



# LANCER PRIDE

JANUARY, 2022

## If You Think ESports is Just Fun and Games, Think Again

This fall, while the football team was heading out to practice and the soccer teams were warming up, there was another group of Eastridge students getting ready to compete. Only instead of putting on helmets and cleats, they were donning headsets and grabbing controllers.

ESports has arrived at EHS, and it is providing new opportunities for a group of students who might not otherwise get a chance to represent their school.

"I was excited," said junior Abby Barnard. "I heard other schools around us were going to get teams so it was kind of cool that we got to."

"We wanted to reach kids who hadn't been involved in other clubs or sports," explained advisor Mark Falcone. "This is a great opportunity for them to meet up with friends, make new ones, and be a part of the school community outside of just going to class."

The teams compete online against each other in games like Minecraft, trying to accumulate points that will

gain them a spot in a season ending tournament. If they can do well enough there, they can earn money that can be used towards college.

That's not the only way ESports can help them down the road. There are plenty of colleges with their own teams and some of them offer scholarships-anywhere from \$500 to a free tuition, and it doesn't stop there. Turning gaming into a career is possible too, and the salaries for some pro gamers can range anywhere from \$50,000-\$75,000 a year.

Becoming a pro gamer might not be in the cards for any of the Eastridge team members, but the turnout has been impressive for this newly-formed group. Falcone says that each week he would have between 20 and 25 students show up.

"A lot of schools do this as a fun venture, and there are others that are very competitive about it," said Falcone. "They practice a lot as a team and are trying to gain whatever edge they can so they can progress in the tournament."



So what makes a good gamer? According to Falcone, some people are born with it.

"It's similar to football or basketball, some of them just have raw talent. All the games are very different, some require quicker reaction times, others you have to navigate a map better. It's a matter of finding a game that suits your strengths."

All those things make ESports appealing, but when you boil it down, the real draw is a lot simpler.

"It's really fun," Abby says. "You get to play with people you normally wouldn't outside of school."





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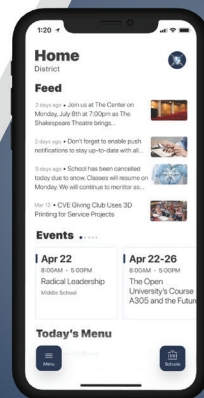
## District Launches New Website and App

The new year brings with it a new way to get the information that you need about what's happening in our schools. In fact, there are two. The new app is your go-to place for news, information and updates or alerts from EICSD. It's available for download in the AppStore and Google Play, just search EICSD.

The address for the website is the same ([www.eastiron.org](http://www.eastiron.org)) but the look is totally different. We think you will find it much more streamlined and easier to navigate.

It's everything EICSD,  
**in your pocket.**

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## Eastridge Trainer Nabs State Honor

For the past 19 years Jarrett Rhoads has been on the sideline at virtually every Eastridge athletic event, taking care of any injuries or other issues that might come up.

What most people don't see is the time he spends taking care of things away from the field. Every day after school the most often asked question is, "Where's JR?" as students looked to get taped up, stretched out or get whatever other needs they have addressed.

Taking care of the athletes isn't the only thing he does. He handles scheduling, lining up officials, maintains equipment, and he even does the laundry. It's no wonder we



think he is one of the best in the business, and we're not the only ones who think that.

This year Rhoads was named the winner of the John Sciera Service Award, presented annually by New York State Athletic Trainers' Association to a member who has demonstrated dedication, loyalty and service to the profession of athletic training.

Rhoads received his award at the NYSATA Annual Membership meeting in January.

Congratulations JR, and thank you for everything you contribute to Eastridge, the students and the athletic program.



In the last edition of our newsletter we told you about the district and the East Irondequoit Teachers Association partnering to collect donations for the Irondequoit Community Cupboard.

We are pleased to report that the Give for Good Campaign did plenty of good, far exceeding its goal with more than 2,800 items!

Just because this campaign has ended, the Cupboard is always looking for donations. Find out how you can help by visiting their website:

**[irondequoitcommunitycupboard.org](http://irondequoitcommunitycupboard.org)**





## Lancer Basketball Starts Season off Strong



The Eastridge boys basketball team opened their season by winning their own tournament and the Lancers haven't slowed down since.



A pair of wins by more than twenty points earned them first place in the Al Masino Tournament and landed Emmanuel Leftenant and Caquan Wester on the All-Tournament Team. From there they would win their next six games, with an average margin of victory of just over 20 points. The regular season runs through the middle of February and then hopefully the Lancers can keep things going to make a strong run in the sectionals. The JV team also took home the Al Masino title, the first time both squads have won the tourney.

You can check out the boys basketball team in action by heading to the Eastridge Lancer Athletics channel on YouTube.

## Congratulations to the Eastridge Students Selected as Early Recognition Black Scholars by The Urban League of Rochester

Khidir Ahmed	Aliyah Duff	Imani Kinlock	Donovan Palma	T'erra Tross
AAliyah Bandysh	Sir Duncan	Jannesa Landry-Cottrell	Ya'Nasia Parson	Ty'Kirah Tucker
Imari Barnes	Messiah Evans-Figueora	Sean Lawrence	Gabrielle Parsons	Lydia Turner
Julien Brayboy	Jayden Gamble	Amani Lawson	Narcelin Pena Jimenez	Kamryn Anire Walker-Robinson
Brian Brown	Yodit Ghebregabiher	Travis Lynn	Narolin Pena Jimenez	Liala Washington
Egypt Brown	Kamarah Gilbert	Kamiah Lynn	Jalonie Pittman	Kaleigh Watt
Nevaeh Bunch	Sameir Gray	Jean Martinez-Pena	Evan Pitts	Lael Welch
Devonte Butler	Alaric Greene	Ziere Metcalfe	Amir Proctor	Anajee Williams
Samarra Camacho	Trevari Hamer	Sada Mehari	Malon Reid	Zavieair Williamson
Shaniya Campbell	Nariyah Hazzard	Jamyia Mitchell	Kia'mari Robinson	Cereniti Wilson
Na' Dia Carter	Tori Henderson	Selamawit Molla	Elijah Rodriguez	Sabrina Wilson-Cisnero
Josiah Caulkins	Luis Hernandez Rodriguez	Sanaa Moore	Allure Scott	Nautica Wright
Terissa Chaplin	Brendan Howe	Loyall Mouzon	Tahanie Seide	Tremayne Wyatt
Nayara Cuello Nescolarde	Yasmine Ibrahim	Mohamed Musa	Kylah Session	Eriel Young
Luc Dargout	Adam Ibrahim	Ahmed Musa	Kamayah Shepherd	
Kiana Davis	Maxwell Johnson	Nkodia Ndongala	Zy'Irer Switzer	
Leilani Dawkins	Ross Johnson	Ahmed Omer	Ledia Tadesse	
Rae Diamond	Nouaman Kadio	Isabella Oyphanith	Tamia Thomas	

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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 Jeff Petrie.

**You are doing your second stint as a board member. What made you want to be on the board again and how much have things changed?**

I originally joined in response to an aggressive Taxpayer Association whose focus did not have our students' best interests in mind. During those 9 years that group faded and my first daughter graduated. The district is a much different place politically, which allows the board to focus more on what is best for our students and our community. I'm proud of how our district has recov-

ered from the old days with our staff and facilities returned to a healthier state.

**How much of a benefit do you think it is having a child still in school while you are on the board?**

There is no substitute for the insight a board member gets by being a consumer/customer of the district. The day-to-day exposure to the challenges of all our staff truly makes me a better board member. Let me add, there have been a few days when my children were less enthusiastic about having a parent on the board.

**What have you learned as a board member that you have kept with you?**



Always keep an open mind.

We all come from different backgrounds and it's important to try and understand why people have the positions they do, especially those that are least like you. I come from a computer and engineering background where things are much more concrete and based on facts with data. This can sometimes be at odds on issues that people are very passionate about, a characteristic I too am guilty of from time to time.

**What makes East Irondequoit such a unique district?**

Easy one...diversity! We have a fantastic mix of students from all cultures and income levels. It is inspiring to experience the melting pot that is our school district. The country could take a lesson from our students.

### *Dates to Remember in February*

**February 4-Lancer Marching Band Information Night**

**February 5-Rhythms on the Ridge Indoor Percussion Show**

**February 10-DE's Got Talent**

**February 11-EIMS Valentine's Dance**

**February 15-Board of Education Meeting**

**February 16-Ivan Green First Grade Concert**

**February 19-Laurelton Pardee Glow Dance**

**February 21-25 President's Week-NO SCHOOL**

**A complete calendar of events can be found on our website**

**[www.eastiron.org](http://www.eastiron.org)**