

# Hornet Happenings

## ECHS Parent Online Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2016

### Principal's Letter

Dear Hornets,

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! We are so excited about Year #3 for ECHS! We now have three grades with our juniors on campus in a 9-15 credit semester of DSU classes. In addition, we have 23 sophomores taking at least one course. They earned this right through their College Readiness Rubrics. We could not be any more proud of them.

The beginning of the school year is always a great time for reflection—to look at what is important to us. For our students, we hope that their studies are the high priority. Between now and the winter break, students should continue to seek out their teachers for extra help even before there is a problem. Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to take charge of their education!

Parents, you can monitor students' grades, attendance, and discipline online on our HAC (Home Access Center) system. On the e-School data management system Login information will be mailed home. In addition to HAC, parents can logon to Schoology to view assignments and monitor students and their submitting of assignments.

Parents can contact teachers with questions via e-mail for a quick response or to request a conference or just to talk about student progress. Remember that we are in this together!

We hope that this will be a great



### Parent Night 2016

Parent Night will be held on Wednesday, September 28th at 6:00 p.m. The program will begin in the Multipurpose Room with special information for all parents and our Hispanic Heritage Month Program. After, parents will be able to walk around the school and speak to teachers, find out about curriculum, etc. We hope to see you out!

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## Yearbooks

This year, the yearbook will have a hard cover for the first time. Mrs. Dickens is the yearbook advisor. She will work with students in both a classroom setting. These students will be responsible for the layout of the yearbook and ensuring that every ECHS student will be represented. They will work with Mrs. Dickens to adhere to guidelines of the yearbook company, Jostens.

In addition to a yearbook class, there is also a yearbook activity period for each marking period. This will allow students who were not able to have

yearbook as a class to be able to contribute to the content of the yearbook.

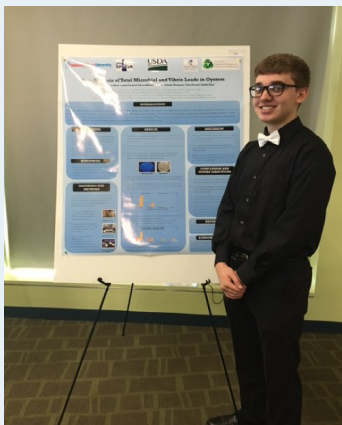
Yearbooks will go on sale for the first time at Parent Night on September 28th. Mrs. Dickens will be located in the Atrium that evening. The price will be at \$40.00. Checks can be made out to "ECHS" with the student's name and "yearbook" written in the memo.

Be sure to get yours early as the price will go up in sale as the year goes on. Should you have questions about the yearbook, contact Mrs. Dickens at [Karen.dickens@ech.s.k12.de.us](mailto:Karen.dickens@ech.s.k12.de.us).

## *Hornet P.R.I.D.E....Catch it!*

### My Summer Vacation

Junior, Zakaria Juracka participated in a 6-week summer program in a research lab at Delaware State University under the CIBER program in the Department of Agriculture. He presented his research: Investigation Total Microbial and Vibrio from the

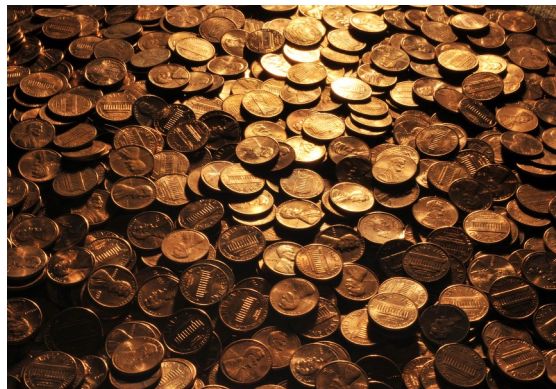


### Penny Wars

The 2nd Annual Penny Wars is upon the students of ECHS. This will be a friendly competition between Advisory Classes. The goal is to raise as much money as possible for A.I. DuPont Children's Hospital. How it works: Students put pennies into their Advisory's jar to earn points for their team. The catch – If another team puts a silver coin or a bill into another Advisory's jar, their points are reduced by the corresponding monetary value. (For example: Mr. Young has 175 pennies in his jar. Another advisory puts two \$1 bills, into Mr. Young's jar. Mr. Young now as a negative \$.25 value.) The jars will be located in the cafeteria for two weeks beginning on September 19th. The winning Advisory will receive a pizza party!

Start

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## Summer Bridge 2016

Most freshmen in high school spend their summer vacations laying on a beach or hanging out with friends, but the students at the Early College High School were busy earning credits. Grades 9 and 10 attended the Summer Bridge Program in Memorial Hall/Wellness Facility at DSU from June 27 through July 28. While there, the students earned a 1/2 credit in Physical Education and college credit. The 9th graders took Microcomputing, which helped them be able to navigate the Microsoft Office applications, while the 10th graders took Lifetime Fitness and Wellness, which also doubled as their state of Delaware required health course. In addition to those classes, each grade met their core area teachers for the upcoming school year. They learned concepts in individual courses and combined those concepts to do a joint culminating group project in wither English and Science and in Math and Social Studies. Some of



the students with the best projects went to the State Fair to present them.

While the freshmen and sophomores were at Summer Bridge, the juniors were busy working on their Summer Reading Projects. Students had to choose from a list of books to read and write chapter summaries in a journal. In addition, the students had to create a project from the list that illustrated their books. The projects were due on the first day of school, and the grades from the projects are the first test grades for their U.S. History classes, and ECHS class.



### ECHS Shines

Congratulations to freshman, Sydnei Ruff who participated in the Delaware Teen Idol program. Sydnei, not only tried out and made it, but as the competition wore on, Sydnei found herself in the finals which took place on August 5, 2016 at the Playhouse on Rodney Square in Wilmington. This event is sponsored by Aids Delaware.

### Delaware Volunteer Credit

Delaware Volunteer Credit (DVC) is one elective credit used towards graduation. Students who complete 90 hours of community service over two semesters during their entire high school career are eligible to receive this credit. If you have been volunteering, you may have already fulfilled the requirements to receive this credit as well as a certificate of appreciation signed by the Governor and the Secretary of Education.

Visit [www.volunteerdelaare.org](http://www.volunteerdelaare.org) to find a volunteering opportunity near you or call the state office of



### Schoology vs. HAC

My son/daughter had a login for HAC and Schoology. What are those? Well, both will help you to monitor students' grades.

Schoology is a learning management system for K-12 schools, higher education institutions, and corporations that allows users to create, manage, and share content and resources. Also known as a course management system (CMS) or virtual learning environment (VLE), the cloud-based platform provides tools to manage any classroom or blended learning environment. Schoology looks like Facebook, so the students have fun while posting assignments and participating in classroom discussions under the watchful eye of our ECHS instructors. Parents can logon to Schoology and see assignments as the teachers post them, be able to see when they are due, and be able to see discussions and participation of their students.

HAC or Home Access center allows students to see grades once they are posted by the teacher. Parents have been mailed HAC logins and can begin the monitoring process.

If you are having trouble with Schoology or HAC, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Mrs.



## Common Core, PBL, PBS

So many times in education, there are acronyms and terms being thrown about and no one knows what they mean. Here are some very important ECHS terms to know:

**Common Core:** Today's students are preparing to enter a world in which colleges and businesses are demanding more than ever before. To ensure all students are ready for success after high school, the Common Core State Standards establish clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts from kindergarten through 12th grade. The standards were drafted by experts and teachers from across the country and are designed to ensure students are prepared for today's entry-level careers, freshman-level college courses, and workforce training programs. The Common Core focuses on developing the critical -thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills students will need to be successful. Forty-two states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) have voluntarily adopted and are moving forward with the standards. The new standards also provide a way for teachers to measure student progress throughout the school year and ensure that students are on the pathway to success in their academic careers.

**NextGen Science Standards:** The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are K-12 science content standards. Standards set the expectations for what students should know and be able to do. The NGSS were developed by states to improve science education for all students. A goal for developing the NGSS was to create a set of research-based, up-to-date K-12 science standards. These standards give local educators the flexibility to design classroom learning experiences that stimulate students' interests in science and prepares them for college, careers, and citizenship.

**PBL:** Otherwise known as Project-Based Learning is a method of learning wherein students are assessed on what they produce. It reflects their knowledge about the studied topic and is inquiry or discovery based and the journey is as important as the destination. It honors the student's individual learning style and thinking ability as they develop their outcomes. In this prototype, what the student does is more important than what the teacher does. Students become interactive learners as they abandon their teacher-fed material to investigate topics in a student-centered prototype that authenticates their conclusions. Steeped in the path of PBL is collaboration with peers, critical thinking, idea innovation development, feedback and revision, and finally public presentation. The result is a product of the process and a balanced development of thought from the original question through its elaboration.

**PBS:** Positive Behavior Support strives to use a system to understand what maintains an individual's challenging behavior. Students' inappropriate behaviors are difficult to change because they are functional; they serve a purpose for the student. These behaviors are supported by reinforcement in the environment. The positive behavior support process involves goal identification, information gathering, hypothesis development, support plan design, implementation and monitoring. A significant part of our students' academic success correlates directly to the exemplary behavior that they exhibit. To ensure a safe and orderly educational environment conducive to student learning, faculty and staff members are working collaboratively in the best interest of children, recognizing and identifying appropriate behavior. To create this environment, we have adopted a positive behavior support program that we affectionately call "Hornet



## September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	No School Labor Day No DSU Classes	Yankee Candle Fundraiser Begins				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	PTSA Meeting 5:30 ECHS	Yankee Candle Fundraiser Ends		Board Meeting 5:15	1 <sup>st</sup> MP Interim Ends	
25	26	27	1 <sup>st</sup> Marking Period 28	29	30	
Grades due 11:00 pm	Homecoming Dance Tickets Sales Begin		Interims Distributed to Students 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Parent Night & Hispanic Heritage Night 6:00 p.m.		1 <sup>st</sup> Marking Period College Readiness Incentive	



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## Stay Connected!

Dream Big Dreams

Other ways to communicate  
in school:

Phone calls, e-mails, Home  
Access Center (HAC), web,  
twitter...Are you receiving  
Dr. Edney's Sunday Night at  
8:00 p.m. calls with school  
news and announcements?  
Make sure: Call Mrs.  
Rodriguez To update phone  
numbers, addresses, etc.  
Stay in the know!

We're on the Web!  
<http://ech.s.desu.edu/>  
And Twitter @ECHSDSU

### Feel the Buzz

- Students can catch the *Hornet Daily Buzz* each morning complete with announcements!
- Once a month, students can read *The Buzz*, the official student newspaper at ECHS!
- See Mrs. Savage for more information!



dreamstime.com

## Receive Text Message Reminders

The teachers and the principal are using a system called Remind, where text messages go out to remind students of homework assignments or events in school. Parents can also receive these messages either for classes so they are seeing the same texts as their students or from the Principal to receive texts about school.

Just text to **81010** and plug in the **codes** below as a text message. Then you will start receiving reminders

**From the Principal @ECHSDSU**

**From Mrs. Dara Savage**

**@echsens9** (students)

**@echsens9P** (parents)

Period 5 Advisory **@ 81217**

**For Ms. Charlotte Jordan**

for Period 1: **@satpreppd1**

for Period 2: **@satpreppd2**

for Period 4: **@imp1pd4**

**From Mrs. Sara Gildon**

Economics: **@echsecon**

Personal Finance: **@echspf**

National Honor Society: **@echsnhs**

**From Mr. Barry Young**

Period 1 Ant and Phy: **@f8e07**

Period 2. Earth Science: **@ 60f574**

Period 3. Earth Science: **@98973**

Volleyball Remind Code: **@flocco**

**For Bus-Specific Information**

**@ECHSB1** for Bus 1

**@ECHSB2** for Bus 2

**@ECHSB4** for Bus 4

**@ECHSB6** for Bus 6

**@ECHSB7** for Bus 7

**@ECHSB8** for Bus 8

**@ECHSB9** for Bus 9