

# East Lansing High School

December Announcement



**509 Burcham Drive East  
Lansing, MI 48823  
Phone: 517-333-7500  
Attendance Line: 517-333-7567**

## **School Hours:**

7:45am - 2:35pm

## **Office Hours:**

7:00am - 4:00pm



## **Attendance:**

517-333-7567

[Mary.Fata@elpus.us](mailto:Mary.Fata@elpus.us)

Please leave your student's name, grade, and reason for absence.

**\*Visitors must report to the main office and receive a visitor's pass in order to access the building during school hours.**

**\*East Lansing High School is a closed campus during lunch for freshman and sophomore students.**



## **High School Administration**

### **Ashley Schwarzbek - Principal**

[Ashley.Schwarzbek@elpus.us](mailto:Ashley.Schwarzbek@elpus.us)

### **Quiana Davis - Associate Principal**

[Quiana.Davis@elpus.us](mailto:Quiana.Davis@elpus.us)

### **Jeff Lampi - Associate Principal**

[Jeffrey.Lampi@elpus.us](mailto:Jeffrey.Lampi@elpus.us)

### **Nikki Norris - Athletic/Activities Director**

[Nikki.Norris@elpus.us](mailto:Nikki.Norris@elpus.us)

### **Dorcas Shumake - Dean of Student Success**

[Dorcas.Shumake@elpus.us](mailto:Dorcas.Shumake@elpus.us)

## **Administrative Assistants**

### **Nikie Tabor - Main Office**

[Nikie.Tabor@elpus.us](mailto:Nikie.Tabor@elpus.us)

517-333-7504

### **Mary Fata - Main Office**

[Mary.Fata@elpus.us](mailto:Mary.Fata@elpus.us)

517-333-7502

### **Bonnie McGraw - Registrar**

[Bonnie.McGraw@elpus.us](mailto:Bonnie.McGraw@elpus.us)

517-333-7508

### **Kristen Pfaendtner - Student Services**

[Kristen.Pfaendtner@elpus.us](mailto:Kristen.Pfaendtner@elpus.us)

517-333-7509

### **Laura Scott - Athletic/Activities**

[Laura.Scott@elpus.us](mailto:Laura.Scott@elpus.us)

517-333-7574

# "How to Excuse Your Child from School" A Survival Guide

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We know that life happens. Maybe your high schooler woke up with a mysterious ailment, perhaps a sudden case of "I-don't-want-to-go-to-school-itis," or maybe there's a legitimate reason (like an unexpected visit from aliens). Whatever the reason, we're here to guide you through the magical process of excusing your child from school. All calls or emails must be sent within 48 hours to be able to excuse your student. \*\*New this year, students need to provide appropriate documentation (i.e., doctor/dentist note) to update their attendance code to "MED" and not count toward their overall attendance total. Please see more information on the updated ELHS attendance policy [here](#).\*\*

Option 1: (NEW) Enter Attendance in POWERSCHOOL \*this is the preferred method to excuse your student\*

- Instructions found [HERE](#)

Option 2: The Ancient Art of the Phone Call

- Please call the ATTENDANCE LINE at 517-333-7567. Please DO NOT call the main office line.
- Let us know how many days your student will be out.
- Tell us your student's name. Speak slowly and clearly. Maybe add in the spelling of the last name if it's a tricky one. (trust me, I have one of those tricky names)
- All calls will be cleared periodically throughout the day and by 4:00 at the latest. So, you may get a notification your student is unexcused if we haven't gotten to it yet. We appreciate your patience.

Option 3: The Mystical Email

- Email Mary Fata at [Mary.Fata@ELPS.US](mailto:Mary.Fata@ELPS.US)
- All emails will be cleared by 4:00

Option 4: The Old School Doctor's Note

- Have your student bring in a doctor's note when they come back to school and we will get those absences excused toot suite!

Please know that the end of the school day is very busy in the office. If you try to call to pick up your student 10-15 minutes early, we may not be available to answer your call.

**With lots of thanks,  
The Attendance Team**

ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS

# >>COUNT DAY IS COMING!<<

1

1

>> FEBRUARY <<

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR  
STUDENT ATTENDS ALL  
CLASS PERIODS THIS DAY.

ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS

EAST LANSING HIGH SCHOOL

# CLASS OF 2026 INFORMATION



**See Cap and Gown  
information on  
pages 17 and 18!**

**This page will have information  
pertaining to the class of 2026! If have a  
graduating senior, make sure to read  
this page every month for updates!**

# Collage XLIII presents:

# Dreamscapes

DECEMBER 6, 6:30 PM  
CONCERT AT 7:30 PM

ART SHOW IN THE  
STUDENT UNION

CONCERT IN THE EAST  
LANSING CENTER FOR  
PERFORMING ARTS



Experience captivating art and live  
music in a magical atmosphere.



# Notes From Student Services:

## TRAILS

This month in TRAILS, students are learning how their fight or flight system can overpower their thinking brain. We are talking about how to notice when your body is in a stress response, and what you can do about it. We are teaching breathwork and vagus nerve stimulation to calm our bodies, and get our brains back online focusing on 30-60 interventions you can do to calm down and think clearly.



Here are some example videos:

[Amygdala Hijack](#)

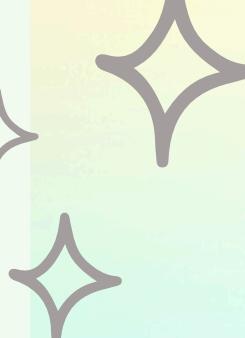
[Practice Breadwork](#)

[Breathwork](#)

[Tapping](#)

## College, Trade School, and Military Visits:

All college, trade school, and military visits are posted on the Juniors and Seniors Google classrooms. Encourage your student to visit these college representatives.



## Trojan Threads:

### The Students' Needs Closet:

We're always grateful for donations to help provide our most vulnerable students with essentials. We are currently all set with gently used clothing donations at the moment. However, feel free to browse our [WISH LIST](#) on Amazon—any item you choose can be sent directly to the High School, Attention: Kristen Pfaendtner. Thank you so much for your support!





# 2026-26 Meeting Schedule

**Virtual - December 16**

**In person - January 20**

**In person - February 17**

**Virtual - March 17**

**In person - April 21**

**Elections in person - May 19**

**All meetings at 6pm - In person meetings held  
in the HUB at ELHS**

**To request a Google Meet invite,  
email [elhsc22@gmail.com](mailto:elhsc22@gmail.com)  
or fill out [This Form](#)**

# **BLACK COLLEGE TOUR**

## **MARCH 26-31, 2026**

**\$830**

**COST**

**\$250**

**DEPOSIT**

Departing from  
Lansing, Michigan

Information Meeting  
Wednesday, Nov. 12 @ 5:30 pm

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church  
5200 Pleasant Grove Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48911



**40 SPOTS  
AVAILABLE**

**OPEN to High School  
Juniors & Seniors**

EMAIL: Ms. O for more information  
[Door2Access@gmail.com](mailto:Door2Access@gmail.com)

**PRESENTED BY:** Ms. O, Pilgrim Rest  
Baptist Church & 32nd Street Theatre



# DECEMBER 2025



| SUN                       | MON | TUE | WED                                 | THU | FRI                                 | SAT |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 30                        | 1   | 2   | 3<br><b>WTC</b><br>trip, 10th grade | 4   | 5                                   | 6   |
| 7                         | 8   | 9   | 10                                  | 11  | 12<br><i>PD<br/>No<br/>Students</i> | 13  |
| 14                        | 15  | 16  | 17                                  | 18  | 19                                  | 20  |
| 21                        | 22  | 23  | 24                                  | 25  | 26                                  | 27  |
| 28<br><i>Winter Break</i> | 29  | 30  | 31                                  | 1   | 2                                   | 3   |

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
COMMISSION OF MID-MICHIGAN



2026 James W. Butler III & Mark S. McDaniel Legacy Scholarship

Presented by



**DATE:** October 28, 2025

**TO:** School Administrators, Guidance Counselors, and Community Leaders

**FROM:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan

**RE:** Scholarship Contest: An Opportunity for Students

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The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan is pleased to announce our **2026 James W. Butler III & Mark S. McDaniel Legacy Scholarship Contest!!!** A total of \$17,500 in awards is available to graduating seniors of the greater Lansing area pursuing higher education. The Commission is excited about this opportunity to invest into the lives of our future leaders.

The Commission will be presenting two (2) First Place awards for \$5,000 and three (3) Finalists awards for \$2,500 each. Contestants must write an essay (*other submission materials required are outlined on the application*) reflecting on our theme:

***“Until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream” – MLK***

All applications that meet the minimum requirements will be considered for all awards. Winning entries are assessed by an independent panel of educators and community leaders. To enter the contest, interested students must fill out the attached application and qualify based on the following criteria:

- Be a graduating senior, Class of 2026, from a greater Lansing area school
- Possess a 2.0 or higher career GPA (verification required).
- Submit an essay narrative expounding on theme (250-450 words, typed, double spaced, and 12-point font).
- Submit a personal statement (no more than one page typed) indicating why he/she feels they should be considered for the scholarship.
- Resume

**Note: Award recipients must submit an electronic version of the narrative to the Commission upon notification of award**

- Two letters of recommendation (not from a related party).
- Application deadline is **Friday, December 5th, 2025**
- Submit Applications to [MLKCommissionScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:MLKCommissionScholarship@gmail.com).

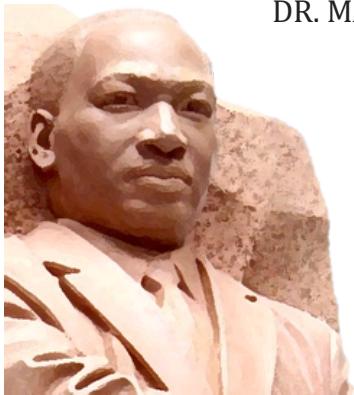
Enclosed is an official application. **Please inform students about this opportunity.** The enclosed application may be copied for distribution. Scholarship recipients will be notified in advance and honored at the annual MLK celebration on **Monday, January 19, 2026.**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



# James W. Butler III & Mark S. McDaniel Legacy Scholarship Application

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMISSION OF MID-MICHIGAN



- Please complete this application. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- **COMPLETED** Application must be Emailed by **December 5, 2025**

## APPLICANT INFO:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, Michigan ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

ALT Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## EDUCATIONAL INFO:

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (Copy of Transcripts Required): \_\_\_\_\_

What Educational Institution will you be Attending?

*Note: Official Verification of Enrollment is required before award is released*

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay should incorporate the

## APPLICATION ESSAYS

stated theme and reflect on the applicant's personal experiences and vision

Theme:

“Until justice rolls down like a mighty stream” – MLK

*This form is required for scholarship applications*



**SEND COMPLETED  
APPLICATIONS TO:**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Commission of Mid-Michigan  
**Attn: 2026 Scholarship Contest**  
[MLKCommissionScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:MLKCommissionScholarship@gmail.com)

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE  
EMAILED BY:**

**December 5, 2025**

**CONTACT US:**

For questions, e-mail us at:  
[MLKCommissionScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:MLKCommissionScholarship@gmail.com)

**DISCLOSURE:**

Applications missing any required components will not be considered. Plagiarism is grounds for disqualification and forfeiture of eligibility to receive an award from the Commission. Recipients are required to meet all qualifications, including providing official Verification of Enrollment before an award is disbursed. Recipients are selected by an independent panel of judges from the community. Award can be forfeited if the recipient does not provide conditional requirements within one year from the date of the Celebration (1/19/2025). The Commission does not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY SERVICE INFO**

(Can attach student resume or additional sheets, if necessary)

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

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Community: \_\_\_\_\_

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Leadership: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION RELEASE:**

I hereby certify that all of the information in this application is true and accurate. I am aware that any misrepresentation will result in the disqualification of my application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I give the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan permission to release/publish, letters of recommendation, application, likeness, photographs, etc., of my child. I certify that the works submitted are original, authentic, and accurate. I understand if my child is selected as a recipient, they will be honored at the annual MLK Celebration on Monday, January 20, 2025. No entries will be returned

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

Complete Application Form

Personal Essay

Copy of Official High School Transcript

Two (2) Letters of Recommendation

Resume

Personal Statement

*This form is required for scholarship applications*

MATH

ELHS

ENGLISH



STARTS  
MON 9/15!

# After-school PROGRAM

MONDAY - THURSDAY

2:45PM - 3:45PM

ROOM 179 (HEALTH RM)



SUPERVISED BY A  
CERTIFIED TEACHER



SOCIAL  
STUDIES



GET HELP WITH

HOMEWORK!



Science

STARTING IN OCTOBER, MSU STUDENTS  
WILL JOIN OUR PROGRAM AS VOLUNTEER  
TUTORS IN ALL CORE SUBJECT AREAS!!!

**Dear East Lansing Families,**

**We are excited to share an update about family-teacher conferences at East Lansing High School and McDonald Middle School. Beginning this year, we are moving to a new, flexible conference process designed to strengthen the partnership between home and school.**

**This new approach will:**

- Allow for more consistent communication throughout the semester, rather than limiting conversations to just a few set dates.**
- Create opportunities for more meaningful communication with students and families who need it most, ensuring that we can provide timely support when it matters.**

**Our goal is to make sure every family feels informed and connected to their student's learning. During conference hours, teachers and families can connect via zoom, in person, by email or by telephone. The links below contain information on all our teachers' conference times for the first semester. You can utilize [myconferencetime.com](http://myconferencetime.com) to sign up for a conference or contact the teacher directly via email. We hope that these varied options will give your family flexibility to reach out to support as you need it over the course of the year.**

**We believe this change will provide a stronger, more supportive experience for students, families, and staff, and we thank you for your partnership as we launch this new format.**

**Sincerely,**  
**Ashley Schwarzbek**  
**Principal, East Lansing High School**  
**Amy Martin**  
**Principal, McDonald Middle School**



**[East Lansing High School Teacher Conference Times](#)**  
**[McDonald Middle School Teacher Conference Times](#)**

Dear ELHS Community,

In our continued effort to support student growth and success, we are placing a renewed focus on punctuality—a critical skill that will serve our scholars well beyond high school. To reinforce this, we are reinitiating lunch detention as a consequence for excessive tardiness.

#### How This Will Work

- Each week, a tardy report will be generated through PowerSchool.
- Students who are tardy to class **at least 20% of the time or more than 4 class periods in a week** will be required to serve detention the following week.
- Students will be notified via their School Gmail, and are expected to check their email daily.

#### Detention Details

- Detentions will be held weekly on Tuesdays during lunch
- Missed Detention will result in In School Suspension on The following day
- Continued noncompliance may lead to further disciplinary actions, including but not limited to;
  - Attendance Intervention
  - Loss of school privileges

#### Attendance Expectations

- Students are expected to be in class on time every day.
- Arrivals more than 10 minutes late(UNV\_UT) will be marked as absent, as stated in the student handbook.
- Students who arrive after the bell will be marked Tardy (UT)
- Students should be physically present in the assigned classroom as reflected in PowerSchool, either with the teacher of record or a designated substitute.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (517) 333-7500.

Thank you for your partnership in promoting responsibility and accountability.

Sincerely,

ELHS Administration

# **CLASS OF 2026**

## **IT'S TIME THE**

### **TO PURCHASE YOUR CAP AND**

### **GOWN**

Herff Jones is our vendor for Senior Cap and Gown orders. Varsity jackets, rings, and yard signs are also for optional purchase. Packets are available in the main office, or use the QR code below:

<https://youtu.be/mld0tSw5clo>

QR Code on next page



# East Lansing High School



## GRADUATION PRODUCTS



## YARD SIGNS



## ACHIEVEMENT JACKETS



## CLASS RINGS



Follow Us! @miherffjones



miherffjones.com

KEEP THE MEMORIES!

# 2026 YEARBOOK

ORDER YOUR  
YEARBOOK HERE!

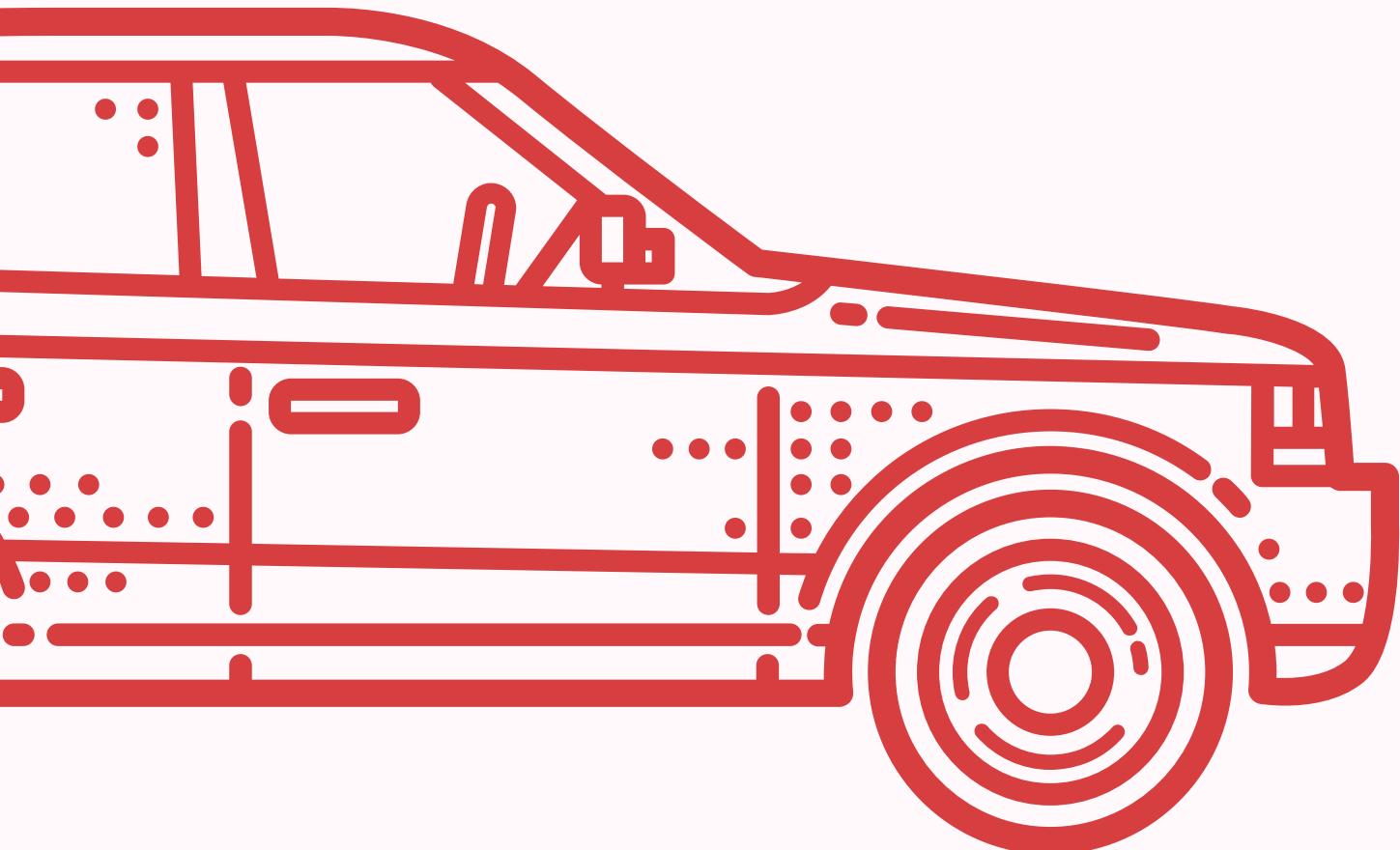
50% OF OUR SENIOR AD  
SPACE IS SOLD! YOU CAN  
ORDER THROUGH  
FEBRUARY OR UNTIL  
SPACE IS SOLD OUT.



# PARKING PASSES

## \$35/ YEAR

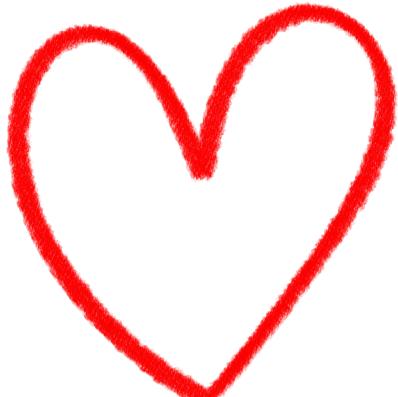
BRING TO MAIN OFFICE  
CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT  
INFORMATION NEEDED:  
MAKE, MODEL, COLOR  
AND PLATE NUMBER





**Ele's Place**  
**Grief Group**  
**Interest Form**

**Ele's Place grief support group is returning to East Lansing High School this fall. This group takes place during Excel for 8 weeks. Completing the interest form above simply lets me know that you have some interest in learning more - it does not grant permission or formally register your student for our group.**



EAST LANSING HIGH SCHOOL  
ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES A

- 75TH ANNIVERSARY -

# *Celebration Concert*

**MAY 21, 2026**

7:00 PM

EAST LANSING HIGH SCHOOL



**ALUMNI OF THE ORCHESTRA  
PROGRAM ARE INVITED TO  
PERFORM. MRS. MCDONALD  
WILL BE THERE!**

More Information

here

[www.eastlansingorchestra.org](http://www.eastlansingorchestra.org)