



East Elementary School
1035 Washington Ave. • Alton, IL 62002
(618) 463-2130 • Fax (618) 463-2132
Mrs. Lanea DeConcini, Principal
Mrs. Natalie Gordon, Assistant Principal



December 1, 2023

Dear **East Elementary** Families,

Happy December! We hope that your family is enjoying this wonderful time of the year and staying warm. We have many things to be thankful for here at East Elementary School. We are thankful for our exceptional students, staff, and families who make each day better!

Upcoming Dates

- December 2 - ABOB Craft Fair at AHS 9-4
- December 3 - ABOB Craft Fair at AHS 10-3
- December 4 - 3rd Grade Program in East gym 6:30 pm - doors open at 6:00 pm
- December 5 - Band, Orchestra and Chorus Concert 9:30 am - parents will be invited in at 9:10
- December 6 - 12 days of Caring begins ([Schedule](#))
- December 19 - School Board Meeting
- December 21 - End of Quarter 2
- **December 21 - Early Dismissal for Students - East Dismissal at 12:25 pm - No 21st Century**
- **December 22 - January 3 - Christmas Break - No School**
- January 4 - School resumes
- January 5 - Report Cards Issued
- **January 15 - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**
- January 16 - School Board Meeting
- January 25 - Science Fair at North Elementary School - Doors open at 6 pm and activities start at 6:30
- **January 31 - Early Dismissal for Students - East Dismissal at 12:25 pm - No 21st Century**

3rd Grade Concert

Our third grad will have their program on Monday, December 4th at 6:30PM. The Gym Lobby doors will open at 6:00 PM. Students should sit with families on the bleachers until they are called to the risers at 6:20. They should wear their holiday best for the concert.

Band, Orchestra, and Chorus Concert

Our Band, Orchestra, and Chorus students have been hard at work preparing for their first concert of the year on Tuesday, December 5. If you plan to attend, you will need to come in through our main lobby doors and sign in. There will be a section in the gym for parents to sit. The concert will begin at 9:30 am. We will begin seating parents/guardians at 9:10 AM.

Spirit Wear

Our Spirit Wear Store is open. Please click [HERE](#) to place your order. The store will be open until Thursday, December 7. All orders should be delivered to the school by December 21.

Science Fair

School District Science Fair projects have many due dates that are approaching. Please note that abstracts, conclusions, and references are due to Ms. Herring by December 15. The rough draft of the research paper is due by January 12. The final revised research paper is due on January 19, and the Science Fair will be held at North Elementary School on January 25. If you have any questions, you may contact Ms. Herring, our building coordinator, via email jherring@altonschools.org.

Young Authors

Our District Young Authors celebration will be held on March 6. All books are due to Mrs. Stevenson (kstevenson@altonschools.org), Ms. Hellemeyer (shellemeyer@altonschools.org), or Mrs. Cowan (scowan@altonschools.org) by January 29. If you are interested in your child participating, please contact one of the building representatives.

Community Christmas

The United Way sponsors the Community Christmas Program. They are only collecting non-perishable food items this year. All donations will be delivered directly to the Crisis Food Center in Alton, IL. We will be hosting a box in our lobby. Please feel free to send in items to place in the box through December 8.

Attendance

Absences are excused for:

1. Illness Of A Student
2. Death In The Family Or Of A Close Friend
3. Critical Illness Of A Near Relative (Mother, Father, Brother, Sister, Grandparent)
4. Dental Or Medical Appointment When Prior Arrangements Have Been Made
5. Absence Due To Bus Problem Beyond Students' Control
6. Mental Health Days - May use up to 5 for the year - Someone from the school will be in touch after the 2nd day

Absences Are Unexcused For:

1. Running Errands For Family
2. Staying Home To Care For Younger Children
3. Working At Or Away From Home
4. Visiting Friends Or Relatives
5. Shopping With Parents
6. Minor Aches And Pains (Persistence May Indicate A More Serious Problem)
7. Ordinary Weather Hazards
8. Vacations, Day Trips, Or Other Days When A Parent Electively Decides To Remove Their Student From School During Attendance Days

We want to ensure that our students are safe at all times. If your child will be absent for any reason, please notify the school (463-2130). If we have yet to receive a call, you will be contacted to confirm the absence.

Transportation Changes

Anytime you need to make a change in transportation, please contact the main office at 463-2130. To ensure the safety of our students, family members will be required to contact the school **before 11:00 am** to make a change to their child's transportation for the school day. Should families encounter an unexpected emergency after this time on a given day, please call the school to discuss other transportation arrangements. Thanks for understanding as we work to ensure the safest dismissal and transportation process possible.

Morning Procedures

Please remember that parent drop-off begins at 7:30 am through the gym lobby doors. Please note that the doors will be closed promptly at 8:00 am. If your child is dropped off after 8:00 am, please drop them at the main lobby doors. If your child is going to eat breakfast at school, they need to be here by 7:55 am.

Parent Pick-Up

Parents picking up students by car will receive a hang tag that is numbered and corresponds with the name(s) of child(ren) being picked up. After school, parents and guardians will need to pull around to the back of the building for parent pick-up. Please do not arrive **before 1:45 pm**. Please remain in your car and pull up to the door, which is located toward the building side of the second parking lot. Please wait in line until your child(ren) is escorted to your vehicle by the supervisor on duty. Additional hang tags can be requested if you would like to permit someone to pick up your child from school.

PTG

Our Parent Teacher Group will not be meeting in December. We will meet again in January.

Recycling Initiatives

East Elementary collects many items for recycling as part of our Madison County Green Schools initiatives. All of these initiatives not only benefit our environment, but they are separate contests that we compete in throughout the year! Please consider donating to help our school and our environment! We will be collecting paper, plastic bags, and new/gently used shoes. Please just send them with your child, and there will be bins to place them in our gym lobby. You can also drop them off at our main office. Thanks for your support.

District Procedures for Winter Weather Conditions

Weather conditions can change rapidly in the winter months. When weather is potentially threatening, Alton administrators constantly monitor the forecasts, conditions of roads, and conditions of sidewalks, and parking lots. With this in mind, we would like to provide you with information on district procedures in the event of school closures or early dismissals due to inclement weather. In the event that local weather conditions deteriorate rapidly during the school day, the District may be forced to dismiss early in the best interest and safety of our children.

Early Dismissal Schedule

East will release at 12:25

Notification procedures are as follows: Parents receive an automatic phone dialer, email notification will be sent, and notifications will be posted on the district website.

Delayed Start Schedule

East Elementary will have attendance from 10:00 am - 2:25 pm

Remote Learning Day

When we know in advance of potentially threatening forecasts we will make sure that materials are sent home the previous school day. Students will work remotely for the day.

Emergency School Closing

In the event that the Alton School District elects to close schools for the day due to poor weather, information will be provided through the following means: automatic phone dialer, email, posting to the district website, social media posts, and through local media including WBGZ - 1570 AM, KMOX Radio - 1120 AM, KMOV Channel 4, KSDK Channel 5, and Fox 2 Now.

As a final reminder, please contact our East office if you need to update contact information such as phone numbers, emergency contacts, and or email addresses. Having the correct contact information on file will ensure that you receive prompt notifications in these events.

December Character Trait Word of the Month: Cooperation

Each month your child/ren will be learning about a character trait that we believe is essential to being a good citizen in our society. We suggest you discuss this trait so that they understand it is crucial both inside and outside of the school setting. Every Wednesday morning, from 8:15-8:40, your child(ren) will participate in social-emotional learning lessons in their classroom. During these lessons, teachers will focus on the Character Trait of the Month.

Arbor Management - District Food Service

- [December Breakfast Menu](#)
- [December Lunch Menu](#)
- [Food Allergy Form for Doctors](#) to Fill Out - We have a new food service provider this year, so if your child has any food allergies, they ask that you have your child's doctor fill out this form for their system.

Social Media

Please keep an eye out for our emails, but you can follow us on Facebook.com/East.Redbird or Instagram @East_Redbirds for important information.



Facebook.com /East.Redbird



@East_Redbirds

We are excited to serve you and your family! Our door is always open. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or to share ideas.

Sincerely,

Lanea DeConcini
Principal

Natalie Gordon
Assistant Principal