-769-8770

### Transportation

1404 N. Sutton Rd., Jackson, MI 49202  
517-769-8806

### Food Service

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