



TODAY

Volume 35, No. 3
February/March 2018

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for these great events -
details at www.embs.net

February 27, 8 p.m. - VOCESS in concert

March 9 & 10, 7:30 p.m. - Senior play
Excellent Trouble

March 20, 7:30 p.m. - Spring Choral
Concert

April 8, 3 p.m. - MSC Choral Festival at
EMU Yoder Arena featuring the choirs
from 13 Mennonite schools from across
the U.S. and Canada (see enclosed flyer
for more details)

April 22, 2-4 p.m. - EMES Earth Day
Extravaganza

April 27 & 28, 7 p.m. - Middle School play
Anne of Green Gables

May 4, 8 a.m. & 1 p.m. - Fore the Flames
Golf Tournament, Heritage Oaks Golf
Course (see enclosed flyer)

May 4, 6:30 p.m. - EMS Junior/
Senior Banquet "red carpet"
arrivals!



Past, Present and Future,

by Matt Weaver

Managing Editor's note: Matt Weaver is certainly a familiar face at EMS as young alumnus of the year, as father to one alumna and three current students, as Board of Director member, Alumni Board volunteer, and coach of the 2017-18 Girls Varsity Basketball Flames. Although his actions speak volumes about his commitment to EMS, his chapel address during our Centennial Homecoming offered words of wisdom we simply had to share with our readers. We hope these excerpts ignite the Flame - past, present, and future - within each of our readers to keep us reflecting Christ's light in our second century.

We are celebrating the 100th year of Eastern Mennonite School—that is amazing. I am proud to be part of a family that played significantly in the founding. My children are fourth-generation EMS'ers. More than 20 years before my Grandpa Weaver graduated in 1939, his future grandfather-in-law Daniel Martin knew that there was a need for advancement of the church and spiritual guidance in education for its young people. So my great-great grandfather raised money by traveling through not only Virginia but Maryland and Pennsylvania—pitching his and others' ideas to those who also felt and sensed the call for such an institution to be erected. As we know today they were successful—and students began to come from far and wide. The school that I would come to know here would continually grow and change to offer an even more impactful Christian education experience. It was through daily chapels that I learned to sing—modeling from older students and faculty. I fondly remember special relationships with certain teachers that were developed—and I spent more time than just class time with many of them in various after-school student electives. As an athlete I had coaches who modeled not only Christian character but an emphasis on my relationship with the Lord first, above my performance on the court. My experience with Touring Choir was a life-changing one—I was afraid to go out for any choir until my Senior year. After making Touring and Chamber Choir, I felt like I had truly missed out all

those other years. Our school has since added a cafeteria, auditorium, classrooms, athletic fields—all additions that amped up the 'ultimateness' of the EMS experience. Recently we broke ground on the next chapter—to bring EMES to our campus. We have brought the



EMS Homecoming 2012 with (l to r) Ken Weaver '71,
Elwood Weaver '39, and Matthew Weaver '92
(Photo by Elwood Yoder)

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faith excellence integrity service

www.easternmennoniteschool.org

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vision of leaders like my great-great-grandfather full circle. I cannot wait for the pride that I will feel when my own grandchildren are able to attend elementary school on the same ground where Daniel Martin first spied cornshucks and cattle six generations earlier. If this school is to be everything that my family before me, myself, or my kids have known it to be—it will depend on you. Stay in touch. Stay connected. When the school needs volunteers—raise your hand!! If there is a financial need—give as the Lord leads you to. Come to a sporting event, come to a musical, go catch the Touring Choir in one of our local churches, come to your class reunions, just come! You have been given the gift of the ultimate high school education—by your parents, grandparents, your church—by someone. You are set for life in so many ways. You have received both a quality education and high Christian values in the process. You have been modeled to and taught by committed Christian teachers. You have served others and your community. You have lifted your voices in praise to God, and supported and prayed for one another in times of need. Looking back at my own experiences—what I experienced as a teenager in THIS SCHOOL—I am literally overwhelmed by the sum of the equation between this school and me, and wonder what different outcome to the lesser my life would be if not for EMS. I'm sure in retrospect all 3,711 graduates before today would say the same. While my roots run deep, it will be the families from new saplings that are most important in our school's continued success and existence. Families which look to write a new story and craft their own tale of a new heritage are what will keep our doors open for the future generations. Our mission statement defines and summarizes my own story of church, home, and school—I stand humbly before you as a product of all three. Let's all do our part to ensure that generations to come will tell the same story! Go from these halls and apply what you've learned and how you've learned it to the greater good of humanity, your community, and the church!

Social Studies: Anything But Boring!

by Randa Moyers Hendricks '96, EMS Social Studies Chair

"I don't like history. It's boring." When we hear these words from students in the first days of school, we consider it a challenge. At EMS, we recognize that social studies education is changing. Memorization of facts, long the backbone of history teaching, has decreased in importance in our digital world. Students and adults alike can Google any fact we need to know in mere seconds on devices we carry around in our pockets.

So what might you see happening in history classrooms at Eastern Mennonite School? So glad you asked! We believe in "doing" history, getting students involved and engaged in ways that activate their minds and build key skills that will allow them to be informed participants and citizens of their communities, their world, and of God's kingdom. Here are a few of the ways we strive to achieve these goals:

- **Experiential learning:** This includes everything from our school-wide History Day, to hands on exploration of artifacts, to simulations that place students in the roles of historical figures or those in charge of governing.



EMMS and EMHS Social Studies teachers Shannon Roth '08 (far left), Susan Melendez, Elwood Yoder, Curt Stutzman, and Randa Hendricks '96, January 2018. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

- **Inquiry learning:** We seek to cultivate curiosity in our students, encouraging them to ask questions and seek answers. In a world of "too much" information, we must teach students how to frame their questions and find reliable sources for information.



Emily Garcia '21 adds to a collaborative art project for the Social Studies' led History Day. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

- **Critical thinking:** Contrary to popular belief, history is not a series of uncontested facts. Rather, the study of history consists of interpretation of evidence, and professional historians don't always agree on one "correct" interpretation. Students learn to engage with primary source materials, consider the source of those materials, and begin making their own claims about historical events.
- **Writing and communication:** It's important for students to be able to convey their knowledge and hard-won understandings of history to others, both through written word and verbally in class presentations.

At EMS, we have the privilege and luxury of cultivating these important skills for life and citizenship in our students. Our hope is to do social studies education in such a way that we can change the minds of those students who come to us saying, "I hate history. It's so boring!"

VISION:

Eastern Mennonite School aspires to reflect Christ's light as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives, and lives God's call.



Pastor Mike Metzler, Zion Mennonite Church (left), and Pastor Jason Gerlach, Community Mennonite Church, fellowship at our fall Pastor's Breakfast. (Staff photo)

Faith. Academic Excellence.
This is WHO WE ARE at
of our K-12 school



The EMS production of *Into the Woods* drew in record audiences who enjoyed this spectacular musical. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)



Junior EMS World History students on recent field trip to the Museum of the American People in Washington, DC. (Photo by Elwood Yoder)

Did you know EMS is the only K-12 school in the Valley with a full orchestra?
 (Photo by Andrew Gascho)





Life. Personal Integrity. Compassionate Service.
Join us at EMS! Enjoy these glimpses of the full life
experience as we begin our second century!



Michelle Brunk '19 and Lauren Yutzy '19 were two of our many students and staff who donated recently during our National Honor Society's blood drive. (Photo by Elwood Yoder)



A recent Throwback Thursday chapel brought the self-proclaimed "Nerd Herd" back to campus. These lifelong friends shared stories, life wisdom, and a few laughs with students and Head of School, Paul Leaman, pictured here center. (Staff photo)



Although family re-location meant leaving his school and team, Flames Basketball player Jalen Simpson '18 was recognized by Coach Dave Bechler with a "Senior game ball" last semester. (Photo by Elwood Yoder)



enjoyed a Bible in (er)



We love the encouraging notes our students receive from donors during Christmas Fund Drive. Working together, students and donors raised over \$153,000 for our school in a short six-week period. (Staff Photo)



Our strong choral program saw nearly 60 students enrolled in Junior Choir this past semester. Mark your calendar to hear them at our Spring Choral Concert on March 20 at 7:30 p.m. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

In the News

Alumna spotlight: Hannah Depoy

by Elwood Yoder



Hannah DePoy '13,
(Photo by Elwood Yoder)

Hannah Depoy '13 has always known down deep that she wants to be a doctor. Not just any doctor, though, because the mountains of Pendleton County, W.Va. beckon her to return someday to her family roots and set up a medical practice. So after graduation from West Virginia University in 2017, Hannah has been accepted at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Va.

Hannah has jokingly promised her family that she won't turn from her West Virginia roots and become a Virginia Tech fan, but her new medical school does sit squarely on the Blacksburg campus in southern Virginia. Hannah selected VCOM for medical school because of its emphasis on rural and international health. Further, VCOM offers

Hannah the opportunity to earn a Master of Public Health degree along with her Doctor of Osteopathy degree.

Hannah is a natural leader. At EMS she was Student Council President and then became president of the Pediatric Entertainment Program at WVU. Hannah served many children through this schools-based program, while earning a Biology major and Sociology minor at WVU.

Hannah has good things to say about her middle and high school years at EMS, but even more to say about her hopes and dreams for practicing medicine among folks in rural West Virginia. Ever forward looking, Hannah is spending the next few months organizing family legacy photos and memorabilia. She knows that once she sets foot on the VCOM campus in July 2018, she will be thrown into the rigors of studying medicine full time, using all the skills and drive God has wonderfully gifted her with.

Today is published five times a year for families, alumni and friends of Eastern Mennonite School. We value your input. Send your feedback and story ideas to: today@emhs.net.

Look for previous issues of Today online at <https://issuu.com/easternmennoniteschool>

**Editorial Board:
Elwood Yoder (Editor),
Mary Golden Hughes (Managing Editor),
Christine Fairfield (Copy Editor),
& Paul Leaman (Head of School).**

Elementary Campus - On the Move

As we look toward 2018-19 we're excited to announce that our elementary division will relocate to our Main Campus upstairs wing beginning next year. Although the move is temporary while we prepare their new adjacent location through our *Let the Children Come* campaign, we are pleased that this space meets the expectations of faculty, staff, and families identified as important to a smooth K-12 interim step. These included: improved classroom spaces, traffic and movement safety, easy access to outdoors, and clear distinction from the middle and high school divisions. Present EMMS and EMHS classes held upstairs will be relocated to other available parts of our facility. We are confident this temporary solution can work well during the construction period of our new elementary school and will even help us discern spaces and opportunities for inter-grade learning and mentoring. We are also pleased at the unity and excitement our K-12 faculty and staff have shown for this new chapter in our school's history. We invite you to share our excitement for a vibrant K-12 campus. Learn more at www.emhs.net/support/ltcc.cfm.



Let the children come...

One School. One Campus. One Purpose.



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MISSION:

Eastern Mennonite School joins home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world.



Composer J.D. Martin Visits EMES

Composer and musician J.D. Martin recently visited our Elementary Campus as a special guest during our weekly Gathering time. Mr. Martin's song "Jesus, Help Us Live in Peace" has been the theme song of EMES Gatherings for many years and students and faculty alike were honored to meet Mr. Martin, learn about his songwriting process, and how he uses his God-given talents to serve others. (Staff photos)

Eastern Mennonite School invites you to:

Mennonite Schools Council Choral Festival Concert

Sunday, April 8, 2018 • 3 p.m.
Yoder Arena - Eastern Mennonite University
Directed by Jay Hartzler

*Come enjoy the choirs from the following schools perform individually
and in a mass choir at this spectacular choral event:*

Bethany Christian Schools
Goshen IN

Central Christian School
Kidron, Ohio

The City School
Philadelphia, PA

Dock Mennonite Academy
Lansdale, PA

Eastern Mennonite School
Harrisonburg, VA

Freeman Academy
Freeman, SD

Iowa Mennonite School
Kalona, IA

Lancaster Mennonite School
Hershey, PA

Lancaster Mennonite School
Lancaster, PA

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate
Kitchener, ON

Sarasota Christian School
Sarasota, FL

Shalom Christian Academy
Chambersburg, PA

UMEI Christian High School
Leamington, ON



All are welcome at this free event! Seating is general admission. Doors open to the public at 2:15 p.m.

See the livestream at www.mscchoralfestival.com

For more information contact: (540) 236-6000.

13 schools, 1 mass choir,
GOD WITHIN US.



2018 Fore the Flames Tournament

Benefitting EMS Student Financial Aid
& Athletics

It's all about the students!

Morning and afternoon flights
8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Shotgun start, Captain's Choice

Individual registration of \$100
includes catered lunch, green fees, cart,
range balls, golfer gift, door prizes and
two Powerballs and one Mulligan

Prizes include:
Special prizes for longest drive
and multiple closest to the pin
\$10,000 hole-in-one prize

Friday
May 4, 2018
Heritage Oaks
Golf Course

Register - sponsor - donate today!
Additional information at:

foretheflames.com

Or contact Mary Kaye Slonaker
Community Relations Coordinator, Eastern Mennonite School
540-236-6024



Premier
Sponsor:

