

**ELMWOOD-MURDOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER  
PREPARING FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR**

Ryan Knippelmeyer, Superintendent

On behalf of Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools, it's my pleasure to welcome you back for the 2018-2019 school year. To our students and families that are new to Elmwood-Murdock, we welcome you and look forward to an exciting and productive year in our schools. We hope that you will quickly feel at home and become involved in the activities of our school district.

At the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year, Mr. Schmale, Mrs. Colbert, Mrs. Cook, and Mrs. Wray retired. Along with our retirees, Mrs. Zierott and Mr. Shelsta accepted positions in other school districts. We welcome these new staff members for the 2018-2019 school year: Mr. Lance Steffen will be teaching 7-12 Social Studies; Mr. Gary Grinvalds will be teaching K-12 Vocal Music; Mrs. Celena Mortimer will be teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade; Mrs. Cayle Burbach will be teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; Mrs. Trisha Nichelson will serve as Student Services Coordinator and 7-12 School Counselor; Ms. Judi Sigler will serve as part-time Elementary School Counselor; and Mr. Aaron Pryor will teach 7-12 Physical Education and Health. We're excited about these teachers joining our staff and the opportunities they will present our students in the upcoming year.

During the 2016-2017 school year, our school district completed the Nebraska Department of Education External Visitation requirement. One area that came out of that external visit was to consider implementing an Instructional Model to support instruction at all levels of our district. During the 2017-2018 school year, our administrative team reviewed different Instructional Models and with the assistance of ESU 3, selected to move forward with the Marzano Instructional Model. In January 2018, administrators and selected teachers participated in a one-day training at ESU 3 to learn more about this instructional model and begin discussions about what this would look like in our district. We know our teachers are doing a lot of great things in our classrooms on a daily basis. By following an instructional model and having consistent educational language being used in all of our classrooms, our goal is to continue to set the bar even higher in what our students are able to achieve on a daily basis. During the 2018-2019 school year, a primary professional development goal for our teachers and administrators is to begin implementing the Marzano Instructional Framework in each of our classrooms. Professional Development days for this upcoming school year are focused on training and workshops to support this work. As was mentioned, we know our teachers are doing an excellent job in our classrooms each day, and this form of professional development will allow them to continue to set new professional goals that challenge them each day as a teacher and have collaborative conversations with administrators about good teaching practices.

Five years ago the district implemented "Reading Advantage" at the elementary as an approach to help kids who may not be at grade level with their individual reading skills. This intervention program has been very successful over the past five years and the number of students who are not reading at grade level has significantly declined during that time. Because of this success, as a district we made the decision to do something similar in the area of Math for next year. "Math Advantage" will be an opportunity for a certified teacher to work individually or with small groups of students on math skills that they may be deficient in. Overall our math scores in the elementary have been very good, and this is an opportunity to provide additional support to those that may need it. Mr. Backemeyer will be leading this intervention opportunity at the elementary for the 2018-2019 school year.

As you may know, this past year we rolled out a new school webpage and mobile app. If you haven't downloaded our school's mobile app and you have a smartphone, please go to your app store and search for "Elmwood Murdock" to download the mobile app. Our teachers did a nice job of posting pictures and stories about things taking place at school throughout the school year. Through our school's webpage as well as the mobile app, you can access our "rSchool" calendar, which is the most up-to-date information in regard to activities and events taking place in our district. We hope you take the time to download our mobile app and keep up on all the great things taking place in our schools on a daily basis.

In January 2018, we began sending out low and negative lunch balance notifications to inform families when their child's lunch balance was below \$10 or had a negative balance. We understand that these notifications can be a nuisance at times, but the result of implementing this practice was very positive. As a district we had significantly fewer families that had negative lunch balances during second semester of last year. The intent of us implementing this practice was to attempt to communicate with families in a timely manner when lunch balances were getting low so that they could add money to their lunch accounts in a timely manner. Overall, the implementation of this practice was successful and we plan to continue this practice going forward. I thank you for your patience with this and if you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

As we look to the future and the 2018-2019 school year, we will again have an incoming Kindergarten class with 40+ students. As you may know, last years Kindergarten class had 48 students, which was the largest incoming class in district history. As we begin a new school year, we are looking at three grade levels in the elementary with 40 or more students.

A topic that has been discussed in the past and will continue to be discussed this upcoming school year is the possibility of improving our athletic facilities as well as looking at what future enrollment numbers look like in order to consider our current academic facilities. As many of you know, our academic facilities at both Elmwood and Murdock were renovated in 2008-2009. Over the past

six years, the Board of Education has twice approved the refinancing of those 2008 bonds, resulting in over one million dollars in savings to our district's patrons. The last athletic facility completed with district funds was the Murdock gym, which was built in 1979. A facilities assessment was conducted in the summer of 2016, by the DLR Group and discussions on this topic have continued over the past two years. Based on this assessment, the Board of Education will continue with these discussions and determine the next steps in this process. At some point, there will likely be a public meeting to discuss with the community and patrons the results of this study and how the district would like to move forward.

As we begin the new school year, I look forward to welcoming back all of our students, parents, and community members. There are great opportunities in store for our students, teachers and staff in the new school year, and I'm excited to be a part of the journey with them!

### **FALL SPORTS PRACTICES 2018-2019**

With the start of a new school year comes the start of another activity season. High school football practices are scheduled to start on Monday, August 6, 2018, with practices starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Murdock School site. Practices will run that week through Saturday, August 11, 2018. We will hold an open practice and scrimmage for the public at 6:30 p.m. at Elmwood on Friday, August 17, 2018. Elmwood-Murdock will begin the season with a home game against Johnson-Brock at 7:00 p.m. on August 24, 2018. Any questions regarding high school football should be directed to the head coach, Lance Steffen.

High school girls' golf will also start practices on Monday, August 6, 2018. Practices will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Elmwood School site on Monday, August 6 and Tuesday, August 7, 2018. Starting on Wednesday, August 8, girls will report to Grandpa's Woods at 4:00 p.m. for practices. Mr. Curt Backemeyer will once again serve as the Head Girls' Golf Coach. Any questions regarding this activity should be directed to Mr. Backemeyer.

High school volleyball will also start on Monday, August 6, 2018, with practices held from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. through Friday, August 16, 2018. The volleyball team will hold a Jamboree starting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 20 with the proceeds going to the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame in Lincoln. This is the second year the Nebraska School Activities Association has allowed the playing of a Jamboree in volleyball prior to the start of the regular season. The volleyball team will open the 2018 regular season with the Freeman Invitational on Thursday, August 28 and Saturday, August 30, 2018. Mrs. Nichole Justesen will be the head coach and all questions regarding high school volleyball should be directed to her.

High school cross country will start practices on Monday, August 13 and are scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and on Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. All questions regarding Cross Country should be directed to Mrs. Peggy Guenther who will serve as Head Cross Country Coach for Elmwood-Murdock.

Junior high volleyball will start on Monday, August 20, 2018, at the Elmwood School site. Practices will be from 4:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mrs. Morgan Manley will serve as the head coach and should be contacted with any questions you have regarding junior high volleyball.

Junior high football will also start on Thursday, August 23, 2018, with practices also held at the Elmwood School site. Practices will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mr. Don Brothers will serve as the head coach for junior high football and should be contacted with any questions pertaining to this activity.

All junior and senior high athletes are reminded to have all participation forms, found in the Athletic Handbook and on the district website at [www.elm.esu3.org](http://www.elm.esu3.org) completed prior to the first day of practice. All participants will be required to pay the \$35 Activities Fee in order to play in any contest. No athlete will be allowed to practice without completing a physical, which had to be completed on or after May 1, 2018. Additionally, all other forms need to be completed and turned in by the end of the first week of practice. Please make every effort to have physicals completed prior to the first day of practice. We would like to wish all of our coaches and athletes a safe, successful and enjoyable season.

### **NEW COACHES/SPONSORS FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR**

For the 2018-2019 school year we'd like to welcome the following new coaches:

Head Football – Lance Steffen  
Head Boys Basketball – Aaron Pryor  
Assistant Boys Basketball – Lance Steffen  
JH Head Football Don Brothers  
Head JH Volleyball – Morgan Manley  
Assistant JH Volleyball – Kim Rust

For the 2018-2019 school year we'd also like to welcome the following new activity sponsors:

Speech – Gary Grinvalds  
Assistant Speech – John Grinvalds

## **“rSchool” Calendar Information**

The Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools utilizes “rSchool” scheduling program for the scheduling of all school related activities. The on-line capabilities of this program are amazing and will keep parents in virtual constant contact with the school when it comes to school activities. In order to be able to actively utilize this program you need to follow the steps below.

### **Signing up for School Calendar Notification**

Go to school website at [www.emknights.org](http://www.emknights.org)

1. Click on “Menu”
2. Click on “Calendars”
3. Click on “Rschool”
4. Click on “Notify Me” – follow steps 1, 2, 3, 4

### **Steps for Viewing School Calendar**

1. Go to school website at [www.emknights.org](http://www.emknights.org)
2. Click on “Menu”
3. Click on “Calendars”
4. Click on “Rschool”

If you need further assistance, please contact Tycha Stander at 867-2341 or send an e-mail to [tstander@emknights.org](mailto:tstander@emknights.org). By registering for the “Notify Me” option, you will receive changes to the school calendar in virtual time. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to stay up-to-date with changes made in the school calendar.

## **DISTRICT NEWS**

**Social Studies Assessments** - Over the past several years, the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools, based on the State Social Studies Standards, has identified standards and developed assessments based on the identified standards in the Social Studies curriculum in order to measure competency levels of students. Over the last two years testing took place in the areas of 12th Grade Civics, 9th Grade Geography, 7th Grade Civics and 5th Grade American History. During the last school year we added assessments in 6th Grade World History, 8th Grade American History and 10th Grade World History. For the 12th Grade Civics assessment, students were administered the assessment given by the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services which must be passed in order to become a naturalized U.S. Citizen. The assessment consisted of 100 questions relating to U.S. Civics. The assessment scores from 2016 and 2017 will be used to establish cut scores to measure proficiency as we implement this assessment as a graduation requirement for the Class of 2018. The district will keep you updated regarding the local Social Studies assessments as they gather additional information over the next couple of years.

**Behavioral Specialist** - As our world evolves and changes, so do the needs of our students. Students come to school with a variety of needs, which when appropriately addressed increase student learning. One area of need is having a trained individual on staff who can work with students exhibiting or having been identified with specific behavioral issues that negatively impact their academic progress. Through a cooperative arrangement with Educational Service Unit #3, we will continue to have the services of Mrs. Ami Heffelfinger to work with students identified as needing assistance with their behaviors. Mrs. Heffelfinger is a "Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner" (LIMHP). Mrs. Heffelfinger will be available to our district on Mondays and will work with identified students with the permission of their parents. We believe these services will assist identified students with the behaviors they are exhibiting which impact their educational attainment. We believe these services will help our students and our district as we attempt to meet our mission of "Empowering ALL Students To Achieve Success."

**Safety Drills** - Each year, our students and staff participate in a variety of drills to improve the overall safety of our students and staff. For 2018-2019, all PK-12 students and staff will participate in Lockdown, Lock-in, and Intruder in the Building procedures. We will have one Lockdown and Lock-in training session and two Intruder in the Building training sessions. All of our students will participate in state mandated fire, tornado and bus evacuation drills. Additionally, we will work with the Cass County Sheriff's Department to hold unannounced "Canine Safety Searches" in our buildings and on our grounds. We take safety seriously and feel on-going training is the best method to help assure the overall safety of our students and staff.

**Summer Enrichment Program** - Eight years ago, the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools started a summer enrichment program for students in our district. Over the past seven years our enrollment has grown from 40 students to a record 130 students enrolled in 2016. This summer we had 82 students participate. It was great to have so many of our elementary students participating in summer enrichment. The program was held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday from June 11 through June 28 at the Elmwood School site. This program is very beneficial to students as it adds continuity to learning which mitigates some of the losses in learning which typically occur in the summer. We would like to see this program continue to grow over the next several years. One area where we will be looking to offer additional instruction will be in the area of Reading. We would like to see the summer as a time for students to read and explore areas in which they have a high level of interest. This will allow students to grow in the area of

reading while reading what they have a passion for. In order to promote reading, the school library at the Elmwood site was open on several Monday mornings this summer. Our school librarian, Mrs. Paulsen, was on-site each of these mornings to assist students with their reading. The district would like to thank Mr. Bruce Friedrich, Elementary Principal, and Mrs. Heidi Zierott, Director of Student Services, for all the time and effort they invest each year in making the Summer Enrichment Program possible. We would also like to thank our teachers and aides for all they do to provide this program to our children.

**Pre-School Program** - For the past several years the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools have offered pre-school for three and four year old students in our district. Our program is accredited through Rule 11 of the Nebraska Department of Education and utilizes a state approved curriculum for instruction. For the 2017-2018 school year, our three and four year old programs had a record 53 students enrolled. Our program has grown to the point where we needed to hire an additional half-time Pre-school teacher and will have two full time Pre-school teachers for 2017-18. State law sets a maximum classroom size of 20 students per teacher for Pre-school. Mrs. Kimberly Spilker and Mrs. Jenny Schroll will continue to be our Pre-school teachers this year. As our program continues to grow, we will need to continue planning for the future. In order to plan appropriately, it is always advisable to contact the Elmwood School site during the preceding school year to inform the school of children who will be enrolling in the preschool program for the first time at the start of the upcoming school year.

**Coaches Education Requirements** - All 7-12 coaches in the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools are required to receive certification in "Concussion in Sports," "Heat Illness Prevention," and "Sudden Cardiac Arrest" prior to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The coaches receive the certification by taking on-line courses through the National Federation of High School Activities and passing a test at the end of each course. Also, all of our coaches must have CPR and Defibrillator Training prior to the start of each school year. We have two defibrillators in school, with one specifically available for sports conducted outdoors. I want to thank all of our coaches for volunteering to complete these safety requirements to help maximize the overall safety and well-being of our student-athletes. Our coaches are well trained and are better prepared to address potential safety issues than ever before.

**Student Activity Fee** - The student activity fee for the 2018-2019 school year will remain at \$35 per student with a maximum fee of \$105.00 per family. This is a one-time fee paid by all students participating in a Nebraska School Activities Association sponsored activity. A major benefit to the student and family in paying the fee is that the fee provides each paying student an activity pass that will allow free admission to the student in all school sponsored activities. The activity pass will not allow for free admission into ECNC Conference, NSAA or Booster Club sponsored activities. Students who qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch will have the fee waived upon completion, submission and approval of the appropriate free and reduced lunch application and fee waiver documents found in the Parent-Student Handbook. Students not participating in NSAA activities, including elementary students, can purchase this same activity pass for the \$35 fee, if they so choose.

**Career Education Organizations** - As you may know, The Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools sponsors three very active and successful career education programs in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Skills USA. Over the summer, In FBLA we had 8 students represent Elmwood-Murdock at the 2018 National FBLA Convention in Baltimore Maryland, from June 28 - July 1. We also had 1 student represent our school district at the National FCCLA Conference in Atlanta Georgia from June 27- July 2. All of the students that qualified to participate in these national conferences should be congratulated for their achievements. I would also like to congratulate the sponsors, Ms. Laura Rikli and Mr. Jacob Shaffer, FBLA and Mrs. Lisa Hynes, FCCLA for all their efforts in providing excellent leadership in their respective programs.

## SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

At various times during the school year, the superintendent is called upon to make decisions to cancel or delay the start of school due to inclement weather. Regardless of the information sources the superintendent utilizes, this continues to be one of the most difficult decisions to make each year. In making weather related decisions, the superintendent always weighs the educational necessity of having students in attendance on a regular basis against the potential safety risks of having students in school when the weather is inclement. The superintendent will always attempt to error on the side of student safety. As a parent, you can always exercise your right to keep your child at home if you feel the weather conditions cause an unacceptable safety risk for your child. Please contact the school, as soon as possible, if you make the decision to keep your child home due to weather related safety concerns.

When ever school has a non-scheduled closing, early dismissal, or a late start, parents/students will be contacted directly through "School Messenger" our districts telephone communication system. Please provide the district updated contact information so you can be contacted when the need for communicating with parents or students regarding school arises. We will also use this communications tool if we need to provide important information to parents and students regarding school operations. We have found "School Messenger" to be very effective in communicating with parents and students in very timely manner.

The superintendent will always attempt to make a weather related school closing or late start prior to 6:00 a.m. If possible, the superintendent will attempt to make this information available for the 10:00 p.m. news broadcast prior to the effected day. Weather related school closing information will be carried on television stations KOLN/KGIN Channels 10/11, WOWTV Channel 6, KETV Channel 7, KMTV Channel 3. When you combine these media outlets with "School Messenger" it would appear to be an extremely wide communications base and should provide ample opportunity for students, parents, staff and patrons to receive school closing information.

## ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION

The Elmwood-Murdock Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Ryan Knippelmeyer, Superintendent, 300 Wyoming Street, Murdock, NE 68407, (402) 867-2341, [rknippelmeyer@emknights.org](mailto:rknippelmeyer@emknights.org).

Employees and Others: Ryan Knippelmeyer, Superintendent, 300 Wyoming Street, Murdock, NE 68407, (402) 867-2341, [rknippelmeyer@emknights.org](mailto:rknippelmeyer@emknights.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, (816) 268-0550 (voice), or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or [ocr.kansascity@ed.gov](mailto:ocr.kansascity@ed.gov).

### ELMWOOD-MURDOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT RULE 10 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT JULY 2017

#### DISTRICT MISSION AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

The guided purpose of any institution is the Mission Statement that the institution has determined is the reason for their existence. The mission of the Elmwood-Murdock School District is to “*Empower All Students to Achieve Success*”. The district feels that it is important to emphasize *ALL* knowing that *ALL* individuals have unique needs and different academic and academic behavior goals to meet to make them successful in all avenues of life.

With the transition, the district has decided to take a more in-depth approach in the area of reading to our school improvement process. Yearly, we review multiple data points to ensure that we deliver the highest quality of education to our students in the most efficient and effective manner possible. The district reviews local data on a yearly basis. The school continues to review the assessment data. This data is reviewed yearly. This is an important process to ensure the importance of these scores and to continue to monitor the growth of the individual student. In the area of reading, progress is monitored three times a year in the elementary, junior high and yearly at grades ninth through eleventh.

The district continues to make instructional and curriculum changes to enhance the students’ education based on the assessment information.

Elmwood-Murdock desires to be the best district in the State of Nebraska, regardless of size. Most importantly, Elmwood-Murdock School will continue to be guided by its mission of “*Empowering ALL Students to Achieve Success.*”

#### I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

##### GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

This year the Elmwood-Murdock School District budgeted to spend a total of **\$7,286,075** for the support of educational programs through the General Fund. The expenditures were planned for the following areas:

**Instruction** – Instructional salaries and benefits, fixed payroll costs, supplies, books, computer software, etc. -- **\$4,177,887**

**Support Services** – Library (salaries and benefits, books, supplies); Guidance (salaries and benefits, supplies); Business Administration (salaries and benefits, postage, printing, telephones), etc. -- **\$933,126**

**Operation and Maintenance of Plant** – Heat, electricity, building repair, care of grounds, custodial salaries and benefits, insurance, etc. -- **\$490,434**

**Pupil Transportation** – Bus driver salaries and benefits, gas/oil, repairs, insurance, etc. -- **\$480,694**

**State/Federal Programs** – Title I, Title VI, etc., **\$172,664**

**Necessary Cash Reserve** – Included in the planned expenditures of **\$7,286,075** the district maintains a Cash Reserve of **\$775,000**. The Cash Reserve is a budgetary tool that governmental agencies use to assure a continual cash flow because of the cyclical nature of our receipts. Because taxes, our primary source of funding, are received in several major spurts during the year, we need to have funds in reserve in order to pay our monthly bills when the tax draw from the County Treasurer is low. Our Necessary Cash Reserve, about 11% of the total General Fund Expenditures, is significantly **lower than the 45% of the budget that is allowed under the state statutes.**

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES -- \$7,286,075**

**GENERAL FUND FUNDING SOURCES:** The budgeted sources of income to support the General Fund educational expenditures are as follows:

- Property Taxes** – Excluding County Treasurer’s Fee and Delinquent Tax Allowance -- **\$4,232,324**
- Other Local and County Sources** – Public Power District taxes, interest, fines and fees, investments, beginning balance, etc. -- **\$2,095,215**
- State Sources** – State Aid, special education reimbursement, state apportionment, etc. -- **\$765,882**
- Federal Sources** – Federal Education programs (Title I and Title VI), etc. -- **\$148,708**

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AVAILABLE -- \$7,286,075**

**SPECIAL BUILDING FUND:** The district maintains a Special Building Fund to provide for necessary building related costs. The district levied \$51,516 in this fund for 2017-18 school year.

**DEPRECIATION RESERVE FUND AND EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND:** The district maintains a Depreciation Reserve Fund. This fund anticipates the planned replacement of buses, vans, computers, etc. This year the district budgeted **\$1,056,998** for purchases of this sort. We also budgeted to maintain **\$288,914** in the Employee Benefit Fund for medical flex deductions and to meet current and future claims for unemployment benefits. The funds are supported by transfers from the General Fund.

**SCHOOL LUNCH FUND:** The district budgeted to spend **\$417,737** to operate the school lunch programs in the Elmwood and Murdock buildings through the School Lunch Fund this year. Revenue to meet these expenditures was budgeted to come from the sale of student and adult lunches, state and federal reimbursement, and other sources.

**QUALIFIED CAPITAL PURPOSE UNDERTAKING FUND:** During 2015-16 school year, the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools refinanced the original 2010 General Obligation Build American Bonds. In doing this the bond repayment will now be complete in December 2024 instead of 2028. The district budgeted \$179,461 to repay these bonds and for any necessary expenditures to remove environmental hazards or eliminate accessibility barriers in district buildings..

**BOND FUND –**

For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the district budgeted property taxes in the amount of **\$646,465** for repayment of the Bond Funds.

The district will continue to budget and levy taxes in the Bond Fund until payment of the bond is complete.

The bond was refinanced in 2012 and 2017 and overall saved the district over 1 million dollars.

**II. ENROLLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS 2017-2018**

The district ended the 2017-2018 school year with 460 students enrolled. The class sizes were as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Elmwood</b>	<b>Murdock</b>	
<b>PK</b>	<b>53</b>		
<b>K</b>	<b>47</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>		
<b>7</b>		<b>24</b>	
<b>8</b>		<b>28</b>	
<b>9</b>		<b>23</b>	
<b>10</b>		<b>29</b>	
<b>11</b>		<b>32</b>	
<b>12</b>		<b>36</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>460</b>

**III. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TESTING:**

Each year, the district administers standardized tests to our students to document their achievement. This past year the district administered only one standardized assessments. The district administered the Northwest Evaluation Association “Measures of

Academic Progress” (MAP) in grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the areas of reading and mathematics and in grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> for science. We assess those grade levels twice a year and test 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade during the winter window.

The “MAP” assessment is a tool that measures growth for each individual student with the assessment administered at the start and the end of each academic school year.

Due to the fact this these assessment is given throughout the country, it provides one measure of our students compared with similar students throughout the nation. The results are reported as a percentile. The 50th percentile is considered to be the “average” range. Therefore, as a district, we report the percent of students who are at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

The results for the NWEA-MAP Assessments are as followed:

Grade	Math	Reading
K	98%	96%
1 <sup>st</sup>	85%	94%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	92%	92%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	90%	90%
4 <sup>th</sup>	83%	97%
5 <sup>th</sup>	89%	89%
6 <sup>th</sup>	89%	91%
7 <sup>th</sup>	88%	75%
8 <sup>th</sup>	89%	89%
Average	89%	90%

## **BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION 2018-2019**

### **DISTRICT-WIDE SAFETY PLAN**

Prior to the start of 2000-2001 school year, the Nebraska Department of Education enacted rules and regulations that require school districts to have district-wide safety plans. The rules and regulations require each district to have a Safety Committee that is to meet on an on-going basis to address district-wide school safety. In the case of the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools, the district-wide safety plan and Safety Committee are an extension of our present Crisis Management Team and School Safety Committee. Presently, the district has in place a district-wide safety/crisis plan and a Safety Committee that addresses issues related to school safety. At this time, the Safety Committee is comprised of administrators, non-certified employees, certified employees, parents, students and community members. As part of the district-wide safety plan, the district conducts an annual review of the school system's safety and security plans by an outside source and/or agency. The annual review for the 2017-2018 school year, was conducted in November 2017. The annual review for the 2017-2018 school year included a visit to school buildings to analyze plans, policies, procedures, and practices. A written report of the findings of the annual review was provided to the district. Recommendations made as a result of the annual review were forwarded to the head administrator and to the School Safety and Security Committee and are being considered in making revisions to the district safety plan. The results of the 2017-2018 annual safety review are available for public inspection at the superintendent's office in Murdock.

### **ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION**

The Institute for Environmental Assessment (IEA) was requested by the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools to review and prepare an asbestos management plan identifying the presence of asbestos within the district school buildings. The Institute's federally certified inspectors, planners, and public health and engineering consultants worked in conjunction with school administrative personnel to identify asbestos-containing materials. In addition, IEA performed a re-inspection in December 1991 and at later dates, required by the AHERA regulations. Asbestos is a mineral fiber associated with increased levels of disease when inhaled. The risk rating procedure that the Institute used in commenting on the asbestos was developed in conjunction with national experts in the areas of industrial medicine, toxicology, industrial hygiene, and engineering. After reviewing the characteristics of the district buildings, they prepared a management plan for each building, a copy of which is maintained at the central district office and also in the administrative office for each major building describing the asbestos plan and the intended responses.

The district implemented its management plan as of July 9, 1989, and has been conducting six-month periodic surveillance of all asbestos-containing building materials. The periodic surveillance and re-inspections are conducted to provide a continuous assessment to assure safety conscious management of asbestos-containing building materials.

The initial and updated management plan is available, without cost or restriction, within five business days of such request during normal business hours in the administrative office of each school or contact the district's Asbestos Program Manager, Ryan Knippelmeyer, at (402) 867-2341.

### **ATHLETIC ADMISSION PRICES AND PASSES**

The admission prices for varsity athletic events at Elmwood-Murdock High School will be \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students (K-12), for the 2018-2019 school year. Admission prices for junior varsity and junior high activities will be \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students (K-12). Admission prices are necessary to enable the athletic program to be more self-sustaining.

In order to give our district patrons a benefit, the district will be offering a season pass for adults, students, and families for the 2018-2019 varsity athletic contests. If you purchase a season pass, you will be admitted into all school sponsored varsity athletic contests. Season passes will not be accepted at Booster Club, ECNC Conference and NSAA sponsored events held at the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools.

The price of season passes is as follows:

- Adult Season Pass - \$85.00
- Student Season Pass - \$35.00
- Family Season Pass - \$150.00 (Parents and children K-12)

In order to receive a pass, you will need to mail a check to the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools at the address listed below. We ask that you include the name or, in case of the family pass, names that you would like listed on the pass. Your pass will be mailed to you as soon as possible. You may also purchase a pass at the high school office during normal business hours.

Senior citizens (62 and over) may receive a Senior Citizen Season Pass, at no charge, at the school office in Murdock during regular business hours. Identification verifying age will be required in order to receive a pass. Senior citizens will not be admitted into games, at no charge, if they do not show a Senior Citizen Pass.

Please make your check payable to the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools and send the check and the name/names to be included on the pass to:

Tycha Stander  
Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools  
300 Wyoming Street  
Murdock, NE 68407

## STUDENT REGISTRATION

All students who did not attend the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools this past year should register prior to the start of school. All parents/legal guardians should come to school to fill out an application for admission as soon as possible. The information required for proper registration includes: student's name, address, and telephone number; social security number; proof of immunization and school physical; parent/legal guardian name, address, and phone number; who to notify in case of emergency; previous school(s) attended; etc. The parent/legal guardian also needs to present a certified copy of the student's birth certificate. The process is extremely important as we decide the resident status of all students and plan for the smooth transition into our school. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Please call Tycha Stander at 867-2341 to schedule a registration appointment.

### NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ADMISSION- BIRTH CERTIFICATE, IMMUNIZATION, PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND VISUAL EVALUATION

Nebraska law requires that the parents or legal guardian furnish the following documents to the school:

- (1) A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, prior to admission of a child for the first time. Other reliable proof of the child's identify and age, accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate, may be used in lieu of a birth certificate. An affidavit is defined as a notarized statement by an individual who can verify the reason a copy of the birth certificate cannot be produced.
- (2) Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse, within six months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a physical examination.
- (3) Evidence of a visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, within six months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a visual evaluation. The visual evaluation is to consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity.
- (4) Evidence of protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella (chicken pox) and Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib) and other disease as required by applicable law, by immunization, prior to enrollment. Exceptions are allowed based on: (1) written statement by health care provider that immunization would be injurious to the student or a family member or (2) affidavit of a religious reason for non-immunization. Provisional enrollment is allowed based on: (1) written statement of health care provider that immunizations have begun, and immunization is continued as rapidly as medically feasible and (2) written statement of parent or guardian that immunizations have been completed, where the child's parent is in the military, the child is enrolling following residence outside the state, and proof of immunization is given within 60 days. Refer to HHS regulations, 173 NAC 3.

Forms to submit objections are available from the school.

The following information is provided to assist a parent or guardian in receiving information regarding free or reduced-cost visual evaluations for low-income families who qualify: Information about free or reduced-cost visual evaluations may be obtained from the Nebraska Optometric Association (NOA) <http://www.noaonline.org/>, 201 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 400 P.O. Box 81706, Lincoln, NE 68501 – Fax 402-476-6547—Phone 402-474-7716. To identify a participating SEE TO LEARN doctor nearest you, call 1-800-960-3937. For assistance from VISION USA call 1-800-766-4466. In addition, Lions Clubs though out Nebraska are committed to assisting disadvantaged families by sponsoring eye exams and eyewear. NOA member doctors will provide eye exams at no cost if no other resources are available.

## SCHEDULES

A final class schedule for Middle School and Senior High Students will be distributed on the first day of school on Thursday, August 16 2018. Students will not be allowed to drop and/or add classes once school is in session for the 2018-2019 school year.

## SCHOOL PHYSICALS

Present Nebraska State Statute requires students entering Kindergarten or 7<sup>th</sup> grade, or transferring into the district from any other state, to have a physical examination by a qualified physician within six months prior to entering school. The statute, however, allows parents to submit a written objection to this provision.

## WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS????

All Elmwood-Murdock personnel are interested in having good public relations with residents of our school district. Even when we disagree about something, we want to disagree agreeably. We also want everyone to have the correct information. We are willing to visit with individuals whenever they contact us with questions. The only exception to patrons receiving complete answers would be if the matter discussed is a personnel issue. Then we would have to decline to comment on that situation.

When you have questions, comments, concerns or complaints, please contact the individuals at the school who are responsible for those areas. By doing this as events occur, the question will be answered without becoming a larger problem that is more difficult to solve.

You will be treated in a courteous manner whenever you make an inquiry. The reception will be pleasant and the discussion will be conducted in a professional way, even if there is a disagreement. No one will ever "take it out" on students because a question is raised.

### QUESTIONS CONCERNING:

1. Child's school work
2. Discipline
3. Bus routes/bus times
4. Class schedules
5. Athletics
6. Health problems
7. School regulations
8. School district policies
9. Student absences
10. Lunch account/bills
11. Other bills
12. Special Education
13. Curriculum concerns

### INDIVIDUALS TO CONTACT:

Teacher and then the Student Services Coordinator  
Teacher and then the principal(s)  
Elementary Principal  
Student Services Coordinator  
Coach then athletic director  
Nurse then the principal(s)  
Principal(s)  
Superintendent  
Principal(s)  
Lunch Account Secretary-Michelle Meyer  
Superintendent  
Case Manager, Student Services Coordinator  
Teacher, Student Services Coordinator

## SCHOOL OPENING INFORMATION

Teacher workshops are scheduled on Monday, August 13, Tuesday, August 14 and Wednesday, August 15, 2018. The first day, a full day of school, for students will be on Thursday, August 16, 2018. Buses will run so students will arrive at both Elmwood and Murdock prior to 8:00 a.m. Shuttle buses will then take students to Elmwood or Murdock, depending on their assigned attendance center. School is scheduled for a 3:20 p.m. dismissal at the elementary and a 3:30 p.m. dismissal at the middle school/senior high school on Thursday, August 16, 2018. After dismissal, shuttle buses will take students back to either Elmwood or Murdock, depending on their place of residence.

### SCHOOL STARTING TIMES

PreK AM	8:15 – 10:45
PreK PM	11:20 – 3:20
Elementary (K-6)	8:15 – 3:20/1:15
Middle School/Senior High (7-12)	8:10 – 3:30/1:30

### BREAKFAST/HOT LUNCH

The 2018-2019 breakfast/lunch prices will be as follows:

Breakfast Prices:	Students (K-12)	\$2.20
	Adults	\$2.50
Lunch Prices:	Students (K-6)	\$2.80
	(7-12)	\$3.10
	Adults	\$3.80
	Milk	.40 cents

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, marital status, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its program or activities. It is the intent of the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools to comply with both the letter and the spirit of the law in making certain discrimination does not exist in its policies, regulations and operations. Grievance procedures have been established for anyone who feels discrimination has been shown by the Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools.

Inquiries regarding grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent of Schools, 300 Wyoming Street, Murdock, NE or calling the superintendent at 867-2341.

## SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION LAW

On July 1, 2000, the State of Nebraska began the implementation of new rules and regulations regarding school immunization. Parents of students entering kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade should pay close attention to the specific age group requirements. Additionally, parents of all other students should be aware of the need for two doses of MMR vaccine for the 2018-2019 school year. According to state law, children will need to be in compliance with these immunization requirements before attending classes in the fall. Students who are not in full compliance will be sent home and not allowed to enter school until they have met all immunization requirements for their student age group. Exemptions shall be granted for: 1) medical exceptions for health reasons substantiated by a signed statement from a physician; 2) religious conflict substantiated by a signed affidavit from the student or the student's legal guardian, if the student is a minor. The immunization law applies to all students enrolled in Nebraska schools. All information regarding a student's immunization record will be strictly confidential. The release of information pertaining to a student's immunization records will require the written permission of the student or the legal guardian, if the student is a minor.

## JUNIOR HIGH/SENIOR HIGH LAPTOP ROLLOUT DATES

An orientation and distribution of laptops will take place on the following dates. The meeting for your student's grade level is mandatory and both student and parent are required to attend. Equipment will not be issued to students who do not have appropriate attendance i.e. student AND Parent.

- Monday, August 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Murdock new gym -- Grades 9-12 in the fall of 2018
- Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 6:30 pm in Murdock new gym -- Grades 7 in the fall of 2018
- Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Murdock new gym -- Grades 8 in the fall of 2018

During these meetings we will cover the following topics

- Acceptable Use Policy
- Care of laptops
- Using laptop at school
- Printing
- Laptop software

The Elmwood-Murdock Schools will charge a \$50 per year fee for laptop use by the student. This fee will be paid before a laptop is issued to the student. You will pay this fee on the night your student has their orientation meeting.

## ELEMENTARY NEWS FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

**Bruce Friedrich**  
**Elementary Principal**

We would like to welcome everyone to another exciting new year at the Elmwood-Murdock Elementary School. Our custodial staff has been very busy cleaning and preparing the school for the 2018-2019 school year. We have completed concrete work around the building and have also refinished the stage. The building and grounds look great and we would like to thank our custodians Ben Kastens, Michelle Erixson, and Luke Dlouhy for all of their efforts in preparing our campus for the new school year.

The elementary building was again a very busy place during the summer. We offered four Summer Enrichment Classes and had 82 students in attendance. Students had the opportunities to practice reading, writing, math, and do craft projects. I would like to thank Jenny Schroll, Morgan Manley, Jen Justus, Diane Vice, Kate Nutzman, Cara Furgerson, Deb Mumford, Heather Topil, Kim Griffin, Rhonda Towle, and JoDee Paulsen, for teaching and assisting with summer school classes. Rhonda Towle was able to help students with speech lessons and Mrs. Paulsen also kept the library open during June and July so that students could check out books and take Accelerated Reader Tests.

We also hosted the Ox Bow Vet Camp at the elementary school during the week of June 4, 2018. Students from Elmwood-Murdock and other school districts attended this camp.

We are starting our ninth year of preschool and again will be offering a morning and an afternoon session. The morning session is typically designated for three year old children and the afternoon session is typically designated for four year old children or children that will be eligible to attend kindergarten in the following school year. However, we do have some flexibility in which session a student may attend regardless of their age. Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding preschool.

We would like to welcome our new staff to the building. Cayle Burbach will be teaching 3rd grade. Morgan Manley will be going from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to special education. Judi Sigler has been hired as an elementary school counselor. Trisha Nichelson is our new curriculum director and student services coordinator. Celena Mortimer will be teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Gary Grinvalds is our new vocal music teacher. Cora DeMike will be moving from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to kindergarten and Curt Backemeyer will be moving from special education to elementary physical education and be our math advantage teacher.

Starting time for the Elementary School is 8:15 a.m. Students should be in the building no later than 8:10 a.m. so that they have time to get to their classrooms before the tardy bell. School is dismissed at 3:20 p.m.

The Elementary Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14, 2018 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Parents and students will be able to meet with teachers and staff and visit their classrooms. Each homeroom or grade level teacher will send a letter home to welcome and to introduce themselves to each of their students. These letters will be mailed during the first week of August. Parents may stop by the office during the open house to turn in paper work, pay for lunches, or drop off any other records or information we may need. We look forward to working with you and your child during the new school year.

### **S.O.S. NEWS**

The elementary parent organization S.O.S. (Support Our Students) has raised thousands of dollars to help fund items and programs for our students. In the past, the S.O.S. funded an elementary art program, and assemblies. They have also funded an outdoor education day for all of the elementary students.

The S.O.S. also holds a Fall Festival for all of the students in October. They have also helped fund music field trips for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades to the Holland Center. The S.O.S. has helped fund the annual Science Fair and the Family Reading Night. They have also provided treats for our students on Field Day.

Our major fundraiser is the Spring Carnival and that is usually held in April. In the past we have also hosted a soup supper at one of the high school football games. The S.O.S. has also purchased playground equipment. We are currently looking at funding some shade for preschool play area.

We could not raise all of these funds and support the various activities without the tremendous support of our parents and community members. We very much appreciate all of the time, resources, and talents that have been invested in our school and young people by our parent volunteers, community members, and staff.

Please consider becoming involved with the S.O.S. organization. We have monthly meetings where we plan events, fundraisers, and discuss the needs of the elementary school. We will also explain how you can also become involved by helping at the various fundraisers or other events that are scheduled throughout the school year.

Please contact Bruce Friedrich at the elementary office, 994-2125 or email [bfriedrich@emknights.org](mailto:bfriedrich@emknights.org) if you have any questions or would like more information regarding the S.O.S. parent organization. Thanks for all of your support!

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The bus schedules for the routes will be mailed during the first week of August. The morning shuttle buses to Murdock from Elmwood will be leaving at approximately 7:50 a.m. The morning shuttle bus to Elmwood from Murdock will leave at approximately 7:55 a.m. Students need to arrive early so that they do not miss their shuttle bus. The afternoon shuttle bus will leave Elmwood at approximately 3:25 p.m. and arrive at Murdock at about 3:35 p.m. The afternoon shuttle from Murdock will leave at approximately 3:40 p.m. and arrive at Elmwood at about 3:50 p.m. Please contact Bruce Friedrich if you have any transportation questions.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Tim Allemang, Administrative Corner**  
**7-12 Principal**

The Elmwood-Murdock JR/SR High has successfully completed another school year! It was full of excitement, fun, and outstanding achievements. There were many accomplishments in the classroom and the various courts and fields of competition.

We are also proud to announce the graduation of 36 seniors from the class of 2018, and we wish them the best of luck with their future endeavors. As we wish them well, we move on to the 2018-2019 school year with high hopes of new achievements and accomplishments.

Our teachers, custodians, and your administrative team have all been working during the summer to prepare for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Elmwood-Murdock Booster Club is working hard at acquiring new calendar ads for the upcoming school year, as well as the members will be looking to send out new membership letters and planning for the annual Tailgate BBQ, which is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2018. The tailgate will start at 5:00 p.m. and run until around 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. This will be an exciting evening, as we will be playing the Johnson Brock Eagles. We hope everyone will come out and join in the fun and food and help cheer our Elmwood-Murdock Knights on to victory.

Anyone interested in joining the Booster Club, helping, or attending the Booster Club meetings is encouraged to view the Daily Bulletin found on PowerSchool, school calendar on the school web site or to call and ask for Mr. Allemang at 867-2341 or you may email him at [talleman@emknights.org](mailto:talleman@emknights.org). We also welcome and encourage anyone to attend the monthly meetings. Incoming 7th grade parents are especially encouraged to come and be a part of the fun and supporting our Knights. Everyone's help is crucial, as we will soon be working on some of our major fundraising events for the new school year.

I'd also like to remind all incoming 7th grade students and their parents of the 7th grade Orientation meeting and tour, which will take place on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Murdock school site and will be located in the old gym. It is a great time to view the facilities and meet your new teachers. We encourage everyone to come and take full advantage of this significant event. We also remind parents of 7th graders to be up-to-date on their child's shots and getting a physical if planning on participating in sports activities. Please contact our school nurse for any questions regarding shots and/or physicals.

In closing, we are looking forward to starting the new school year and seeing both new and familiar faces. Go Knights!!!

**UPDATES IN THE AREA OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION,  
ASSESSMENT, GUIDANCE/COUNSELING  
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION  
Trisha Nicholson, Director of Student Services**

It is with great honor and excitement that I get to serve Elmwood-Murdock as the Director of Student Services. I have worked as a teacher, instructional coach, and assistant athletic director for Ashland-Greenwood Schools for the past 18 years. In each of the roles, I have sought to ensure success for each student by providing the best instructional opportunities and supports possible. Most importantly, an excellent education is not possible without the collaboration of students, parents, and staff. One of the greatest takeaways from the conversations I have had with staff, parents and students at Elmwood-Murdock thus far is the pride and enthusiasm in this school and community. I look forward to becoming a part of this community with my own family and working together to continue the success at Elmwood-Murdock. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to discuss. Looking forward to a great year ahead of us! Go Knights!

**Birth- 5 Services**

Many children are born with or acquire conditions that can delay their normal growth and development. Fortunately, many of these conditions can be improved if parents recognize the problem early and seek help. These conditions may impact a child's vision, speech/language, motor skills, socialization, thinking or hearing. If you suspect your child may have developmental delays, the District offers comprehensive services for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children who have disabilities.

Elmwood-Murdock is committed to providing developmentally appropriate opportunities for children to learn and grow in a safe, stimulating, and nurturing environment, using research based practices. Check the milestones your child should have reached by his or her 1st birthday. This link provided by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention gives specific milestones. Please remember that these are only guidelines. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/milestones-1yr.html>

If a parent or a physician has questions or concerns about their child's development for infants and toddlers to 3 years of age that person should contact the local Early Development Network Referral Agency of the child/family or call: Nebraska Child Find (toll Free) at 1-888-806-6287. For additional information on Nebraska Child Find for all children, please visit: <http://www.childfind.ne.gov>.

Once a referral has been made the following will take place:

- 1. The referral will be appointed to a Services Coordinator from Education Service Unit #3, who will contact the family within seven days to determine if they are interested in Early Development Network services.
- 2. With the family's permission, the Services Coordinator will arrange for an assessment with the local school district to determine the unique needs of the child and his or her eligibility. The Services Coordinator can link the family with community resources before the assessment if needed.
- 3. If the child qualifies, the Services Coordinator will work with Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools to identify others who can participate on a team to help the family develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), which sets goals for the child and family and identifies activities and services needed to achieve these goals. The IFSP will be completed within 45 days, so the family can access Early Development Network services as quickly as possible.

If as a parent you have concerns or questions with your three to five year old child's development set up an appointment for your child to be screened by contacting Director of Student Services, Trisha Nicholson at [tnichelson@emknights.org](mailto:tnichelson@emknights.org) or 402-867-2341 or 402-994-2125.

## ACT INFORMATION

Students are encouraged to take the ACT during their junior year for the first time. The ACT is an achievement test to ensure what a student has learned when they are in school. The ACT includes four multiple-choice sections (Reading, English, Math and Science) and the writing section is optional. Many students and parents ask when they should take the ACT for the first time. The honest answer is it really depends for the individual. There are four guiding questions that assist in determining if you are ready to take the ACT for the first time:

Have you completed a higher-level math class that has given you the opportunity to know the math skills that you will be required to demonstrate on the ACT? Or are you registered for a math course your senior year of high school?

When are the application deadlines for college and scholarships that you are interested in?

Are you planning on taking dual credit classes your senior year of high school?

Are you involved in sports or activities that would not allow you the time to prepare for the assessment?

When you review these questions, many times, it will help determine what is the best time for you to take the assessment. Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools believe that we are competitive in this area with the content that is being taught in the classroom. This year we will be evaluating the online ACT prep and the John Baylor Test Prep options to see what will be most effective and efficient for students. Further information regarding these options will be available early in the fall. The student will be required to put some extra time in outside of the school day to best prepare for the ACT test.

The following list includes the test dates for the 2018-2019 school year. Registration is typically due about 1 month prior to the test date. Additional information about the ACT registration process can be found on their webpage. It is the students responsibility to register for the ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

Test Dates: September 8, 2018 October 27, 2018 December 8, 2018 February 9, 2019 April 13, 2019 June 8, 2019 July 13, 2019

### ELMWOOD-MURDOCK BOOSTER CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Elmwood-Murdock Booster Club supports our Junior High and High School students by raising thousands of dollars each year to pay for things the students need, but the school district does not supply. The help we provide supports student activities while keeping your property taxes lower.

We support athletic, academic, and extracurricular activities that are a vital part of the educational experience of our students during their years at Elmwood-Murdock.

#### Here are some examples of past purchases:

Volleyball serving machine

T-shirts for various clubs teams

Assisting with summer Nationals in FBLA, FCCLA and SkillsUSA

Football equipment

Musical equipment

Warm-ups for various activities

Husker volleyball camp

Provided food and water for marching band

Pay for Pep Band/Spirit Squad into District and State games

Parent-Teacher Conference meals for teachers

New camera for Journalism Class

Most Improved and Perfect Attendance awards for students

Positive Behavior Support Prizes – For the Catch E-M Being Good Drawings

This doesn't happen by magic.

It happens because people like you volunteer their time to organize a volleyball tournament, pass signup sheets around at athletic events, sell hot dogs, nachos and buttons, talk to area businesses, or plan the menu for our annual pork barbecue. They contribute their best ideas, and a little time, to make Elmwood-Murdock school a much better place.

By joining the Elmwood-Murdock Booster Club and getting involved, you can be part of this successful team, make new friends, and stay involved in educating the youth in our community. You can help maintain a proud tradition of support for our students and our school.

At our monthly meetings, we plan events, discuss the district's needs, and decide how our money will be spent.

Volunteer today! Call Tim Allemang at the school office, 867-2341 for further information.

### Booster Club Tailgate August 24

Yes, that's right, the annual Tailgate is scheduled for Friday, August 24 during the Johnson Brock game. The Booster Club needs volunteers to help organize the Tailgate, and to make potato salad, bring baked goods, and serve dinners before and during the game.

Call Tim Allemang at the school office, 867-2341 or email [talleman@emknights.org](mailto:talleman@emknights.org) for more information.

**ELMWOOD-MURDOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**August**

- 13-14-15 - Teacher Workdays
- 16 - First Day of School – PK – 12<sup>th</sup> Students

**September**

- 3 - NO SCHOOL – Labor Day

**October**

- 3 - NO SCHOOL – Parent-Teacher Conferences 10:30-6:30
- 12 - End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – 40 Days
- 19 - NO SCHOOL – Fall Break
- 22 - NO SCHOOL – Teacher Professional Development

**November**

- 21-22-23 - NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

**December**

- 21 - 12:50 dismissal-Elementary/1:00 dismissal – JH/HS
- 21 - End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter/1<sup>st</sup> Semester – 45 days/85 days
- 22-26 - NSAA Moratorium

**January**

- 3 - Start of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester for Staff and Students
- 14 - NO SCHOOL – Teacher Professional Development

**February**

- 8 - NO SCHOOL – Parent-Teacher Conferences 10:00-6:00
- 11 - NO SCHOOL – Teacher workday
- 28 - NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

**March**

- 1 - NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
- 7-8 - NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
- 15 - End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – 45 days

**April**

- 19 - NO SCHOOL – Easter Break
- 22 - NO SCHOOL – Easter Break

**May**

- 11 - Graduation
- 22 - 12:40 dismissal-Elementary/1:00 dismissal – JH/HS
- 22 - End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter/2<sup>nd</sup> Semester – 46 days/91 days
- 23 - Teacher Workday

Student Days – 176

Teacher Days - 185

## GET CONNECTED WITH ELMWOOD-MURDOCK

With the world of technology used by so many people – The Elmwood-Murdock School has been sending more and more school communication to students, parents, grandparents, and patrons by email. We would like to expand our email communication so that everyone would be included in the district or any where in the world, your family (grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, cousins) and even friends. So we are asking for your help in providing emails of anyone that would like to get the Elmwood-Murdock information. Please fill out the form, call or email the names and email address to Tycha Stander at 402-867-2341 or [tstander@emknights.org](mailto:tstander@emknights.org) so we can include them in our communication.

_____ Name	_____ Email address
_____ Name	_____ Email address
_____ Name	_____ Email address
_____ Name	_____ Email address

## 2018-2019 SUPPLY LIST

### PRESCHOOL

Paint Shirt with name on it  
Extra set of clothes: underwear, socks, shoes  
1 Box of Kleenex  
2 Containers of Clorox Wipes  
Regular Book bag

### KINDERGARTEN

Gym shoes-shoes with clean soles to be left at school (velcro or slip on if possible)  
20 glue sticks  
1 pkg. of wide washable markers (Classic Colors)-Per Semester-or 2 at beginning of school  
1 container of Clorox wipes  
1 box of Kleenex  
Crayons-small box (No Jumbo Size Crayons Please -Per Quarter-or bring 4 at beginning of school)  
Fiskar Scissors  
Headphones for computers-label with name  
Backpack-label with name  
1 Plastic Pencil Box  
Pencil Tip Erasers  
1 Package of Napkins  
Please label everything, including coats or sweaters worn to school.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

Gym shoes/clean  
1 box crayons -NO LARGER THAN 48  
#2 pencils (20)  
1 4 oz bottle of Elmer's Glue  
Glue sticks (24)  
Pink eraser  
Washable Markers  
Fiskar Scissors  
1 pocket folders  
Pencil Box  
2 Clorox Wipes  
1 large box of tissues  
1 Mini flashlight  
Backpack-Without wheels please  
Please label all items with child's name.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

**\*\*PLEASE LABEL EVERY ITEM WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME**  
Velcro Gym shoes-shoes with clean soles to be left at school  
#2 PLAIN yellow pencils (10 for the year)  
1 pink erasers  
1 spiral bound notebook, single subject, wide ruled  
SMALL box of crayons – NO LARGER THAN 24 in a box  
Washable markers-NO LARGER THAN 12 in a box  
2 boxes of tissues  
3 glue sticks  
2 containers of Clorox Wipes  
Backpack without wheels  
Headphones  
\*\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

**Novelty plastic wrapped pencils or mechanical pencils**  
**Ink pens or permanent markers**  
**Pencil Box**  
**Large notebook/trapper keepers/binders**  
**Pocket folders**  
**Pencil sharpeners**  
**Rulers**  
**Scissors**

### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

Gym shoes-shoes with clean soles to be left at school  
Crayons- 24 pack  
Markers-8 pack  
40 #2 pencils (20 per semester)  
Large scissors  
2 single subject notebooks  
10 Dry erase markers(5 per semester)

2 containers Clorox Wipes  
2 Composition Notebooks  
3 Pocket Folders  
Headphones to be left at school  
3 boxes of tissues  
4 pens of any color  
Backpack  
2 boxes of either gallon, sandwich, or snack size zip lock bags  
\*Please bring all items and we can store and label them at school

### 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

5 Spiral Notebooks  
2 Composition Notebooks  
30 Yellow #2 Pencils or Mechanical Pencils with lead  
12 Blue erasable pens  
6-8 Checking pens (any color)  
Markers-Crayons-Colored Pencils  
Erasers  
6 Pocket folders  
2 boxes of tissues  
Pair of scissors (larger)  
8 Glue sticks or 1 glue bottle  
Clean athletic shoes for the gym  
10 Dry erase markers  
2 Containers of Disinfecting wipes  
5 Paper sacks for book covers  
Ear Buds for computer class  
1 inch white binder  
10-12 Binder dividers  
Large Ziploc bags would be appreciated but are optional  
\*Please bring all items to school and we will store and label!

### 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Please label items with name or initials.  
Gym shoes-shoes with clean soles to be left at school  
Plastic Pencil Box  
Dry erase markers with eraser  
Pens  
Red pen  
Markers-Crayons-Colored Pencils  
Glue sticks  
1 Large container of Clorox wipes  
1 Large boxes of Kleenex  
6 Spiral notebooks  
Pencils  
Large eraser  
Scissors  
Ruler (cm and in)  
Basic Calculator  
Protractor  
Headphones(preferably ear buds)  
Trapper Keeper (Optional), however, it is a great way to stay organized when switching classes! Thanks!

### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Please label items with name or initials.  
Gym shoes – shoes with clean soles to be left at school  
Pens – blue or black (preferably erasable)  
Markers or crayons or colored pencils  
Glue Sticks  
Large boxes of tissues  
6 SPIRAL notebooks  
Clorox wipes  
Pencils  
Scissors  
Ruler (cm and in)  
Basic Calculator  
Dry erase markers  
Headphones  
4 Jumbo book covers or paper sacks-Students will be asked to cover all of their textbooks)  
Pencil case or bag  
Trapper Keeper (optional) but helps with organizational skills when switching classes

## **JH Supply List for 2018-2019**

### **PE/Health (Mr. Pryor)**

- ✓ 1 inch 3 ring binder with side punches
- ✓ Loose leaf notebook paper (no spiral notebooks please)
- ✓ Section divider sheets with tabs
- ✓ 3 black ink pens (no colored gel pens or blue ink pens please)
- ✓ Colored pencils with skins tones
- ✓ Gym clothes including T-shirt, shorts, socks, tennis shoes

### **Social Studies (Mrs. Schmidt)**

- ✓ Notebook to stay in the classroom for current events
- ✓ Notebook or paper for note-taking and assignments
- ✓ Pens/Pencils
- ✓ Optional items:
- ✓ Folder for organization

### **English (Mrs. Bornemeier)**

- ✓ A notebook or loose-leaf paper for taking notes.
- ✓ Black or Blue Pens
- ✓ Any kind of Pencil with eraser

### **Math (Mrs. Tennial)**

- ✓ MUST HAVE a calculator (simple scientific calculator is the best but any will work as long as it has a square root symbol)
- ✓ Pencils and paper (either loose leaf or a notebook).
- ✓ pens to grade

### **Industrial Technology (Mr. Brothers)**

- ✓ Spiral notebook and mechanical pencils

### **Science (Mrs. Stock)**

- ✓ Pens and pencils
- ✓ 3 subject spiral notebook
- ✓ Colored pencils (8-12 pack)

### **Family Consumer Science (Mrs. Hynes)**

- ✓ Loose leaf lined paper (to be kept in classroom for jornal/notes)
- ✓ 7<sup>th</sup> grade Sewing Project ... a letter will go out at the beginning of each quarter.

### **English (Mrs. Guenther)**

- ✓ Spiral notebook for notes
- ✓ Pens/pencils
- ✓ Highlighter

### **Pre-Algebra (Mrs. Guenther)**

- ✓ Spiral notebook for notes
- ✓ Pencils with erasers
- ✓ Simple scientific calculator
- ✓ highlighter