

# PIONEER POST

East Grand Rapids Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2023



ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

*Join Us*

**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023**  
**6-8 PM**

**GASLIGHT BAR**  
2450 N CLARK ST. | CHICAGO, IL

Complimentary appetizers and a beverage for East alumni!  
Happy hour prices on draft beer and mojitos.

## Chicago Alumni Happy Hour

On Thursday, May 11, all East Alumni in Chicagoland are invited to a get-together at Gaslight Bar, 2450 N. Clark Street, in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. Catch up with your fellow Pioneers. See old friends and make new ones. Appetizers and your first drink are on us!

**Pre-register for this event by May 1st.**



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# Full Slate of Reunions This Summer and Fall

**Class of 1962** | 60th +1 Reunion - October 13, at Watermark Country Club

**Class of 1963** | 60th Reunion - September 23, at Celebration Cinema North

**Class of 1968** | 55th Reunion - September 23, at Grand Rapids Yacht Club

**Class of 1973** | 50th Reunion - October 6-7, at Kent Country Club

**Class of 1983** | 40th Reunion - September 29-30, at Grand Rapids Yacht Club

**Class of 1993** | 30th Reunion - September 30

**Class of 1998** | 25th Reunion - July 15, at Long Road Distillery

**Class of 2002** | 20th +1 Reunion - October 21

**Class of 2018** | 5th Reunion - November 22

**Homecoming - Friday and Saturday, September 29-30**

Find more reunion information on our [Events and Class News pages](#). The Foundation provides reunion planning support for all East classes. [Contact Maria Allen](#), Alumni Relations Coordinator for more information.



**East Grand Rapids** Schools Foundation

# You'll Want to Be at Hurrah: Adventure Awaits

## Saturday, April 22

Food, fun, friends, flannel, fleece, fundraiser for the kids. HURRAH! Adventure Awaits will bring our entire community together to celebrate our schools and explore all the possibilities the Foundation provides for our students. HURRAH! Adventure Awaits will transform Wege Plaza overlooking Reeds Lake into an outdoor oasis, providing hundreds of happy campers with a spectacular night of food, fun, music from Troll for Trout, and more to benefit our schools. It will be a great night for a great cause in the great outdoors. We want you to be a part of it and you'll want to be there.

[Get your tickets or be a sponsor on the Hurrah page on our wesite.](#)

*Foundation Connection: Hurrah! is the Foundation's fundraiser of the year. [Even if you can't attend, you can support the Foundation by registering as a "Backyard Camper" on our website.](#)*

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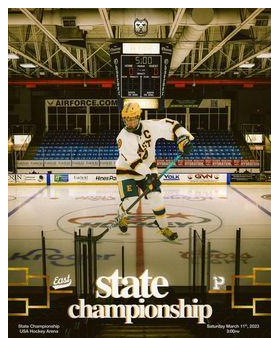
## "High School Musical" Is High School Musical. No, Really.

This spring's eagerly anticipated high school musical is "High School Musical," the stage show based on Disney's 2006 movie. Fun fact: The movie was filmed at East High School, but not our East High School. Scenes were filmed at East High School in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Performances of "High School Musical" will be in the Performing Arts Center April 27-29. [Tickets are available now on the EGR Drama website.](#)

*Foundation Connection: Thanks to our donors, the Foundation is proud to contribute thousands of dollars to support the performing arts in all our schools.*

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## Hockey Reaches First State Finals Game Since 2002

**Bowling:** The boys team defeated Wyoming, Potter's House, and South Christian during the season.

**Boys Basketball:** Reached the second round of the playoffs before falling to Byron Center.

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freestyle, and the relay team of Micah Spitzley, Ted Turnage, Kagle and Logan McCahill won the 400-meter freestyle relay.

**Girls Basketball:** Miss Basketball finalist Macy Brown passed her sister, Jillian Brown, to become East's all-time leading scorer.

**Ice Hockey:** The Pioneers were state runner-up, reaching the championship game for the first time since 2002 before falling to Flint Powers 3-2 on a goal with four seconds left.

**Skiing:** The boys and girls teams both reached the state finals. Each team finished sixth in the state.

**Foundation Connection:** [You can check The Cheat Sheet on our website, \*egrfsf.org\*, for a weekly listing of what's happening in our schools, sports, the arts, and our city.](#)

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## Community Service and Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner This Fall

Every two years, the Foundation honors worthy individuals with the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Community Service Award at our Awards Dinner. We look forward to sharing the 2023 honorees and the date for this event in a special Pioneer Post Extra coming soon.



In 2021, CDR Bill Krissoff, MD, Medical Corps, United States Navy (Ret.) of the class of 1964 was our Distinguished Alumni honoree. Longtime EGRPS custodian Bruce Towne received the Community Service Award.

**Foundation connection:** [On our website, you can find brief descriptions of previous winners, along with nomination forms.](#)

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## Coach Wants to Connect Football Program with Alumni

Head football coach Josh Shattuck has a request: "I want to connect our program and community through alumni relations by building a

database of EGR football alumni who might be interested in what our program is doing and ways to get involved."

We'd love to help build this line of communication. If you played football at EGRHS at any level, [just fill out this quick Google form](#) and the Foundation will share your contact information with Coach Shattuck.

**Foundation Connection:** *At the annual Gerken Open golf outing, the Foundation partners with Team*

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## A Virtual Cup of Coffee with Sarah Krissoff '95

*Sarah Krissoff attended EGRPS schools up through her freshman year of high school. She is a White Collar and General Criminal Defense Partner at Day Pitney in New York. She ardently defends companies and individuals in government and internal investigations, criminal matters, and complex commercial litigation in federal and state courts. Sarah has broad experience in federal criminal proceedings, internal investigations and business litigation. Prior to joining Day Pitney, Sarah was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York for over a decade. Sarah often comments on breaking news and trials of public interest in major media outlets, including the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Business Insider, Reuters, Bloomberg News, New York Post, BBC World News, Court TV, NBC News, NewsNation, Miami Herald, New York Law Journal and Daily Mail. In addition, she is a prolific author*

*on a range of legal topics, including asset forfeiture, business litigation, and trial practice. Sarah earned her B.A. from Brown University and her J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.*

### **You can only have one: Rose's caramel corn, an ice cream cone from Jersey Junction, or a Yesterdog. Which do you choose?**

Definitely an ice cream cone from Jersey Junction! I have many amazing memories of going to JJ with my family on the weekends and, when I was older, going with my friends for lunch. I think I ate hundreds of their pizza bagels when I was a pre-teen. While I appreciated the food, the best part was running into other families in Gaslight Village.

### **What was your path from East Grand Rapids to where you are now in life?**

When I was in second grade at Lakeside, I wrote down my life goals on a purple piece of paper. I had already decided then that I wanted to be a lawyer. I always anticipated that I would go straight from college to law school, which I did. In retrospect, I think it would have been great to work for a few years after college before continuing school. My decision to go to law school at Columbia was a bit impulsive—I hadn't spent much time in New York City before that—but I loved the city and have never left.

### **What specific thing did you learn in East that has enabled you to be successful?**

Ask questions, ask more questions, and make sure you sufficiently vet any information you rely upon. I have a very distinct memory of sitting in Mr. Brown's fifth grade class at Lakeside on a Friday afternoon, when we would regularly engage in an activity called "Newspaper Wars." Essentially, we would work in groups to review the Grand Rapids Press to find the answers to questions posed by Mr. Brown. That day, Mr. Brown asked us the question, "Is everything you read in the newspaper true?" I was flabbergasted to learn during the course of the class that newspapers sometimes got things wrong, and that the material in the newspaper may be written from a particular perspective, not a place of objective truth.

### **What were you like in school?**

I was geeky but social, and probably worked a bit harder than I should have to fit in.

### **Did you have a favorite teacher or class?**

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that education was not about rote learning and the regurgitation of facts. He also taught us to be responsible for ourselves, and our work.

**If you had to choose one moment in one location to serve as the signature moment of your East school experience, what would it be?**

In 9th grade, there was nothing more important than going to the EGR home football games. I can still hear the marching band playing at halftime on a beautiful fall night.

**What do you know now that you wish you'd known then?**

I am actually kinder to myself as an adult. I pushed myself pretty hard when I was a kid--to perform at school, in sports, etc. I wish I was a little nicer to myself when I failed, like when I got cut from the 8th grade volleyball team! It all worked out.

**Do you stay in touch with many people from East Grand Rapids?**

While I am not a fan of social media, it has enabled me to keep in touch with many friends from East. I've also connected that way with my brother and sister's friends from East, many of whom were a significant part of my youth.

**What advice do you have for young East alums who are just starting out?**

Explore and appreciate the vastness of the world and the opportunities ahead.

**Who else would you like us to have a virtual cup of coffee with?**

Rob Steiner, who was close friends with my brother.

**Bonus question: What are you glad we didn't ask you about?**

I take the fifth on this one! I got into a few scrapes as a teenager that fortunately resolved in my favor. I was lucky.

***Foundation Connection: To see more Virtual Cup of Coffee interviews, visit the Alumni Profiles page on our website.***



East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation, 2915 Hall Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, [egrsf.org](http://egrsf.org)

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