

DECEMBER, 2021

Post Graduation Options Include More Than Just College for Eastridge Students

It wasn't too long ago that the only measure of success after high school was what college someone was going to attend. These days skilled trades and advanced manufacturing jobs present the types of opportunities that used to be reserved for people who have gone on to further their education.

"There are hundreds, if not thousands, of openings in these fields right now," said Rich Turner, the Director of Workforce Development for the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association. "This is due to not having enough skilled workers and the growth of these industries in the region."

He also doesn't see this situation changing anytime soon.

"The average age of someone in manufacturing is about 54 years old, so there needs to be more people to backfill these jobs as those people get ready to retire."

Turner, who is a 1995 graduate of Eastridge, points out that the nature of the work being done in these fields has changed. Once seen as dirty and unglamorous, they now use the latest technology and re-

quire employees to possess a wide range of skills.

"These fields used to be thought of as something for people who weren't good at traditional school subjects,



but you have to be good at math, English, logic as well as being able to use your hands and be creative."

Earlier this fall Eastridge hosted a college and career fair. Not only did it give students a chance to hear about what these fields had to offer, it also gave them the opportunity to meet face to face with potential employers.

"Just having that awareness, and knowing that there are those opportunities, more than just the traditional college path, is great for our

students," according to Eastridge Assistant Principal Chris Whipple.

"A lot of these companies offer great benefits and earn while you learn programs so you have no loans to pay off after you earn an advanced certificate."

Doreen Goosen the Director of Counseling at Eastridge is overwhelmed by the need these companies are facing.

"There are so many opportunities that our kids have available to them, these companies are really dying to

get their hands on these kids and get them started."

While so many other industries are seeing reductions and scaling back, manufacturing in our region continues to expand. In fact, there's never been a better time to get a job in the field.

"There are actually more manufacturing jobs now in our region than there were in 1980, when Kodak, Xerox and Bausch and Lomb were at their peak," said Turner.





LANCER PRIDE

Little Women Marks a Big Return for Eastridge Performing Arts



The stage in the Eastridge auditorium sprang back to life for the first time in over a year when the Drama Department presented the classic, *Little Women* from November 4-6. Right after the curtain went down on that performance, they began preparing for the spring musical, *Pippin* which will hit the stage March 24-26. Look for more information soon on the district website.

Eastridge Welcomes New AP



Eastridge High School is pleased to announce a new addition to the building's administration team. Stephanie Bliss comes to EHS from East High School and will replace Chris Whipple, who is being reassigned to the Middle School. Whipple is taking over for Brian Kurdziel, who has moved on to a position in another district.

"I wanted to work in East Irondequoit because of the diversity of the students. I believe that Eastridge is a true representation of what all schools in Monroe County should look like," said Ms. Bliss.

"I want students to know that Ms. Bliss will always listen to them and that they are our most valuable asset. I will always maintain high expectations with high support."

LP Students Hear Native American Legends

Perry Ground could go by a lot of titles. Educator, entertainer, storyteller just to name a few. All of those descriptions were on display last month when Mr. Ground, a member of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation visited Laurelton Pardee to share traditional stories from the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois Confederacy.

Mr. Ground has presented at schools throughout New York State, the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and even overseas in places like Belgium, Croatia and Serbia.





For the Lancer Band There's No Place Like Dome

After a year that saw them silenced by a pandemic the Eastridge Marching Band returned to the field this year fueled by imagination.

Performing a show entitled, "Imagine Playing Together Again" the Lancers closed out the season as always with the New York State Championships at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

The band's final score of 88.45 earned them a sixth place finish in the always competitive Small School 1 class and was the highest score they had received at the finals in a decade.

"After a year off, the band was eager to get back at it and to make our community proud," said Band Di-

rector Jeff Hoffman. "We look forward to welcoming new students to the group in the spring and continuing the long tradition of the Lancer Band."

Students in grades 6-12 can join the band if interested, contact Mr. Hoffman at: Jeffrey_Hoffman@east-iron.monroe.edu.



Dates to Remember in December

December 13-Eastridge Winter Concert 7 PM
December 14-Board of Education Meeting 6 PM
December 17-Eastridge Jazz Ensemble 7 PM
December 22-Middle School/Eastridge 2nd Quarter Report
December 24-Winter Recess Begins
January 3-Winter Recess Ends

Help the ICC by Giving for Good

The East Irondequoit Central School District is partnering with the East Irondequoit Teachers Association to help our neighbors in need. The Give for Good campaign is a friendly competition between the schools to see which one can collect the most donations for the Irondequoit Community Cupboard.

If you'd like to donate, you can bring items to any of our schools or directly to the ICC.

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ROCHESTER, NY 14609
WWW.EASTIRON.ORG

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East Irondequoit Board Corner

In each edition of this newsletter we will profile a member of the East Irondequoit Board of Education. The Board is comprised of nine district residents who volunteer their time to serve three year terms. In this issue we meet School Board member Jessica Krupa.

Q. How does having children attending school in East Irondequoit and also being a teacher in another district give you a unique perspective as a board member?

A. Being a parent can bring a "real time" perspective to the board. I can relate to the programs and policies that are affecting students because I am experiencing their impact at home. Being a teacher of 20 years, I have seen how the demands on districts, staff and students has evolved and become more challenging. It allows me to see things from many

different angles and can help those that have not been in the classroom see that side. My take is, the more perspectives, the better to help us address all the needs of the district.

Q. Are there drawbacks to being a parent as well as a board member?

A. I wouldn't say there are drawbacks, just challenges. The board is committed to being involved on as many school campuses as possible, which can be challenging for me as my husband and I are also raising a family. There are times when I have to miss my own kids events or activ-

ities in order to fulfill my BOE duties.

Q. What surprised you most once you became a board member?

A. The amount of reading, learning and researching that goes on before meetings in order to be adequately prepared. My grandfather was a long time school board member in my home town of Tully and he would talk about the demands and work it took to be the kind of school board member that had a positive impact on the district. He wasn't wrong, but I enjoy (just about) every minute of it.

Q. What makes EI stand out?

A. Every stakeholder puts the whole child first. From academics, to the social emotional needs, to the physical needs as well. I am very proud to say that my kids go to East Irondequoit and that I am a school board member.



Honoring our Veterans

November 11 was Veterans' Day and East Irondequoit would like to salute all those who are serving or have served in the armed forces, especially those working here in the district. Thanks to all of you for all you do and have done.

Edwin Bell-Army
Frank Bell-Air Force
Debora Crocetti-Air Force
Steven Crocetti-Air Force
Dan Dubock-Army Reserves

Simon Greenfield-Air Force Reserves
Ken Haynoski-Army
Anthony Jagla-Army
Steven Kozlowski-Navy
Fred Lenhard-Navy
Eric Olear-National Guard
Laurel Presher-National Guard
Ralph Reimers-Army Reserves
Doyle Wadhams-Army
Gerald Warner-Coast Guard
Guy Zampatori-National Guard

