Early College H.S. @ Delaware State University

Dear Hornets,

School is off to a great start! The students are settling into our home, their classes, and student activities. Please encourage them to not just “attend” school, but to “belong” to school. That is the difference between just being a student and being a Hornet. Encourage them to get involved!

Parents are reminded that they can monitor students’ grades, attendance, and discipline online on our HAC (Home Access Center) system. Once teachers update the students’ grades, they can be easily accessed via the Internet at anytime, using the district issued password. Students and parents have separate passwords to the HAC system. If parents are having trouble accessing students’ information, they should contact our Guidance Counselor, Mr. Michael Roscoe at michael.rosoce@echs.k12.de.us for assistance.

Parents can contact teachers with questions via e-mail for a quick response or to request a conference.

Have a great October!

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Fundraiser

ECHS is participating in a school-wide fundraiser from September 28, 2015 - October 9, 2015. Students will sell Yankee Candle products using an order form or online. This is a trusted product and will be delivered to school just in time for the fall and winter holidays. ECHS will receive a profit of 40% on all sales!!! So tell everyone you know and get those orders coming in! Prizes will go to our high sellers as a thank you for raising money for our school. All proceeds will benefit the “Hornet Fund” for materials and supplies for our school.

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Board of Directors

Evelyn Edney, Ed.D.,
Charter Director Ex officio
Board Member nonvoting

School Leader Letter

Fundraiser

Fundraiser

Fundraiser
**General News & Announcements**

- **Morning Drop-offs:** When students are dropped off in the morning before school starts, please drop off at the back by the cafeteria. If a student is dropped off after school starts, please bring the student to the office to sign the student in to school. **Students must be signed in by a parent/guardian or other adult.**

- Instead of water fountains, ECHS has water coolers. The water cooler distributor only brings a certain amount of cups each time he delivers the water. Although we are excited that our students are drinking more water, they use a lot of the cups. Please provide a **water bottle** so that the students can refill whenever they need to do so.

- **October Take a Walk on the Wild Side** are out. This month’s theme is “What’s the Mystery?” Show us your creative side! All entries are due on October 30th.

- We are doing a **PTSA membership drive** contest. Membership is $10 and all applications and money are due on October 9th. The advisory class with the most memberships will get a pizza party.

- Students, the **October Take a Walk on the Wild Side** are out. This month’s theme is “What’s the Mystery?” Show us your creative side! All entries are due on October 30th.

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Week** will be this coming week. Please buy a “Pink Link” on our “Links of Love” chain. Write the name of a survivor or a victim or a Breast Cancer Fact. We will link all of the chains together to form a chain. Each link is $1. Friday, October 9th will be a pink out day so everyone where pink.

- All Sophomores in the state of Delaware and most of the country will be taking the **PSAT** on Wed October 14th. Guidance Counselor, Mr. Roscoe will talk with students about what to expect from the test.

- All students who have turned in their acceptable use forms have been given their **computers.**

- When teachers are teaching and they need everyone’s attention, they ask the students to put their computers in **“Respect Mode,”** which means to lower the screen and put their eyes and ears on the teacher.

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**Parent Conferences**

Parent Conferences will be held on Monday and Tuesday, **October 12th and 13th.** Parents can make appointments to see any teacher during those two days. On Monday, October 12th, the appointments will run from 9:00 a.m. with the last one being at 4:30 p.m. And on Tuesday, Appointments begin at 12 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. Please call Mrs. Thompson to make the appointments.

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**Picture Day**

Picture Day is scheduled for **October 22, 2015.** Order forms were sent home with students on Friday, October 2, 2015. You may pay for a picture package online by using the following procedures:

1. Complete the paper order form
2. Go to mylifetouch.com and follow the online instructions
3. Write the Online Payment Code received at checkout on the paper Order Form
4. Bring the completed paper Order Form to Picture Day

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**PTSA President Nominated**

Congratulations to Mrs. Danielle Watson, the ECHS Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) President who was nominated for the Cornerstone Award for the Delaware Charter School Network (DCSN). She will be honored as a nominee at the DCSN’s IDEA Awards ceremony on Friday, October 9, 2015, where the winners will be announced. Dr. Edney will be attending the ceremony with her, and the Chorus, led by Mr. Mercer will be performing a song. We all have our fingers crossed for Mrs. Watson! No matter what, she is a winner to us!
Homecoming Spirit Week: October 19-24, 2015

Dress-up Days: During the week of October 19-23rd, the school will dress up:
- October 19th: Nerd Day
- October 20th: Sports Day
- October 21st: Mix Match Day
- October 22nd: Twin Day and also School Picture Day (Students brought home order forms on Friday as well.)
- October 23rd: Red & Blue Day (9th Dress in Red; 10th Dress in Blue)

There will be a Pep Rally for students on Friday, October 23rd from 4:00-4:45 p.m. We will see which class has the most spirit.

All ECHS Families are invited to participate in the DSU Homecoming Parade beginning at 8:30 a.m. from Legislative Hall. Please contact Mrs. Watson the PTSA President. After the parade, students and families are welcome to come to the DSU game, where we will be having a tailgate. We will be asking for donations of food and drink.

Finally, there will be a Dance: The PTSA will be decorating for the ECHS dance with a theme of Hollywood Nights on Saturday, October 24, 2015 in the early afternoon. The dance will be held in the multipurpose room from 7:00-10:00 p.m. The dance is semi-formal so dress accordingly. When you purchase tickets, a list of dance decorum will be handed to students. ECHS students may bring a date from another school; however, dance guest permission forms must be filled out and handed in by October 9th. The age limit of guests is 18 years old. A background check will be made of each guest. Depending on any criminal history, the guest may not be permitted to attend the dance. Dr. Edney will make final approval on all guests. Tickets will go on sale October 5th through the 15th for $20 per person.

Recruiting the Class of 2020

Do you know someone who would be a great fit for ECHS? Well, spread the word that Open Houses for students seeking admission to ECHS for the 2016-17 school year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 27, 2015</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ECHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3, 2015</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ECHS</td>
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<td>November 11, 2015</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. by appointment</td>
<td>ECHS</td>
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<td>December 1, 2015</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ECHS</td>
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Also, Dr. Edney will be visiting the following schools for High School Night. She would love to have ECHS students sitting with her at the table:

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<tr>
<td>October 6, 2015</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Thomas Edison HS Night, Wilmington, DE</td>
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<td>October 8, 2015</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Aspira Academy HS Night, Wilmington, DE</td>
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<td>October 8, 2015</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Gateway Lab School, Wilmington, DE</td>
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There will be more to come, so look out to help!!!!

Nurse’s Corner

- Nurse Krieger is planning on doing hearing and scoliosis screenings on 9th graders on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 18-20th. She will be calling students down in alphabetical order. She will take five students at a time. She will do vision screenings on the remaining 10th graders on another day which is convenient with the start of 3rd marking period.

- By law, all students must have up-to-date medical records. Any student with an outstanding immunizations and physicals will not be permitted to attend school after October 15th. Students will also not be permitted to attend social functions for school such as Homecoming or Assemblies. Please call the School Nurse if you need to check on your status. 302-678-ECHS.
# Calendar October 2015

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>2 NASCAR Race Weekend</td>
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<td>9 Pink Out Yankee Candle Orders Due</td>
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<td>NASCAR Race Weekend</td>
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<td>School-wide PSAT All Sophomores</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>231st MP Grades Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dress up Day: Nerd Day</td>
<td>Dress up Day: Sports Day</td>
<td>Dress up Day: Mix n Match Day</td>
<td>Dress up Day: Twin Day **School Photo Day CBOC 4:00 Board of Ed 5:15</td>
<td>Dress up Day: 9th wear Red 10th Wear Blue Homecoming Pep Rally 4:00-4:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>1st MP Report Cards Distributed to Students</td>
<td>Cross Country Meet Shuttle Park Dover, DE 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Halloween</td>
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**Breast Cancer Awareness Week**

**Homecoming 2015 Spirit Week**
Advisory/Activity Period

Every week on Monday and Friday, ECHS students participate in their Advisory Class, which is designed to help students stay on track with their educational goals. Students will conduct weekly checks of their completed assignments to ensure that all assignments are up-to-date. Students will also check on their progress in class when grades reports are distributed. Advisory teachers will work with students to create plans to meet their goals.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, students participate in group activities as part of an Activity Period. Some activities will last for a marking period, while others last for a full year or meet once a year. Only students who are up-to-date with assignments will be permitted to participate in the following activities:

- Arts/Crafts
- Band
- Board Games
- Bookworms
- Chess
- Chorus
- Cross Country
- Dance
- Driving
- Future Nursing
- Gaming
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Newspaper
- NHS
- Robotics
- Science Olympiad
- Student Government
- Steppers
- Students in Action
- Yearbook
- Zentangle

Are you hungry before the end of the day? Well, now students can order pizza for $2.00 per slice starting on Monday to be eaten during the Activity Period on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. All proceeds will benefit the science Hershey Park field trip in April.

Sports at ECHS

In August, Dr. Edney applied for membership into the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association, and ECHS was granted membership. This year, ECHS will have the following sports teams:

**Fall (August-November):** Girls & Boys Cross-Country: Practices will be completed by 4:45 p.m. (Students will get on the regular school bus to go home). Meets will occur outside of the school day so parents may need to pick students up.

**Winter (November-March):** Girls & Boys Basketball: Practices will be conducted before school at 7:30-9:00 a.m. at DSU. A bus will pick students up in one stop in New Castle County and one stop in Kent County and bring the teams to DSU. Students can shower and be ready to get on the shuttle bus to go to ECHS for the school day. Students must be dedicated!

**Spring (March-May):** Girls & Boys Track: Practices will be determined by the Winter for Spring Track.

It is our hope to add on more sports as the years go on at ECHS.
Higher Standards, Better Assessments
Preparing Delaware Students for to Be Prepared for Their Futures

Delaware is committed to providing a quality K-12 education for all students, regardless of where they live or which school they attend. Over the last 5 years, our educators have been working hard to teach students based on new college and career-ready standards, in English and Math. These standards provide clear expectations for what every student should know and be able to do at each grade level. During the 2014-15 school year Delaware began using new tests aligned to our higher standards that will measure the real-world skills our students need to be successful in their futures.

SMARTER BALANCED IS A BETTER TEST
Smarter Balanced Assessments are different from Delaware’s previous tests in several ways:

1. **The tests challenge students** to think critically and apply their knowledge and skills to real-world problems.

2. **The test questions go beyond multiple-choice** and allow students to explain their answers, interact with texts, and demonstrate their understanding of math concepts and solve detailed problems.

3. **The test provides all students, regardless of disability or primary language**, with the supports they need to demonstrate what they know and can do.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- **✓ Students will take Smarter English and Math tests one time at the end of the school year in grades 3-8 and 11.**
- **✓ Students who reach an achievement level of 3 or 4 on the test are considered on track to graduate high school college- and career-ready.**
- **✓ These tests are only one measure of students’ academic success. No student will be held back a grade or unable to graduate based on the results.**
- **✓ 11th grade students may use their scores to earn placement into college level courses after graduation.**

WHAT THE RESULTS MEAN

Scores represent a new baseline and provide more honest information about what our students know and can do – and where they need the most help – so we can better support all Delaware students.

Patience and persistence will be required as we transition to higher expectations but this year’s results indicate that Delaware students and educators are rising to the challenge.

Visit [www.delexcels.org](http://www.delexcels.org) to learn more about the tests, standards, and additional resources.
Only 9th Grade Parents will see 8th grade scores!

What Will Results Look Like?

The Scale Score is the student’s score on the test. Scores can be between 2000 and 3000; the range varies by grade.

The Achievement Level shows if the student met the standards for the grade (Level 3 and above). This also shows how the student score compares to school, district, and state.

FAQs

- How did Jolynn do on the English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment?
  - Jolynn’s ELL Literacy Score: 2527

- How does this compare?
  - Jolynn’s ELL literacy score in 2017: 2527
  - This score is lower than the average score of eighth graders in her school, lower than eighth graders in her district, and lower than eighth graders statewide.

- Level 4: The student has exceeded the achievement standard and demonstrated advanced progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills of state standards in English language arts/literacy.

- Level 3: The student has met the achievement standard and demonstrated progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills of state standards in English language arts/literacy.

- Level 2: The student has nearly met the achievement standard and may require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills of state standards in English language arts/literacy.

- Level 1: The student has not met the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills of state standards in English language arts/literacy.

What types of questions are on the test?
The questions on the test emphasize the same types of real-world skills that students experience in their daily classroom instruction: critical-thinking, writing, problem-solving, etc. The tests include performance tasks and traditional questions.

- Performance Tasks – these are multi-step problems that ask students to apply their knowledge and skills to address real-world problems; in English they apply research and writing skills, and in math to solve problems by describing and defending their reasoning.

- Traditional Questions – include multiple choice questions, interactive actions that require students to drag and drop texts, and create equations.

The Smarter Balanced test is computer adaptive, just as the former state test was. This means that the questions adjust to a student’s learning level, by giving harder or easier questions based on how well a student is doing. To see a practice test, visit: http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/

How can parents use these scores to help their children?
The test results include a breakdown of your child’s performance into areas within each subject to help you understand where your child may need additional supports or challenges to go deeper into a subject. You can use test results to guide a discussion with your child’s teacher about additional supports or challenges that may be needed in class as well as ways to support your child at home. You can also use resources designed specifically for the Smarter Balanced test areas and our state standards, visit: http://bealearninghero.org/delaware or http://www.delexcels.org
The teachers and the principal are using a system called Remind, where text messages go out to remind students of homework assignments or events in school. Parents can also receive these messages either for classes so they are seeing the same texts as their students or from the Principal to receive texts about school. Just text to 81010 and plug in the codes below as a text message. Then you will start receiving reminders.

From the Principal: @ECHSDSU

From Mrs. Dara Savage: @echseng9 (students) @echseng9P (parents) Period 5 Advisory @ 81217

For Mr. Robert Grimm:
Economics: @e0553 WW1: @worldwara

For Ms. Charlotte Jordan:
for Period 1: @charlottej for Period 2: @15392 for Period 4: @153921d

From Mrs. Sara Gildon:
Civics/Geography: @sgild Personal Finance: Number @sgildo

From Mr. Barry Young:
Period 2. Earth Science @ 60f574 Period 3. Earth Science @ 98973 Period 4. Ant and Phy. @f8e07

From Mr. Michael Sanchez:
@IM2-1 @IM2-2 @IM2-3