

Hello, East Hills Middle School Chargers and families! I hope you are enjoying your summer vacation and are beginning to gear up for the start of the 2019-2020 school year! Soon August 26th will arrive, and it will signal the start of another school year. Hopefully, you have had a restful summer and have had the opportunity to unwind, travel, and share in many memorable experiences. As we embark on a new school year, I look forward to seeing all of our returning students and to meeting all of our incoming 6th graders and other new students. Our incoming class of 6th grade students is currently comprised of approximately 325 students who will make up fourteen sections and five teams. In conjunction with all of the BASD middle schools, we will continue to place a strong emphasis on our teaming initiatives and planning as we work to achieve goals outlined in our district road map and action plan. Please mark your calendars to attend our Open House on Thursday, September 5th, to gain insight about how our students will be involved this year.

Many of our students have already begun their fall activities including athletics, band, orchestra, and chorus practices. If you are not involved in an activity or school offering, I encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the many extra-curricular offerings provided at East Hills, find something that you enjoy or that excites you, and get involved! We have many opportunities including: PIAA sports for 7th and 8th graders, theatre, 6th grade chorus, 7th and 8th grade choir, student leadership groups, service learning opportunities, homeroom government, stage crew, Reading Olympics, Mathcounts, yearbook, newspaper, National History Day, BASD mini-THON, National Junior Honor Society, various after-school programs, as well as many others. Our school and your school experiences will be what you make of them. Whatever it is that you decide to do, let's work together to make your experiences great!

Our 6th grade classes/schedule will be arranged similarly to last year's. In this structure, one teacher on the team will teach mathematics; one teacher will teach English; and one teacher will teach science to all students on the team. All teachers on the team will be responsible for teaching social studies. Our 7th and 8th grade students can look forward to having academic teams consisting of 4/5 teachers. As part of this structure, teachers will be responsible for teaching one of the core subjects to students on the team. All of our students can look forward to a new English/reading series (StudySync). Our Discovery Education social studies and science curriculum will be taught in all grade levels along with EnVision mathematics. Schoology will once again be utilized as the learning management system for all middle school students. For students/parents who are not familiar with Schoology, there is no need to worry. Your child will be up to speed in no time!

Chromebooks will be assigned to students and utilized daily in all grade levels. New to 8th graders this year will be the ability to take home their assigned chromebooks each evening. The new BASD Empower initiative will promote student-centered learning and creative thinking. Eighth grade students will have district-provided computing devices to access blended, anywhere, anytime learning resources. You can learn more about this initiative by visiting <https://www.beth.k12.pa.us/Empower/>. As access to and usage of technology continue to grow, so does the need to monitor learning opportunities and appropriate usage. While students are responsible for following School Board Policy Number 815 - Computer, Network, and Internet Use, their BASD chromebook use will be monitored and filtered both at school and at home. It is important that only the assigned student uses the chromebook and its accessories. Go Guardian will once again be used to assist teachers in managing and monitoring student access and chromebook usage.

Our normal school day begins at 8:05 am and concludes at 3:05 pm. For the first day of school, all 6th grade students will report at the normal start time of 8:05 am while all 7th and 8th grade students will report three hours later at 11:05 am. This three-hour delayed start will provide

6th grade students and teachers with the opportunity to focus attention on many transitional items that sometimes cause 6th graders to become nervous and uneasy. Students will have the opportunity to meet with their teachers and teams, read schedules, visit classrooms, tour the building, engage in getting acquainted activities with peers and staff, open lockers, and attend orientation meetings. We will run a modified schedule on this day. Busing will be provided to all students on a modified schedule for the delayed start for 7th and 8th graders.

We will continue to utilize the Charger Pride Expectations Program to recognize and reward positive behaviors and academic achievement. Our Charger Pride Expectations Program is a tiered reinforcement effort that focuses on acknowledging students for good behavior while being **Positive**, being **Responsible**, **Investing** in school, **Demonstrating** respect, and exhibiting **Excellence**. Our tiered system has allowed students the opportunity to win numerous prizes, brunches, lunch rewards, trips, and activities. Our Charger Pride Program utilizes Charger Dollars with unique QR codes for students to scan using their chromebooks. Once scanned, Charger Dollar data will be uploaded to our database. This process promotes efficiency and allows for more random drawings and accurate records. Donations of prizes to help promote this program are welcomed whenever possible. We sincerely thank the many parents, community members, and local businesses that have supported our efforts in this program. Please feel free to contact the school if you would be willing to help us in this endeavor during the 2019-2020 school year.

Two years ago, our school focused on “Make Every Minute Matter” in everything we did. Last year, we continued our focus on making every minute matter while we also made it our mission to “Make Every Person Matter.” This year, we will continue with our dedication to make our time and people matter as we commit to “Make Every Decision Matter.” Wise decisions can directly correlate to profitable time usage and happy, adjusted individuals. We will use this understanding when we handle the many situations presented throughout the year and as we strive to achieve win-win outcomes for our students.

As the school year nears and energy and enthusiasm build, please make it a point to discuss getting involved with activities at school with your children. Besides the wide and varied academics that East Hills offers, many other opportunities exist for students to become active participants in the school community. At East Hills, there is something that is certain to be appealing to everyone’s interests and likes. Please speak to your child and keep current with our website (<https://basdwpweb.beth.k12.pa.us/easthills/>), Twitter (@EastHillsMSbasd) and Facebook (East Hills Middle School BASD) to learn more about these opportunities and what is happening at the school. Also, be sure to subscribe to our YouTube Channel where you will be able to view Charger Channel News broadcasts and recordings of live events thanks to our new Padcaster purchased by our EH Parent Association.

Finally, I sincerely hope your children have a wonderful experience at East Hills Middle School. I wish them success as they responsibly pursue knowledge, engagement, goals, friendships, and school community membership. Your children make East Hills who we are, but without your continued support and hard work at home, our jobs would be much more difficult. I am excited to welcome everyone back on Monday, August 26th. I wish you a fantastic end to your summer and look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Sincerely,



David Horvath
Principal