



## East Elementary School

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Mrs. Lanea DeConcini, Principal

Mrs. Natalie Gordon, Assistant Principal



January 31, 2024

Dear **East Elementary** Families,

Happy February! We can't believe we are already into February, which means we are just one step closer to spring. Thank you for helping us to get our second semester off to a great start. Our students are working hard toward their end-of-the-year goals, and they would not be able to get there without your support. Please continue to encourage your child in their learning and the work they do here with us at East!

### Upcoming Dates

- February 2 - Progress Reports Issued
- February 5-14 - Candy Gram Sales
- February 19 - No School - President's Day Holiday
- February 21 - Dental Safari
- February 20 - School Board Meeting
- February 26 - Spring Pictures
- March 4 - No School - Casimir Pulaski Day
- March 6 - Young Authors' Celebration - Alton High School
- March 8 - End of 3rd Quarter
- March 11-15 - Illinois Science Assessment - 5th Grade only
- March 19 - School Board Meeting - AHS Library
- March 20 - Early Dismissal for Students - East Dismisses at 12:25 - No after-school 21st-Century
- March 22 - Report Cards Issued
- March 29 - No School - Good Friday Holiday
- April 1 -2 - No School - Spring Break
- April 3 - School Resumes
- April 6 - Math Competition
- April 9-12 - IAR Testing Week
- April 12 - Progress Reports Issued

### 5Essentials Survey

You will find the letter explaining the 5Essentials survey [HERE](#). This survey is sent to parents each year, and we thank you in advance for taking the time to fill it out. These submissions are completely anonymous and are not tied to your child. Please remember, when you are doing the survey, that it does not count unless it is completely filled out. The direct link to the survey is [HERE](#).

### Young Authors

Our District Young Authors celebration will be held on March 6. All books should have been turned in to Ms. Hellemeyer ([shellemeyer@altonschools.org](mailto:shellemeyer@altonschools.org)), Mrs. Stevenson ([kastevenson@altonschools.org](mailto:kastevenson@altonschools.org)), or Mrs. Cowan ([scowan@altonschools.org](mailto:scowan@altonschools.org)) by January 29.

### Winter Weather

Please remember that students are going outside if the weather permits. Dressing your child(ren) in layers with a hat and glove will ensure they are comfortable this time of year.

### Candy Grams

Students can send Candy Grams to their friends or favorite teacher. The cost is \$0.25 and they will be sold in the gym before school February 5th -14th. Candy Grams will be delivered to classrooms. All proceeds will be donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Alton.

### Student Absences/Transportation Changes

It is the Alton School District's practice to permit a change to a student's transportation plan for daily dismissal on a limited basis (for example: changing from riding the bus to parent pick-up or the reverse) when a parent/guardian contacts the school prior to 11:00 a.m. on the day of the change or before. Recently, we have experienced an increase in parents/families contacting school offices after 11:00 a.m. and still requesting to change transportation plans for that same day. Unless it is an emergency, schools will no longer be able to accommodate same-day transportation changes after 11:00 a.m. Receiving transportation changes later in the school day can cause additional safety concerns when staff members are trying to ensure students are dismissed to their proper locations. In prioritizing student safety to the highest degree, it is imperative that any changes to a student's transportation plan for dismissal be received by the school office no later than 11:00 a.m. on that same day. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

### Parent Drop-Off

If you are dropping off in the morning, please note that our doors do not open until 7:30 am. If your child needs to eat breakfast, they must be here before 8:00 am. If your child arrives after 8:00 am they will need to go to the main office to get a tardy pass to enter the classroom. **Please note that if you are dropping your child off on Washington they will need to use the crosswalk by the main office doors so they are not crossing in front of the cars in the drop-off line.**

### Valentine's Day

We will not be doing Valentine's Day parties, but students will be able to exchange cards. Please make sure that if your child is bringing cards to exchange, you have enough for every student in the room. Please contact your child's teacher if you need a list of students.

### District Procedures for Winter Weather Conditions

Weather conditions can change rapidly in the winter months. When the weather is potentially threatening, Alton administrators constantly monitor the forecasts, conditions of roads, and conditions of sidewalks and parking lots. With this in mind, we would like to provide information on district procedures in case of school closures or early dismissals due to inclement weather. In the event that local weather conditions deteriorate rapidly during the school day, the District may be forced to dismiss early in the best interest and safety of our children.

#### **Early Dismissal Schedule**

East will release at 12:25

Notification procedures are as follows: Parents receive an automatic phone dialer, email notifications will be sent, and notifications will be posted on the district website.

#### **Delayed Start Schedule**

East Elementary will have attendance from 10:00 am - 2:25 pm

#### **eLearning Learning Day**

When we know in advance of potentially threatening forecasts we will make sure that materials are sent home the previous school day. Students will work remotely for the day. Elementary will provide live instruction (reading and math) within the window of 8:30-12:00. Please contact your child's teacher for more information about the schedule and/or Zoom link.

## **Emergency School Closing**

In the event that the Alton School District elects to close schools for the day due to poor weather, information will be provided through the following means: automatic phone dialer, email, posting to the district website, social media posts, and local media, including WBGZ - 1570 AM, KMOX Radio - 1120 AM, KMOV Channel 4, KSDK Channel 5, and Fox 2 Now.

As a final reminder, please contact our East office if you need to update contact information such as phone numbers, emergency contacts, and or email addresses. Having the correct contact information on file will ensure you receive prompt notifications in these events.

### **PTG**

We will meet at 6 pm on February 19 - Location to follow.

### **Recycling Initiatives**

East Elementary collects many items for recycling as part of our Madison County Green Schools initiatives. All of these initiatives not only benefit our environment, but they are separate contests that we compete in throughout the year! Please consider donating to help our school and our environment! We will collect paper, plastic bags, and new/gently used shoes. Please just send them with your child, and there will be bins to place them in our gym lobby. You can also drop them off at our main office. Thanks for your support.

### **February Character Trait Word of the Month: Kindness**

Each month your child/ren will be learning about a character trait that we believe is essential to being a good citizen in our society. We suggest you discuss this trait so that they learn it is important both inside and outside of the school setting. Every Wednesday morning, from 8:15-8:40, your child(ren) will take part in Social Emotional Learning lessons within their classroom. During these lessons, teachers will focus on the Character Trait of the Month.

### **Arbor Management - District Food Service**

- Moving forward the district menus can be found [HERE](#). We will make sure to add the link to our website as well.
- [Food Allergy Form for Doctors](#) to fill out - We have a new food service provider this year, so if your child has any food allergies, they ask that you have your child's doctor fill out this form for their system.

### **Social Media**

Please watch for our emails, but you can follow us on Facebook.com/East.Redbird or Instagram @East\_Redbirds for important information.



Facebook.com /East.Redbird



@East\_Redbirds

We are excited to serve you and your family! Our door is always open, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or ideas.