

## District Highlights

### ■ EHS student named All-Metro Cross Country Runner

EHS senior Ezekiel Kemboi was named a Wichita area 2018 All-Metro boys cross country runner by the Wichita Eagle and Varsity Kansas. He was one of seven selected as top runners in the Wichita metro area.

### ■ EMS wrestling team places fourth at Patriot League

The EMS wrestling team placed fourth at the Patriot League wrestling tournament on December 15. Individual placers are listed below.

**First Place:** Levi Wittenberg (155 lbs.); Collin Scott (215 lbs.).

**Second Place:** Jaevin Hughes (85 lbs.); EJ Krug (95 lbs.).

**Third Place:** Terek White (127 lbs.); Dillon Chartier (134 lbs.); Bryce Hermreck (141 lbs.); Logan Zogleman (165 lbs.); Eric Vermillion (180 lbs.); Tristan Fry (265 lbs.).

**Fourth Place:** Cade Stackley (80 lbs.); Dillon Scott (105 lbs.); Sean Kagle (115 lbs.); Cayden Gilbert (120 lbs.); Michael Riddle (148 lbs.).

## EMS students participate in FutureNow Career Day

EMS eighth grade students attended the Communities in Schools Future Now Career Day on December 4.

The class was divided into two groups, the first began with the stations in the gym while the other began in the eighth grade hall where they learned about interviews, insurance, budgeting, and legal consequences of the internet.

Community members and EHS DECA student volunteers were stationed at booths on Housing, Banking, Giving, Child Care, Utilities, Supermarket, Financial Advising, Insurance, Healthcare, Communications, Shopping Center, Entertainment, Transportation, and Chance.

Prior to the event, students completed a short survey that collected information such as career interests and GPA. That information was used to assign a marital status, career and annual income, and number of children for each student.

Students had to convert their annual income into a monthly paycheck. Then the budgeting began. Based on the assigned lifestyle, students had to visit each booth and deduct the payments from their budget. At the Chance booth, students rolled the dice and took a chance of earning extra money for working overtime or having to pay a surprise bill such as an unexpected car repair or expenses for entertaining friends during the weekend.



“It’s evident that many of them don’t understand how bills are paid,” Rod Luehrs, eighth grade math teacher, said. “It’s a good simulation for them to go through.”

Luehrs said the students may have some understanding of what a car is going to cost, but they don’t necessarily think about having to pay insurance for the vehicle or how that is going to affect their overall budget. Students seemed surprised by how quickly everything adds up.

“I’m not ready to be an adult,” Shayla Powell, eighth grade student, said.

Students quickly learned that being single with no children left more room in their budget for extras such as a nice cell phone and Netflix. Students with multiple children were surprised at the cost of child care. One student said he was going to have to watch his

own children because he couldn’t afford daycare.

One booth offered financial advice. They helped students determine how much of their budget they should plan to spend on each item and would give them a price range to look for when they visited the housing or transportation booth. Students seemed to be pretty practical when selecting a mode of transportation.

“I’ve been pretty impressed,” Richard Taylor, community member, said. “Some of them have quite a bit of money, but they’re still buying cheap cars.”

Some students even stopped at the Giving booth to add a monthly charity to their budget.

Students also visited three rooms in the eighth grade hall to learn more about internet safety, insurance, and interview skills.

### EHS students organize toy drive

EHS National Honor Society members Kelsi McLaren and Brittan Towner organized a toy drive for middle school aged children November 26 through December 14.

After speaking to the Salvation Army, McLaren and Towner realized that there was a gap in donations for the middle school age group. They wanted to help fill that gap.

They used social media and printed flyers to promote the toy drive and raised \$300 in addition to toys and coats. McLaren and Towner took the cash to Walmart, where they spent over two hours selecting the perfect gifts for middle school aged children.

“They picked the perfect age,” Major Patricia Johnson with the Salvation Army said. “This is definitely the age we needed most.”

McLaren and Towner were pleasantly surprised they were able to collect 150 items for the children in our community.

“We were just hoping to get a few donations,” Towner said. “This is really a lot!”

EHS Science teacher Todd Miller helped haul the donations to the Salvation Army on December 14.



## El Dorado Rotary delivers dictionaries to third grade students

The El Dorado Rotary club delivered dictionaries to all third grade students in public schools in El Dorado on December 5.

Several Rotary members visited Blackmore, Grandview, and Skelly to present dictionaries to students. After introducing themselves, they explained the Rotary’s 4-Way Test: Is it true? Does it build goodwill and better friendships? Is it fair? Is it beneficial to all concerned?

Each dictionary has a place for

students to write their name and the 4-Way Test is printed inside the front cover. A letter from the Rotary president also accompanied each dictionary.

Students were excited to receive their own dictionary and immediately began admiring the vibrant pages. Students found the photo of former President George H.W. Bush, whose funeral was taking place that day.

In addition to definitions, the dictionaries contain other useful



resources such as pictures, maps, and a list of past U.S. presidents.

## USD 490 Adopt A Class featured in Kansas Health Foundation video

The Kansas Health Foundation highlighted USD 490’s Adopt A Class community mentoring program in their video that focuses on great things happening in Kansas schools.

Ashley Booker with the Kansas Health Foundation visited El Dorado to meet with community mentors and EHS juniors about the Adopt A Class mentoring partnership. The EHS class of 2020 was the first Kindergarten class to have business men and women join them in the classroom for the new mentoring program in 2007.

These community volunteers read to students, played games with them during recess, provided extra help with math, and competed in board races with them each year. When the Kindergarten students promoted to first grade, the mentors moved on up with them and new mentors were brought in for the next year’s Kindergarten class.

This tradition has continued for the past twelve years, and these mentors have grown and learned alongside their original group of students as they progressed through their middle school years and into high school.

Mentoring at the high school level tends to be more of a group approach, with mentors and students from each elementary having been shuffled together in middle school. The mentors work together to teach students life skills such as the importance of a firm handshake or proper cell phone etiquette in a public



setting.

The program began as an effort to encourage the community to be more involved with schools. Having mentors remain with the same group of students allows for stronger bonds and provides students with a support system outside of their school or home.

Linda Baines works at Sun Group Real Estate and is one of the original mentors. She encouraged her broker, David Sundgren and brother, Tom Storrer, to join her mentoring team that first year.

“It helps students know this is part of their community and these are

people that care,” Baines said.

Booker also interviewed Rod Nelson, another original mentor who is now retired from HollyFrontier but continues to mentor students. He shared photos, newspaper clippings, handmade birthday cards, and thank you notes that his students have sent him over the years.

The day of Booker’s visit, the Junior class mentors joined students in making homeless care kits that included socks, chap stick, granola bars, water, and a wash cloth. They also made Christmas ornaments as part of KAY’s citizenship week.

### Important Dates

**Dec. 19 - Jan. 2**  
No School

**January 3**  
Classes Resume

**January 5**  
KidzFest at Blackmore  
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**January 21**  
No School

**January 29**  
Kansas Day



Mark your calendars for  
**KIDZFEST**  
January 5, 2019  
Blackmore Elementary  
530 N. Orchard St.  
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
FREE

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