

# #WeAreEastMills

East Mills Community School District Quarterly Newsletter



Students in the elementary learn about philanthropy by donating to the Food Pantry. They placed their donations by their favorite team! An entire pick up truck bed was filled from their efforts.

## News from the Elementary

Thursday, December 6th was the Winter Concert for the Elementary students. There was a great turnout of family and friends to support the kids and the school. The elementary is excited to receive a sizable donation to purchase new music equipment for the music program. The music equipment supports the new music curriculum that was purchased at the beginning of the school year.



Elementary Students share the joy of the Holiday Season through songs at the Elementary Winter Concert

### Elementary Student Gifts of Kindness Ideas:

1. High Five a Kindergartener
2. Say something nice to a classmate
3. Sit with someone new at Lunch
4. Compliment a teacher
5. Make a thank you card for the School Secretary

## Financial Steps Forward

Superintendent Croghan and the East Mills School Board work continuously to find ways to strengthen the financial position of East Mills School District.

Two recent projects implemented to improve our financial standing include the sale of the Chantry Building / Chantry Annex, plus the lease of a new bus fleet. The property sales relieves the school district from insurance, security, and utility expenses. The bus fleet lease ensures that students have the most up-to-date and safest buses. The buses are covered under warrantee, so that any repair expenses are covered.

## High School News

We want to encourage our Sophomore, Juniors and Seniors considering taking the ACT this Spring to enroll 2nd semester in our ACT prep course offered 5th and 7th periods. Students who were enrolled in the class this fall averaged 2 point gains on the October test. Higher scores equals more scholarship money and more post secondary opportunities! We want to congratulate our Music Department for a wonderful HS Band/Vocal Winter Concert! Thank you Mrs. Hotchkiss and Mr. Moening.

## Generosity of the Season

East Mills District is fortunate to have some very generous benefactors that grace us with their thoughtfulness. Someone gifted the school with \$617.76. This money was used to help 44 students who had negative lunch account balances, alleviating the stress parents might feel during the holiday season, and erasing the debt from the child nutrition account. Another generous benefactor has donated over \$2000 to our elementary music program, purchasing new instruments to be used with a new curriculum that was purchased at the start of the year. We are truly blessed to have such amazing district support.

# District Academic News

## East Mills Scores Well on New Iowa Performance Profile Report

The Iowa Department of Education is now implementing a new accountability system for Iowa schools. The new system is a performance report to show how each district is meeting the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is a federal education law that has replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. The new report, called the Iowa School Performance Profile, will include a score for each school to show their efforts in meeting the needs of all students.

The new report is largely weighted by the amount of growth students are showing on the state assessments each year. This is different from past reports because reports have previously been made based on proficiency on state assessments. The Department of Education received feedback from the residents of Iowa and decided that basing the score largely on student growth is a much more accurate way to see how a school is supporting the learning of all students.

The new Iowa Performance Profile will identify schools that are in need of extra supports for student learning. There are 1,302 public schools in Iowa that are given a performance rating on the report. Of Iowa's schools, thirty-four schools are identified as comprehensive which means they have been designated as needing the most support. These schools are identified based on being in the lowest 5% of schools of overall schools receiving Title I funding or because the graduation rate is below 67.1%

307 schools in Iowa have been identified as needing targeted support and improvement. This is based on a subgroup in the building being in the bottom 5% of schools in the state. Examples of subgroups are students in special education or enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. All schools who are identified will be required to work closely with the Iowa Department of Education and local AEA's to write a school improvement action plan.

The outstanding news is that neither East Mills Elementary or East Mills JR/SR High were identified on the Iowa School Performance Profile as needing extra supports to support ESSA. The East Mills JR/SR High School received a score of 62.35 which puts the school near the top of all Iowa high schools in area counties. East Mills Elementary received a score of 56.49 which puts the school above multiple elementary buildings in the area. You can find the full report of Iowa's public schools at [www.iaschoolperformance.gov](http://www.iaschoolperformance.gov).

The teachers and administration of East Mills thank all parents and guardians for supporting their East Mills students in their learning at home. We appreciate your continued support while motivating your students to always do their best in the classroom and also on state assessments. Together, we can continue to make everyday a success for all students.



School Bus Safety  
Reminder



## Technology in the Classroom

Students in Mr. Karwal's Voc Ag classes continue to hone their building/fabrication skills after they completed the roadster project last year. This year's project has focused on converting a donated golf cart into a "gator" style utility vehicle to be used at the East Mills Sports Complex. The students (and instructor) have done an amazing job!



## #WolverinePRIDE

East Mills Wolverines are fully immersed in Winter Sports and having great success. The wrestling team took 2nd Place at Corner Conference, have had several boys place in the top 6 at weekend tournaments, and have great success at duals during the week. The boys' basketball team is currently 5-1 for the season, and continue to improve each game. The Lady Wolverines show improvement, and are currently 2-4 for the season. East Mills Dance Team showed us their skills at last week's home game, and our jazz band continues to provide great music entertainment at home basketball games.



*New High School Boys Basketball Uniform Design—Thank you for your support that made these possible!*