

THE PIONEER POST

East Grand Rapids Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2021



Thank You, Teachers and Staff, for Making the Best of a Difficult Year

There are plenty of lists of things that have been missed or canceled or postponed over the past year. We don't need to see any more.

Instead, let's focus on just a few of the things our incredible teachers and staff provided for our students over the past school year.

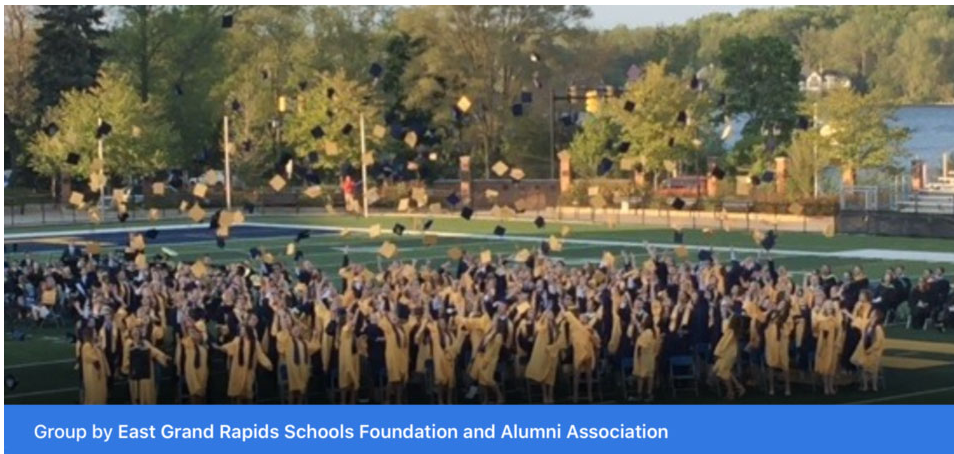
Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and staff, our students had first days and recess and gym class and lunch. They had concerts and plays and football games and swim meets. They had orchestra and band, art class and innovation lab. We had parent teacher conferences, junior conferences, academic planning nights and book fairs.

Our students had IB info sessions, Middle School Robotics, First Lego League, We the People, and Science Olympiad. They had Spanish class, French class, Latin class and English class. They had Halloween and Valentine's Day. We had PTO and booster meetings.

Thanks to our teachers, staff, and administrators, our students had in-person learning, full virtual learning, and online learning with EGRPS teachers. Our teachers and students met each other face to face, even if sometimes those faces were on screens. Was it perfect? No. But they made it work.

The East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation, thanks to donors like you, is proud to have helped make all of this possible for our students. This school year, the Foundation provided nearly \$900,000 to our schools. Together, we funded programs. We helped make reopening our schools safer. We provided technology that enabled online learning. We saved some programs, restored others, and maintained several more.

Maybe 2020-21 wasn't the best year, but thank you for helping make it the best it could be.



East Grand Rapids Alumni Group

Private group · 912 members



Connect with Other Pioneers on Facebook

The [East Grand Rapids Alumni Group](#) on Facebook is a great place to stay in touch with your fellow alumni. Recent posts in the group have included job networking, updates on East alumni in college sports, and even a Bruce Towne sighting. In just a short time, the group has already grown to more than 900 members and we'd love to get that number to 1,000. Please join today!



Newsletter Chronicles a Year of Challenges Met

Click on the image above to read the semiannual publication from your East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation and Alumni Association. Inside the [newsletter](#), you'll find a comprehensive list of everyone who donated to the Foundation in 2020, along with links to videos that show how those donations are providing outstanding educational opportunities for our students.

There are also updates on how you and the Foundation helped our schools make it through an extraordinary year. This school year, thanks to our donors, the Foundation will contribute nearly \$900,000 to EGRPS. It's all for our students, and it's all thanks to you.



New Notable Alumni Page

Thanks to some suggestions from alumni, we've added several new names to the [Notable Alumni page on our website](#). That's by design.

When we first launched the page, we described it as incomplete, and it's

still a work in progress. Of course, every East grad is notable, but it really is amazing how many East alumni are doing interesting things across the country and around the world. Visit the page on our website and please keep the suggestions coming!



Nominate a Teacher for an Annual Award

Alumni can nominate a favorite teacher for the Excellence in Teaching or the James and Georgia Nicholas Award for a teacher of math, science or technology. The purpose of these annual awards is to recognize and encourage superior professional effort, to improve instruction and to cultivate the continuance of educational excellence in the East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Nominations for the awards may be received from students, parents, alumni, community members and employees of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools. Any teacher with 3 years of experience in the district may be nominated for these awards. The deadline for nomination submission is April 30.

[Nominate a teacher for the Excellence in Teaching Award](#)

[Nominate a teacher for the James and Georgia Nicholas Award for a teacher of math, science or technology.](#)



Boys Swim and Dive State Title Is East's Record

138th State Championship in Michigan History

The winter sports season has been a bit like an old family car. It started. It stopped. It started again. Parts of it needed some work. And somehow the darn thing keeps going.

Yesterday, the Boys Swim and Dive team earned East Grand Rapids' 138th state championship, extending East's Michigan record for a single school. Other highlights of the season included the Girls Ski Team being state runners up, East's first two qualifiers in the Bowling state finals, the Ice Hockey team sweeping Grand Rapids Christian, Eran Marx reaching the Wrestling state tournament as an individual, and many more.

The Boys and Girls Basketball teams won district championships this week but because their seasons were pushed back by the pandemic, they are still in the state playoffs. We'll send an update at the conclusion of their seasons.

Spring sports are already underway! The Boys Lacrosse team opened its season Friday and the Girls Lacrosse team and Girls Tennis team started up yesterday. Here's hoping all our spring sports teams get to enjoy full seasons.

Foundation Connection: Funds generated by the Foundation's endowment and donated to our schools have helped provide East athletes a safe return to competition.



Let's tee off!

2021 GERKEN OPEN
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June 9, 2021
Thousand Oaks Golf Club

This year's event is focused on bringing back the **strength & conditioning program**. Text "EAST" to 41444 or scan the QR code below to be part of the supporters list!

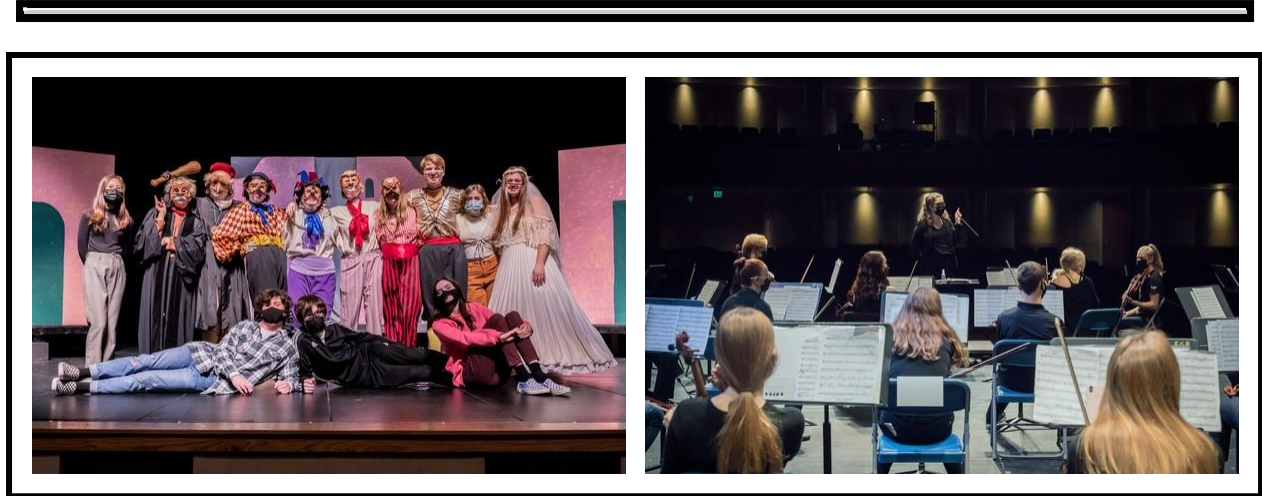
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SCORER										ATTEST		
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2	189	381	417	189	548	3213	6600	72.9	132			
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Gerken Open Supports Strength and

Conditioning Program for Student Athletes

Registration for this popular, fun event is filling fast. Click on the image above to sign up. If you can't play in the event, you can still support the restoration of the Strength and Conditioning Program by scanning the QR code above or texting "East" to 41444.



Drama, Band, Orchestra All Managed to Perform Despite COVID Restrictions

This week, the high school band, orchestra and choir all had concerts in the Performing Arts Center that featured something very refreshing: audiences. Attendance was limited to two people per performer, but it was wonderful to see people in the seats in the PAC and for parents to enjoy their children's performances in person. The concerts were also live streamed for those who couldn't attend.

EGR Drama managed to stage its full winter lineup, including the play "Bamboozleed." This year's spring musical, "Mary Poppins," is scheduled for April 29-May1 in the PAC.

Foundation Connection: Through its Performing Arts Fund, and by sponsoring productions, the Foundation supports the arts in our schools.



Class Reunions Planned for Summer

For the list of class reunions and updated reunion information please go to our [Upcoming Alumni Events page](#). You can also contact [Alumni Relations Coordinator, Maria Allen](#) to request or share reunion information.



East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation

Please save the date
Thursday, September 30, 2021

East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation
**Community Service and
Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner**

• • • HONORING • • •

Community Service and Leadership Award Recipient

Bruce Towne

Former Custodial Supervisor at EGRPS

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

CDR. Bill Krissoff, MD, Medical Corps United States Navy (Ret.)

Orthopedic Surgeon

Class of 1964

Invitations to follow.

For further information please visit www.egrsf.org.

egrsf.org



East Grand Rapids Schools Foundation, 2915 Hall, egrsf.org

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