

East Martin Christian School



Knight's News

August 31, 2023

~Partnering with Families ~ Educating Christian Leaders ~ Building Futures on Christ ~

School Calendar

9/1 & 9/4 No School
Labor Day Weekend

09/8 Morning Muffins
7:40 AM

10/6 No School (In Service)

10/14 Harvest Sale

10/16 Picture Day

Newsletter Information

Deadline is 7P.M. Wednesday
Send submissions to
Office@EastMartin.org
The Newsletter will be
published biweekly

269-672-5722

Office@EastMartin.org
www.EastMartin.org

Administrator's Note — Mr. Dirk Weeldreyer

Greetings and welcome back to the 2023-24 school year! We are very excited to see all of our students back again!

Here are some important staff updates as we head into the new school year:

- ◇ We are very excited to welcome **Ms. Rachel Verstraete** to EMCS! Ms. Verstraete will be teaching middle school math and science this year. She graduated from Calvin College with a BA in elementary education. After doing some subbing in Grand Rapids Public Schools, she taught in Pennsylvania for a few years before starting her family. When she moved back to the Grand Rapids area in 2004, she began homeschooling her six boys and twenty years later she returned to the classroom teaching middle school math, science, writing and geography at Barry County Christian. In her free time, Ms. Verstraete enjoys spending time in the kitchen cooking and baking, reading, gardening, exploring outdoors with her boys, and even doing puzzles or playing board games. She is looking forward to getting to know the East Martin students, families, and community!
- ◇ Congratulations **Mrs. Hahn** on the birth of her new baby girl! Mrs. Hahn will be home caring for her new baby for the first several weeks of school. In her place, we are pleased to welcome **Mrs. Barb Meeuwse** to EMCS. Mrs. Meeuwse graduated in teaching from GVSU, earned a Masters in Reading from WMU and a second degree in Learning Disabilities from Calvin (College) University. In the last 28 years, she has taught kindergarten, first grade, and third grade, and worked in programs for students with learning disabilities at Plymouth Christian Elementary and Providence Christian Elementary. In addition, she has tutored students with disabilities each summer and started her own in-home program to teach students who needed a small group setting before transitioning into a larger traditional school environment. Mrs. Meeuwse is looking forward to substitute teaching for Mrs. Haan in the ESS room this semester. She feels blessed to have

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516 118th Avenue ~ Martin, MI 49070

this opportunity and is excited to work with students to figure out how they best learn in a school environment.

- ◇ **Mrs. Laura Westendorp** will be returning to work with our EMCS students again this year! She will be teaching Bible, English, and Social Studies.
- ◇ **Mrs. Johnson** will be returning to work with our Outdoor Education program again this year, and she will also be teaching Art. Thank you, Mrs. Johnson, for all you do for EMCS!
- ◇ **Mr. and Mrs. Sikma** will be back with us this year! Mr. Sikma will again be teaching PE, and Mrs. Sikma will be helping out in the library. Watch for exciting news coming out soon regarding the library!
- ◇ **Mrs. Russcher** will soon be heading out on maternity leave, and we are very pleased to welcome **Mrs. Claudia Thornton** to EMCS as Mrs. Russcher's substitute! Mrs. Thornton is a retired Science Teacher from Kelloggsville, and she was also a paramedic. Since her retirement, Mrs. Thornton has been substituting for six years and has served in six long-term positions including two in second grade and three kindergarten classes. She and her husband own a ranch in Middleville with horses, cows, sheep, chickens, a ton of ducks and a host of other animals. They have three married sons and 16 grandchildren. She's Italian, so she loves to cook and bake. She also plays the piano and loves making "a joyful noise" when she sings! Mrs. Thornton is very excited to join the staff at EMCS and thanks parents in advance for entrusting her with your precious children.
- ◇ We are also fortunate to have **Miss Schewe** returning in kindergarten, **Mrs. Porter** returning to teach 3rd and 4th grade, and **Mrs. Wubben** back leading all of our music programs! Additionally, **Mrs. Niemchick** will be back again as the school secretary.
- ◇ One final new addition to the EMCS team is **Mrs. Melanie Suk** who will be taking over as our school bookkeeper for **Mrs. Doezema** following her many years of dedicated service to the school. We wish Mrs. Doezema all the best in her next adventures in life! Questions regarding school accounts may be directed to Mrs. Suk at: bookkeeper@eastmartin.org.

Our staff looks forward to working together with all of you in the education of God's precious children! Thank you for your ongoing support of East Martin Christian School!

Harvest Sale: October 15

We are excited to announce that the 80th Annual Harvest Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 14 at 4:00 P.M. This is a big event, so be sure to invite your family and friends! If you would like to donate or sponsor this event please contact Jessica Tucker (269) 998-2960 or Jenny VandeBunte at (616) 217-7977 with items/description to be included in the Harvest Sale booklet. Please be sure to turn in all donations (excluding perishable items) to the school office by October 1st. Thank you for your support of the Harvest Sale, and of Christian education at EMCS.

Hot Lunch

Hot lunch will begin soon. Stay tuned for more information!

Fall Sports

If you have any middle school students interested in fall sports, please reach out to Kelvin De Vries at (616) 481-3872

Pick-ups/Drop-offs

Morning

Students are not to be dropped off before 7:45 AM, we are not able to allow students in the building before 7:55 AM. Please have them walk around back or if you are able to, drop them off by the playground.

Midday

If you are bringing a student to school late or picking them up early for an appointment, please use the front door. We have the doors locked during the day for safety. Use the button for the buzzer, and someone will open the door for you.

Inclement Weather

In the case of inclement weather, a sign will be posted on the front door stating "IN". You may drop off your student(s) in the front and they may come inside at 7:45 AM.

After School Pick-up

Please allow the bus to enter first and then the car line can follow.

Directory/Handbook

The school directory and handbook will be coming soon and it will include contact information for other school members. Please be sure to read the handbook portion for school guidelines.

Emergency Forms

If you have not done so already, please make sure to return your forms with emergency contact information.

Facebook Page

Follow East Martin Christian School on Facebook to see what's happening at school.

