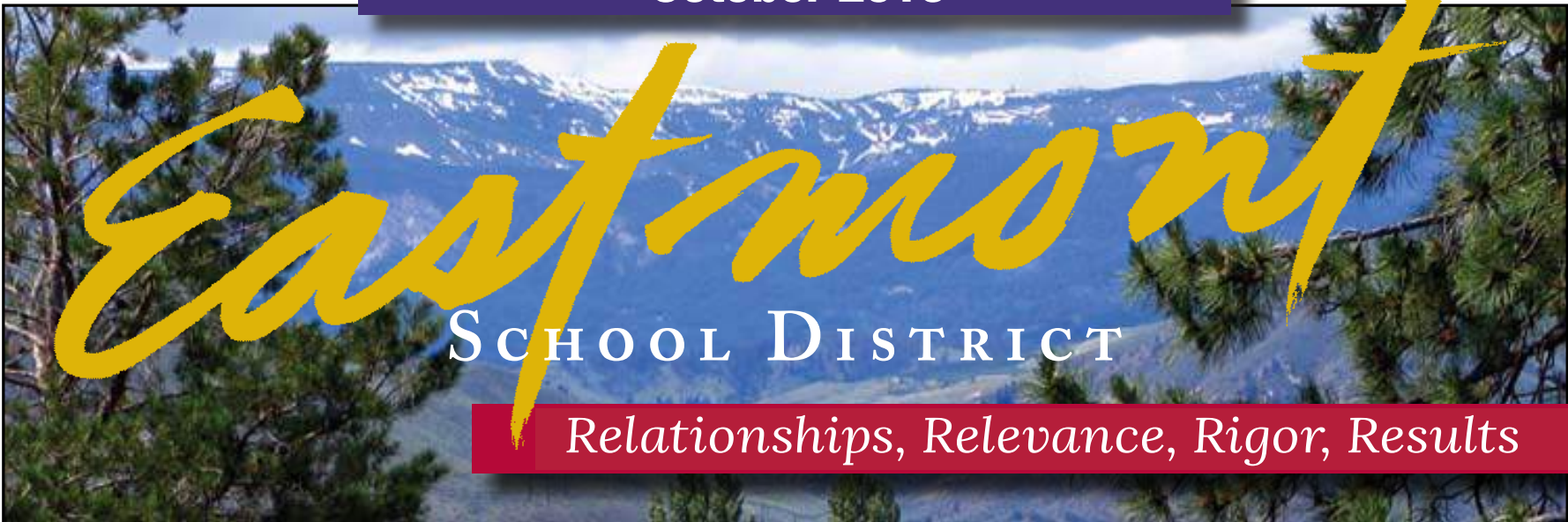


October 2016



Eastmont Focus: Local Levies



Eastmont Voices: Learn from our faculty and staff the vital role Local Levies play in funding our schools.

www.eastmont206.org/levy

Eastmont School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's coordinators for Title IX/RCW 28A.642, Section 504, or the ADA. The District does not tolerate sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Report this conduct to principals, administrators, or Vicki Trainor.

Section 504 Coordinator
Mark Marney, Executive Director of Secondary Education
Spencer Taylor, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Eastmont School District
800 Eastmont Ave.
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
509.884.7169

Civil Rights Coordinator
Vicki Trainor
Executive Director of Human Resources
Eastmont School District
800 Eastmont Ave.
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
509.884.7169

ADA Coordinator
Vicki Trainor
Executive Director of Human Resources
Eastmont School District
800 Eastmont Ave.
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
509.884.7169

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Relationships, Relevance, Rigor, Results

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An open letter from the Eastmont School Board

E EASTMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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800 EASTMONT AVE. • EAST WENATCHEE, WA 98802

October 2016

Dear Eastmont Voters:

Eastmont School District has three priority goals related to the Educational Programs and Operations Levy and the Capital Levy before voters on the November 8th General Election Ballot:

- 1) **Goal** - Students will perform academically at or above the state average for districts of similar size and demographics.
- 2) **Goal** - Ensure current Eastmont educational programs are consistent with leading public, charter, and private school systems.
- 3) **Goal** - Facilities, equipment, and grounds will be repaired and maintained to ensure longevity, maximum use of public resources, and demonstrate responsible use of public funds.

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy, previously called a maintenance and operation (M&O) levy supports Goal #1 and Goal #2. The Capital Levy supports Goal #3.

If renewed, these two levies will continue our work to provide quality and efficient K-12 schools and programs. Any increase in the current combined rates is minimal and will likely decrease as our community continues to grow.

We thank you for your support of our past proposals. Please read the enclosed information, visit our website, or call for an appointment if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Annette Eggers
Annette Eggers
Board President

Chris Gibbs
Chris Gibbs
Board Vice President

Jan Cetto
Jan Cetto
Board Director

Steve Piccirillo
Steve Piccirillo
Board Director

Cindy Wright
Cindy Wright
Board Director

Garn Christensen
Garn Christensen
Superintendent



Hear from our board members about the goals behind the Local Levies. Scan the QR code or visit shor-tn.us/esd-board



FISCAL FAST FACTS

- \$635,000 ANNUAL UTILITY BILL**
- \$68,005,727 TOTAL RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES**
- \$4,200,000 MONTHLY PAYROLL 829 EMPLOYEES (MAJORITY PART TIME)**

- HEALTH CONCERNS**
- 121 REQUIRED EMERGENCY CARE PLANS**
- 291 STUDENTS WITH MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL**

Programs Supported by the Educational Programs & Operations Levy



After School Programs



Music and Art Programs



Sports



Technology Initiatives



Club Activities



Transportation



Facts about the Local Levies

by Cindy Ulrich
Executive Director of Financial Services

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Eastmont School District residents will vote on two issues that affect the children in our community. **The first issue is a four-year renewal of our Existing Educational Programs and Operation Levy. The second is a six-year Capital Projects Levy.**

Facts about the Educational Programs and Operation (M&O) Levy

Fact #1: On November 8, 2016, Eastmont School District residents will be asked to renew the existing Educational Programs and Operations Levy, which expires December 2017.

This is not a new tax. Approximately 14% of our District budget is funded by our local community. The District is seeking approval to renew this levy now. We are able to achieve savings of more than \$50,000 asking for voter approval on the November General Election ballot versus holding a special election at a later date.

Fact #2: The District receives additional Local Effort Assistance funding from the State because we have an approved levy.

Local Effort Assistance (LEA) is funding assistance provided by the state in the form of property tax relief. These funds attempt to bridge the gap between a school district in a community with lower property value and one in a community with above average property value. Only if our levy renewal is approved will the District will continue to qualify for approximately \$2.5 million in LEA funding from the state.

There are TWO SEPARATE Local Levies on the ballot for the Eastmont School District.

Fact #3: Every school receives levy dollars to support student learning.

Levy dollars make up the difference between what it costs to operate our schools and what funding we are allocated from the State. These dollars support operations at all schools within our District.



Cindy Ulrich explains the basics of the Local Levies. Scan the QR code or visit shor-tn.us/esd-levy101



Current Levy Rate			Estimated Renewal Levy Tax Rates		
Year	Tax Rate	Levy Amount	Year	Tax Rate	Levy Amount
2014	\$2.98	\$8,556,246.00	2018	\$2.74	\$9,630,130.00
2015	\$2.93	\$8,819,739.00	2019	\$2.78	\$9,919,034.00
2016	\$2.69	\$9,185,424.00	2020	\$2.82	\$10,216,605.00
2017	\$2.69	\$9,349,641.00	2021	\$2.86	\$10,523,103.00
Average	\$2.82		Average	\$2.80	

Fact #4: The estimated tax rate per thousand dollars of assessed value will not increase.

The actual tax rate is based on the total assessed value of all taxable property within our school district. When the total assessed value for the school district goes up, the tax rate is reduced.

The average tax rate per thousand of assessed value for the expiring Educational Program Levy is \$2.82 per thousand. The average tax rate per thousand for the renewal levy is \$2.80 per thousand. The renewal levy assumes property values in the District will grow 1.5% annually, which is conservative when compared to an average growth rate of 4.9% over the past five years.

Fact #5: The Eastmont School District will collect only the amount approved by the voters.

The District is asking voters to authorize the renewal of collection of levy dollars for 2018 through 2021. Total excess levy collected will not exceed the amounts voters approve.

(continued, next page)

Fact #6: Approximately 5,800 students and 700 staff members are directly affected by this levy.

Class size, competitive wages and benefits, curriculum and instruction materials, special education services, fine arts and music programs, highly capable education, employee training, substitute teachers, and safety and security for students and staff are all supported by this local levy.

Athletics, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities are 100% dependent on levy dollars. The levy funds expenses for all sports, coaches and advisors, athletic equipment, band and music, field trips, and clubs.

The M&O Levy is a renewal of the existing levy and is not a new tax.

Fact #7: Levy = Learning and Programs

The levy also provides additional time paid to teachers beyond the number of days paid by the state. This time is used for training, review and development of curriculum, and for extended work responsibilities beyond the school day.

Fact #8: The Educational Program and Operation (M&O) Levy needs a simple majority vote to pass.

M&O Levies and Capital Project Levies require a simple majority to pass (50% + 1 vote).

Facts about the Capital Levy

Fact #1: On November 8, 2016, Eastmont School District residents will be asked to approve a six-year Capital Levy, which expires December 2023.

This is a levy that will provide funding for repair and upgrade of major infrastructure such as roofs, heating and cooling systems, water, sewer, irrigation, electrical supply, and security and safety improvements. These funds would also be used to secure land for future school sites as we plan for enrollment growth.

Fact #2: This is not a new tax.

Many years ago, voters approved a Debt Service Levy for the purpose of paying principal and interest on debt issued for construction and renovation of our school buildings. This Capital Levy will replace the expiring Debt Service levy and allow for an interest free, “pay as you go” financing for much needed school building maintenance.

Fact #3: Local capital levy dollars make up the difference between what it costs to maintain school buildings and what the state funds.

State funding for basic education does not allocate designated resources for building renovation, improvements, or land acquisition. Our district does apply for facility funding when eligible. However, we are not eligible for additional modernization funding until 2024.

Fact #4: This levy will generate \$22.6 million throughout six years for upgrade and repair to District facilities.

The levy will gradually increase as the existing debt service levy decreases. Total excess levy collected will not exceed the following amounts in the table to the right.

Calendar Year	Levy Amount
2018	\$1,677,000.00
2019	\$1,708,000.00
2020	\$1,735,000.00
2021	\$5,749,000.00
2022	\$5,832,000.00
2023	\$5,922,000.00

Fact #5: The estimated tax rate per thousand dollars of assessed value will not increase.

The actual tax rate is based on the total assessed value of all taxable property within our school district. When the total assessed value for the school district goes up, the tax rate is reduced.

This levy will not collect more than the \$2.05 rate per thousand, for combined Debt Service and Capital Levy, as promised during the 2010 bond campaign.

The Capital Levy replaces an existing debt service levy and will not increase taxes.

Fact #6: The Capital Levy is an investment in student success.

Funds provided by this levy will provide for much-needed building renovations. Without this levy, funding would need to be diverted from our general fund to meet immediate infrastructure improvement and repair needs, which would mean that less funding would be available for student instruction. Alternatively, the District would need to borrow funds and pay the additional costs for incurring debt.

Fact #7: The entire community benefits from our school facilities.

School buildings are community-owned assets. Our buildings were used more than 9,000 hours by 160 groups during the past year for recreation, meetings, and events. This levy will assist in funding to preserve and enhance these community assets for future generations.

Fact #8: A Capital Levy needs a simple majority vote to pass.

Capital Project Levies, like Educational Program and Operation (M&O) levies, require a simple majority to pass (50% + 1 vote).

The Capital Levy provides vital funding for projects like these...



Asphalt replacement and other grounds repairs and upgrades at elementary schools



Structural repairs



Floor repairs



Purchase of property for future school sites

East Wenatchee Schools: A Pictorial History

The land east of the Columbia River in the Wenatchee Valley was little more than sparsely populated steppe lands, but one-room schools already dotted the landscape in the early 1900's. Originally, the area consisted of at least 12 separate school districts that combined and reorganized over the decades to form what is now the Eastmont School District. Here are just a few examples of schools from our past, as featured in "A History of the East Wenatchee Schools," a booklet originally published by Edward A. Barnhart in 1979.

Liberty School, built in approximately 1905, was likely the first school built on the east side of the Columbia River. Established as part of School District #88, it survived until 1935.



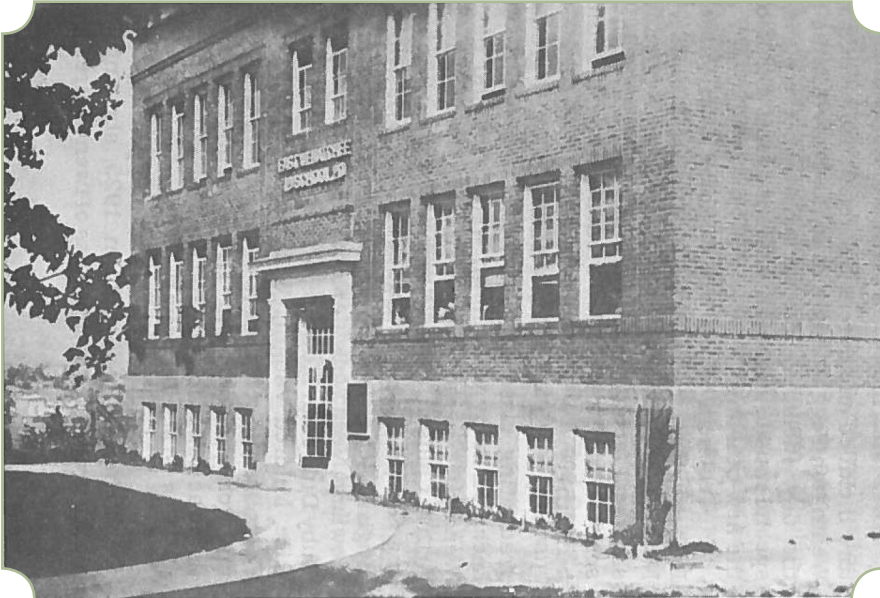
Columbia Heights School was built in 1909 as part of the newly formed School District #48. This one-room school burned down in 1939.



Majestic Flat School Building, located at the corner of Nile and Rock Island Road, as it appeared in 1979. The original building, built in 1909, burned down in 1917 due to a stove fire.



The new brick **East Wenatchee School** opened in 1920 at a cost of \$30,000 with an enrollment of 235 students. An addition was built in 1931 to house the junior high school.



Read the full text of "A History of the East Wenatchee Schools" online at shor-tn.us/esd-history

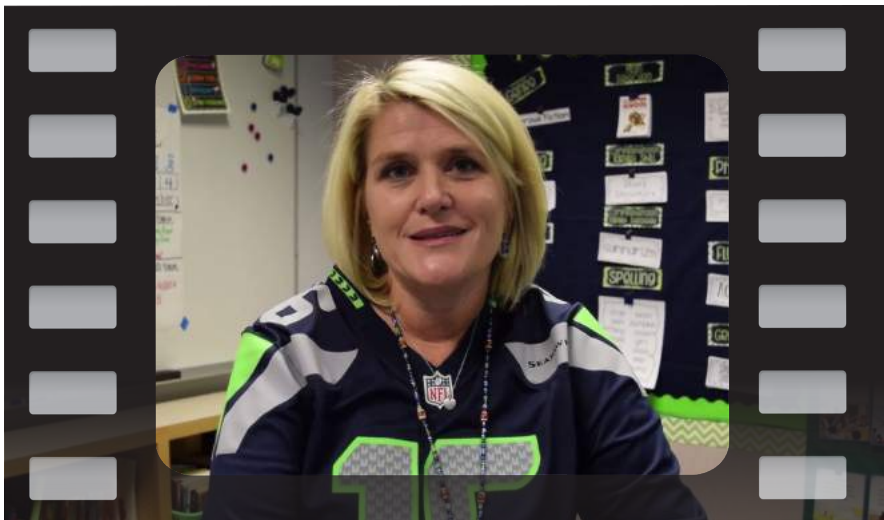


How do Local Levies support grades K-4?

by Spencer Taylor
Executive Director of Elementary Education

Educational Programs

- 1. **Class Sizes:** Local Levy funds allow us to keep class sizes lower. Students who are assigned to smaller classes in grades K-3 do better in every way that can be measured: they score higher on tests, receive better grades, and exhibit improved attendance and behavior.
- 2. **Curriculum:** Local Levy funds allow us to provide an up-to-date, quality curriculum for our students and teachers. Quality curriculum is essential in providing research-based, engaging lessons that best promote high levels of learning. It allows our teachers to focus more on the students and what the students need rather than finding instructional resources on their own.
- 3. **Technology:** Local Levy funds enable us to keep our technology tools up to date and give more access to students. Each year, the curriculum is becoming more and more digital, and teachers and students continue to rely on technology for instruction and learning. Providing adequate access for students and teachers and a reliable network is essential for learning in the 21st century.



Stacy West, Cascade Elementary, speaks about the levies. Scan the QR code or enter shor-tn.us/esd-swest



- 4. **Highly Capable Program:** Local Levy funds provide a large portion of our highly capable budget, which provides a teacher and materials for our students. These students have the opportunity to stretch their minds and become involved in fun and relevant activities.
- 5. **PE Instruction:** Local Levy funds help provide 100 minutes of active physical education and health instruction each week. In PE and health courses, our students learn how our bodies work and how to keep our bodies functioning well in an active and fun environment. Being active not only makes a person healthier, but it increases engagement and learning in their other classes.
- 6. **Music Instruction:** Local Levy funds help provide approximately 60 minutes of music instruction a week. Our students learn music fundamentals, how to read music, how to play instruments, and how to work together as a group.
- 7. **Elementary School Libraries:** Local Levy funds help staff our libraries and provide engaging books that meet the reading levels of our diverse students. Having access to quality literature and nonfiction resources is key to helping students become proficient readers.
- 8. **Art Instruction:** Local Levy funds provide regular art instruction throughout the year at each of our elementary schools. Students learn the fundamentals of art and can express their individuality through their own masterpieces.

(continued, next page)

FISCAL FAST FACTS

FOOD SERVICES

770,736 MEALS SERVED
(561,115 Lunches + 209,621 Breakfasts)

99,946 HAMBURGERS SERVED

24,660 LBS OF TURKEY SERVED

18,772 LBS OF APPLES SERVED

- 9. **Counselor Support:** Local Levy funds help provide counselors who assist students to learn how to get along with others, process grief, understand their emotions and handle them appropriately. They also connect students and families to community resources.
- 10. **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math):** Local Levy funds provide after-school, hands-on activities where students work in teams to create devices to accomplish tasks. Some examples are Tower Building, Egg Drop, Windmills and Recycled Vehicles.



Eastmont students at the GWATA (Greater Wenatchee Area Technological Alliance) STEM Showcase at Pybus Public Market, summer 2016.

Facilities & Capital Projects

- 1. **Need for More Classroom Space:** Eastmont is currently at capacity for K-4 students. Additional classroom space is needed to keep class sizes smaller. Portable buildings are more expensive than ever and do not withstand the intensive daily use by a classroom of students.
- 2. **Many Heating and Cooling Systems Struggle to Maintain Comfortable Room Temperature:** Our older facilities have heating and cooling systems that often fail to maintain a comfortable room temperature. One room can be too hot, and the other next door too cold. This can hinder student focus and learning.
- 3. **Property is Needed for Future Growth:** The purchase of property will ensure that we have schools located near future neighborhoods. This will accommodate expected growth and continue to provide our community with the opportunity to attend a neighborhood school.

- 4. **Several School Roofs Need Repairs and Replacement:** Roof leaks in schools cause dangerous and difficult learning conditions.
- 5. **Improvements Needed to Increase Safety in Student Drop-Off, Pickup and Bus Zones:** Our older schools were designed to have the vast majority of students walk to and from school, with the remainder riding the bus. In today's society, most students are driven to and from school, causing a daily traffic jam around our schools. Major improvements in the parking lots, bus zones and pickup and drop-off zones are needed to improve traffic flow, handle capacity, and keep students, staff, and parents safe.
- 6. **Improve ADA Access:** Currently, at many of our schools, our students with physical disabilities have limited access to the playground and some instructional spaces.
- 7. **Repair or Replace Gym Floors:** Two gym floors have exceeded their lifespan and have deteriorated significantly. One is still in use, but only for some types of activity. The other has a temporary floor installed to be able to use it for the short term.
- 8. **Increase Safety and Security with Video Camera Installation:** Video cameras are a proven tool to deter criminal and other inappropriate activity and a great resource in helping resolve school safety incidences.

FISCAL FAST FACTS

TECHNOLOGY

278 SAFETY/ SECURITY CAMERAS

18 PHYSICAL SERVERS & 78 VIRTUAL SERVERS

5,412 COMPUTERS, CHROMEBOOKS, AND TABLETS



How do Local Levies support secondary schools?

by Mark Marney
Executive Director of Secondary Education

Educational Programs

Quality communities have quality schools. Quality schools reside in quality communities. The relationship is both symbolic and symbiotic. You won't have one without the other. What sets great communities apart is what they provide for their children. Communities that pass their levies know those dollars matter to students and to all the experiences that make for a well-rounded education.

Quality communities have quality schools. Quality schools reside in quality communities.

What does the levy mean to a secondary student? The experiences of a public education in a quality school go far beyond learning the core content. There are many leadership opportunities throughout the Associated Student Body. There are competitions for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) like Catapults, K'Nex Race Cars, and Robotics. There are many performance opportunities in the fine arts (Choirs, Strings, Bands, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts), and these are available because of levy funds.

Athletics are an added cost to basic education. To participate and compete on a team, like swimming and diving, soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, wrestling, football, golf, tennis, track and field, cross country, bowling, and others, requires community support through levy funds. All of these experiences help young



people develop their minds, their bodies and their passion to excel. Many of the courses that can become life-changing educational experiences are electives. Those classes like drama, art, welding, journalism, yearbook publishing, woodshop, or photography are not basic education. They are electives to inspire as well as ignite creativity and hope. A student who attempts an elective class like sports medicine can be motivated to seek a future career in medicine. That may not happen if electives aren't readily available in our high school and junior high schools where levy dollars make a significant difference. To have an elective

Many of the courses that can become life-changing educational experiences are electives.

opportunity is a chance to explore new possibilities. Often it is the spark that ignites future career decisions. Some of the experiences students have will forever be a cornerstone in their educational foundation. Although they may not remember a particular lesson or specific content like a chemical compound equation, they will never forget some of their experiences. They remember what it felt like and the pride alumni still have in being an Eastmont High School Wildcat.

(continued, next page)

At some point, they may have conquered stage fright while acting in a play? Sang a solo? Marched and danced at the halftime show? Competed in a cabinet making contest or metal machining contest? Showed an animal at the fair? When they asked that special someone to a dance? When their classmates elected them to be part of ASB or a class officer? You simply cannot put a price tag on the impact those experiences add to education.



Watch Mark Marney discuss the Local Levies on the NCW Life Channel:
shor-tn.us/esd-marney



There is strong research connecting activities and leadership opportunities to academic performance. When students are involved in extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities, their rate of graduation is more than double compared to their non-participating peers. The same holds true for successful employment or college completion rates. Those who engage in the "extras" are successful at twice the rate of those who are not when seeking employment or a degree.

We continue to try and eliminate barriers for students of poverty so they can participate in extracurricular activities. We no longer have pay-to-play fees for students, and for those who cannot afford equipment, the school district can provide it. Is basic education enough? Basic education and a full slate of diverse experiences is the ticket! Basic education funding with the continuation of successful levies adds so much value to students that it simply cannot be measured. Activities and the experiences matter. They are truly priceless!

Facilities & Capital Projects

A significant portion of our maintenance plan includes updates and modernization of our systems. This is something that is behind the walls and usually not visible like a clean parking lot or a freshly cut lawn. Imagine if our schools still used old boilers for heating and air conditioning. That certainly would not be the best use of tax dollars. Having the most efficient and up-to-date systems comes with the cost of installation and maintenance. Those initial costs lead to long-term savings and efficiency. It is not glamorous or easily identifiable, but at the end of the day, we do not want leaky, wasteful faucets, fixtures or equipment. One of the advantages for some neighborhoods has been the recent activity of the school district in updating the safety features of our playgrounds. Previously, many people chose not to use the playgrounds when school was not in session. Now, at many of our elementary schools, you will find children and adults accessing the playgrounds in their neighborhoods.

Initial costs lead to long-term savings and efficiency.

Even out of season, you see patrons using our fields, courts, tracks, and athletic facilities for all kinds of activities that help our community stay healthy and active. Community basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, and tennis teams are constant users of Eastmont School District facilities.

On several occasions, our schools have been community resources during wildfires. We have been emergency shelter buildings, and we have been command central for personnel and equipment-staging.

The path is clear. With your help, we will continue to be thoughtful about what the facilities of the Eastmont School District should be, now and into the future. Our students and our community deserve the very best we can provide.

FISCAL FAST FACTS

45 BUSES
24 NEW SINCE 2006

310 TIRES INFLATED

TRANSPORTATION

31 PART TIME DRIVERS
WITH 8 SUBSTITUTES

56,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL

FISCAL FAST FACTS

13 BALL FIELDS

1,919 DOORS

FACILITIES & PROPERTY

825 SINKS,
466 TOILETS

15 BUILDINGS

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8

Ballot Drop-Off Locations & Voter Registration Information:

Douglas County Public Service Building
148 19th St NW
East Wenatchee

Douglas County Law and Justice Center
110 2nd St NE
East Wenatchee

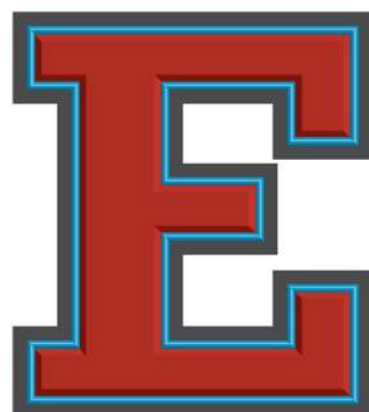
Rock Island City Hall
5 N Garden Ave
Rock Island



Or mail in your ballot, postmarked no later than the day of the election.

- The deadline for in-person voter registration is October 31.
- Citizens of Douglas County can register online, by mail or in person.
- For more information on voter registration, visit the Douglas County Auditor's website at shor-tn.us/dc-registertovote.
- Levy tax exemptions are available for senior citizens (61+), veterans and disabled persons.
- For more information on tax exemptions, visit the Douglas County Assessor's website at shor-tn.us/dc-assessor or call (509) 741-8521.

Join the conversation! Follow us online:
www.eastmont206.org



**EASTMONT
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
*Relationships, Relevance,
Rigor, Results*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Cetto
Annette Eggers
Chris Gibbs
Steve Piccirillo
Cindy Wright

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

884-7169
800 Eastmont, East Wenatchee
Dr. Garn Christensen, Superintendent
Cindy Ulrich, Executive Director of Financial Services
Vicki Trainor, Executive Director of Human Resources
Spencer Taylor, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Mark Marney, Executive Director of Secondary Education

EASTMONT HIGH SCHOOL

884-6665
955 NE 3rd Street, East Wenatchee
Lance Noell, Principal

EASTMONT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

884-2407
905 NE 8th Street, East Wenatchee
David Woods, Principal

STERLING SCHOOL

884-7115
600 N James, East Wenatchee
Chris Hall, Principal

CLOVIS POINT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

888-1400
1855 SE 4th Street, East Wenatchee
Bob Celebrezze, Principal

CASCADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

884-0523
2330 N Baker, East Wenatchee
Kim Browning, Principal

GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

884-0557
600 N. James, East Wenatchee
Amy Dorey, Principal

KENROY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

884-1443
601 N. Jonathan, East Wenatchee
Jon Abbott, Principal

LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

884-1497
1455 N. Baker, East Wenatchee
Stephanie Kay-Fredrickson, Principal

ROCK ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

884-5023
5645 Rock Island Road, Rock Island
Penny Brown, Principal

SPECIAL EDUCATION

884-7169
800 Eastmont, East Wenatchee
Mat Lyons, Director

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

884-7169
800 Eastmont, East Wenatchee
Mark Marney & Spencer Taylor

FOOD SERVICE

884-3026
800 Eastmont, East Wenatchee
Suzy Howard, Director

TECHNOLOGY

884-6503
460 NE 9th Street, East Wenatchee
Doug Clay, Director

MAINTENANCE

884-6970
345 6th Street, East Wenatchee
Seann Tanner, Director

TRANSPORTATION

884-4621
345 – 6th Street, East Wenatchee
Troy Lucas, Director