
A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

By: Mr. Griffith

The school year's end is quickly approaching, and I am overjoyed with our students' and teachers' efforts to make the best out of a most difficult school year. The pandemic has changed school so much, but I am hopeful the summer and the 21-22 school year will look more normal for all of us. Stay safe, healthy, and well.



EHCCS GREENHOUSE NEWS

By: Mrs. DePiero, EHCCS Teacher Aide

The Egg Harbor City Community School will be opening its on-site greenhouse for the spring of 2021. The students in Ms. Miranda's Class and Ms. DePiero's Class will be working in the Community School Greenhouse while maintaining social distancing and safety protocols, starting vegetable and flower seeds. 5th-grade students will be working in the garden as well. The students will plant the flower seeds in the classroom using growing flats. The growing flats will then be transferred to the Community School Greenhouse.

The greenhouse's purpose is to start vegetable and flower seeds with the student helpers watering and maintaining the plants. This will take approximately six to eight weeks for the plants to fully mature. Once the vegetable and flower plants are established, students will transplant them into the Community School Garden. Plants will also be given to the students to bring home to their families, staff members, and the Egg Harbor City Community Gardens.

MR. ROESCH'S COUNSELING CORNER

Being Kind to Yourself During Challenging Times

During the past year we have faced countless challenges on a daily basis. Some challenges have been minor inconveniences; others have been life changing. No matter how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected you and your family, our ability to take out our frustrations out on ourselves impacts our quality of life. By using the Think, Act, Be (TAB) Method, you can begin to practice meaningful self-care.

Think:

Focus on the thoughts that are causing you stress

Act:

Practice a new behavior that will change the thoughts causing stress

Be:

Focus on your new behavior and how it is improving you in the present moment



This method, when applied, can lead to improving the amount of sleep you get, eating healthier, increasing exercise and outdoor activity, practicing gratitude, and even serving others. Being kind to yourself begins with changing negative thoughts.

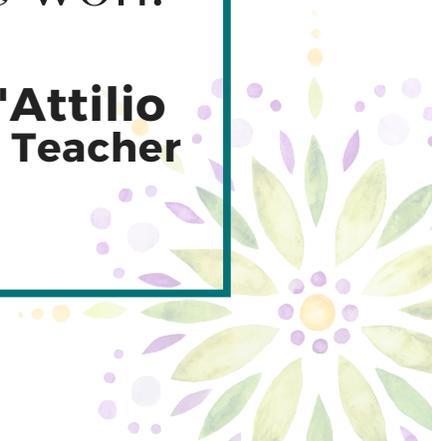
HOMEROOM WINS SLOGAN CONTEST

Each year the Community School holds a slogan contest to celebrate Autism Awareness Month. The homeroom with the winning slogan has their idea placed on a specially designed t-shirt for all staff to wear. Also, the students of the homeroom receive their own t-shirt to wear proudly. This year's winning homeroom, Mr. D'Attilio's virtual homeroom, submitted the winning slogan. The design that will be on the t-shirts is below. The students and Mr. D'Attilio were thrilled and are looking forward to **FRIDAY, APRIL 30** - the day everyone will wear them. All other students are encouraged to **WEAR BLUE** that day as well.



My students
are so
excited to
have won!

Mr. D'Attilio
EHCCS Teacher





WHAT A CRAZY YEAR!

By Caroline Osborne
EHCCS 8th Grader

The Corona virus has changed the world in so many ways. It has affected everyone, from my family to other kids to the elderly. I'm in 8th grade, and 8th grade is supposed to be the best middle school year! We are finally the big kids! Now, because of COVID, it's anything but the best year. Instead, COVID has ruined 8th grade!

This year we should be celebrating and having fun. We made it to 8th grade, and our whole class should be together. Instead, most of my friends are at home learning virtually. We should be moving around the school and doing science experiments in the lab. We should be eating lunch in the cafeteria and getting yelled at for being too loud. That's not what's happening, though. We sit in one room, and we have two teachers that come to us. We do much smaller science experiments and can't be done in a group. We take our lunches home and can't get too close to our friends!!!

It's a crazy year, but I want to be here. I want to learn in person. I want to see my friends even 6ft apart. I want to see my teachers and learn in person. I mean, math is hard on a computer. I want to talk loudly and get caught on my phone. It's 8th grade; that's what we are supposed to do. I want to go to gym class and run around. I want to have morning meetings and see how long we can keep Mr. Melch talking about things other than schoolwork. I want to do science experiments even if they aren't in the lab. I come to school every day because I want to feel normal. I want my in-person 8th-grade experience, even if It's a little bit different.

IN-PERSON LEARNING: A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

By Aniyah Wright, EHCCS 8th-Grade Student

I prefer learning in person (face-to-face) because I get to socialize with my peers and teachers make it easier for me to learn. I also like that I can have a conversation with someone who is physically there to understand better the topics I struggle with. Furthermore, I don't think that I would learn as efficiently if I was sitting at home all day. Many distractions, such as technology and family, would keep me from getting my work done.

Face to Face learning has its pros and cons. On the one hand, you have more flexibility when it comes to learning at home. You can wake up later and are in the comfort of your own home. A massive pro to being face to face can get out of your house since not many places are open due to Coronavirus. We are very lucky to have that opportunity, especially when many others do not. Teachers can also read our body language to help us understand concepts we learn in class that we may not understand. You can't do that over a Zoom call.

In conclusion, there are advantages and disadvantages to both, but overall, face-to-face learning is better. This year hasn't been the best, so going to school during these times of Covid-19 is an absolute pleasure. Taking a break from technology for only 4 hours helps teens who need to de-stress and re-focus. Overall, I prefer in-person learning versus virtual learning.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VIRTUAL STUDENT

BY ARJUN SARKAR, EHCCS 8TH GRADER

I wake to the sound of my phone alarm going off. I rub my eyes and contemplate why all of human existence has led to the point where I have to get up at 7:30. I get up and do the usual things people do at 7:30 in the morning, which is to say brushing my teeth, taking a shower, and eating cereal. I then log into the zoom meeting, and after watching the morning announcements, class starts.

I started learning about the math lesson today on a Nearpod(An Interactive Note), a pencil, and a paper to the side of my desk. I start losing a bit of my focus halfway through it. The lesson itself is exciting but, sometimes the Nearpod gets monotonous. Don't get me wrong, Nearpod's fine but combined with math, it's sort of like how fries are great except when dipped in milkshakes (you know who you are). All in all, the lessons are fun, and Ms.Donnelly is an excellent and engaging teacher.



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"WITH WONDERFUL STAFF AND TEACHERS WHO WORK DESPITE NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THEIR STUDENTS, WE HAVE PERSEVERED."

We shift into science from math class and hop into another Nearpod. After that, we do CK-12. This is an interactive article that we read then answers questions. The CK-12 assignments are pretty fascinating, so I like them. It also helps that at this point, I am fully awake and not wanting to fall asleep. Science class is really exciting (however, there are points where I wished Newton stepped on a lego before I realized he was born a couple of centuries too early)

As I hop off of Ms.Donnelly's zoom and into Mr. Connelly's zoom, I ready myself for the class. I pull out my social studies textbook. We begin the lesson by watching CNN 10. This news program is one of my favorite parts of the day due to Carl Azuz's amazing puns (and hairdo). After that's over, we're shown a slide of what we will do for social studies and ELA today. We then do a Readworks, which is an article with questions we have to answer afterward. These are very enjoyable and even have someone read the text for you (I'm pretty sure it's an AI voice though either that or they haven't slept in a while). After that, we review what we read in our social studies book last week and are then assigned some pages on the social studies book to read this week.

As the school day comes to a close, we shift into our last period ELA. I get out my Reader and Writer's notebook and my independent reading book. We begin by watching a video on the subject we're learning that day. I like these videos because they are informative and interesting (It also helps that the people in the video make funny expressions). After the video, we review Kahoot, which many kids in our class enjoy doing probably because some just want to beat their friends in a game(I'm personally guilty of this). After that's over, we shift into independent reading for the last thirty minutes of class and respond to what we read in our reader's and writer's notebooks.

After school is over, it doesn't mean that we are done for the day; we still have a lot of after school. We also have to finish our school assignments such as homework(something even the pandemic can't change). Although there have been many changes this year, EHCCS has managed to stay strong. With wonderful staff and teachers who work despite not being able to see their students, we have persevered (crushing people's hopes in Kahoot along the way).

WHAT'S UP IN 6TH GRADE IN-PERSON?

By Mrs. Weigle

Throughout the month of April, the sixth graders will be beginning new units of instruction in both Language Arts and Social Studies.

In Social Studies this month, students will be beginning a unit on the Renaissance and Reformation. While this unit will have many of the usual components of reading, research, and vocabulary, this unit will allow us to complete many really cool projects to strengthen our knowledge about this time period in history. As a class, we will attempt to paint like Michelangelo and lie under our desks to create a painting similar to the Sistine Chapel. We will also study and research Leonardo da Vinci, and we are going to attempt a STEM challenge in which we will try to create his flying machine. Finally, we will complete a life-size biography of one of the famous writers of the period William Shakespeare.

"As a class, we will attempt to paint like Michelangelo and lie under our desks to create a painting similar to the Sistine Chapel."

In Language Arts, the in-person students were able to choose the next novel of study. Back in mid-March, students had a book voting day. This involved students being introduced to five different novels. We read book descriptions and viewed book trailers on youtube. Without seeing the title, students then voted which book that they wanted to read. Students in Mrs. Elefante's homeroom choose the adventure book *Malamander*. This story is about two middle school-aged students who go on a mission to retrieve a lost item from a mysterious hotel. Mrs. Weigle's homeroom voted to choose the novel *The Princess Bride*, also an adventure story. In this novel, the characters go on adventures, face pirates, giants, and wild beasts. Both novels are great! And the sixth-grade teachers can't wait to read and work them with the class!

