

East Lansing High School

February 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@elps.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@elps.us

Dorcas Shumake - Associate Principal

Dorcas.Shumake@elps.us

Jeff Lampi - Associate Principal

Jeffrey.Lampi@elps.us

Nikki Norris - Athletic/Activities Director

Nikki.Norris@elps.us

Administrative Assistants

Nikie Tabor - Main Office

Nikie.Tabor@elps.us

517-333-7504

Mary Fata - Main Office

Mary.Fata@elps.us

517-333-7502

Bonnie McGraw - Registrar

Bonnie.McGraw@elps.us

517-333-7508

Kristen Pfaendtner - Student Services

Kristen.Pfaendtner@elps.us

517-333-7509

Laura Scott - Athletic/Activities

Laura.Scott@elps.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
- 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

Important Dates:

- **2/7:** Winter Dance
- **5/16:** Prom @ MSU University Club
- **5/19:** Senior Graduation Auditions
- **5/20:** Senior Diploma Cards Due
- **5/22:** Senior's last day – Convocation and Bus Parade
- **6/1:** Senior Cedar Point Trip
- **6/2:** Graduation Practice
- **6/4:** Graduation @ MSU Breslin 7pm



See Cap and Gown information on pages 16 and 17!

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!

Notes From Student Services:

Xello

Counselors are in student's math classrooms to work with students in Xello. See [THIS LETTER](#) that explains the process.

Candace Moore: College Advisor Extraordinaire

Our amazing college advisor, Candace Moore, wants to remind parents and guardians to finish your FAFSA! If you or your student have any questions, please reach out to Candace at candace.moore@elpus.us.



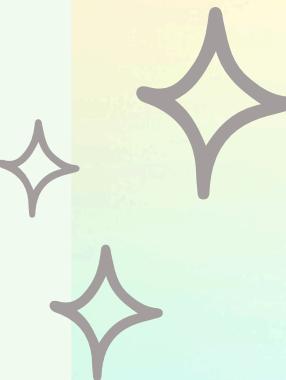
College, Trade School, and Military Visits:

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!



FEBRUARY IS...

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Staff from the East Lansing Public Schools Health Center have several events planned throughout the month of February to increase awareness and education around healthy relationships.

Events/activities include:

- **Friday Facts during announcements, highlighting important data about teen dating violence**
- **Healthy relationships education in health classes**
- **Interactive table with “conversation hearts” for students to fill out focusing on respect in relationships**
- **Take home baggies with relevant local resources, candy, and orange ribbons to raise awareness**



MYTH: “It can’t or won’t happen to my child.”

FACTS:

- Boys, as well as girls and nonbinary teens, can be victims of dating violence.
- It can happen to teens in relationships of all orientations, including straight, lesbian, gay, and queer relationships.
- It can occur at any time in a relationship —those just starting or ones that have been going on for a while.

There are many reasons why teens don't tell their parents or friends about the violence they are experiencing.

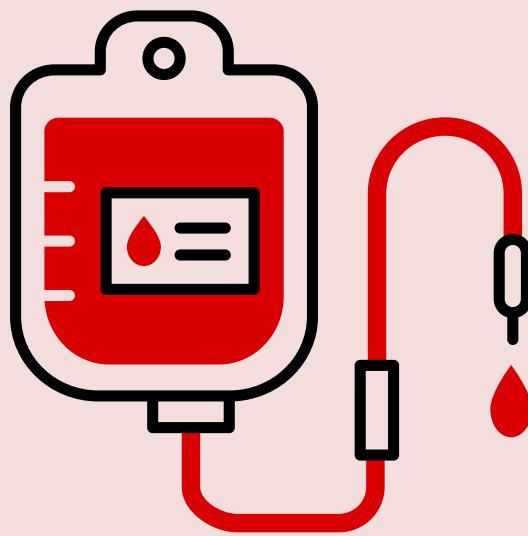
They may:

- Feel embarrassed, ashamed, or afraid of getting hurt.
- Be convinced it is their fault and do not know that it is abuse.
- Feel afraid they will be forced to break up or of losing privileges.
- Feel certain that being in a relationship is the most important thing in their life.
- Confuse jealousy with love, and think this is how it should be.

Talk to your teens about healthy relationships. If you have questions or would like additional guidance, check out the resources below or reach out to the health center directly (517-827-6290).

RESOURCES

- **MSU Center for Survivors:** A safe and confidential space for people who have experienced sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or harassment. They offer support, counseling, and advocacy to help survivors feel heard, supported, and empowered.
- **End Violent Encounters, Inc:** An organization that supports people affected by dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harm. EVE provides help, resources, and education to support safety, healing, and healthy relationships.
- **The Trevor Project:** A national organization that supports LGBTQ+ youth who are feeling overwhelmed, unsafe, or in crisis. Trevor offers free, confidential support 24/7 by phone, text, or chat.



STUDENTS AND STAFF DONATE BLOOD SAVE LIVES

February 18th, 2026

8:00AM-2:00PM

East Lansing High School

REGISTER NOW!

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements.html>



Digital Diploma

East Lansing High School has teamed with Parchment to offer an official digital version of your diploma.

It's fast, free, and sharable!

Celebrate your accomplishment with those who supported you along the way-- your family, friends, and colleagues. Share with potential employers to kick-start the next step in your journey or career.

How to Get It

Graduates will receive an email and text notification (optional) with instructions for electronically claiming their diploma.

Follow these simple steps:

- Check your school email and text messages (optional) for the award notification.
- Follow the link to set up your Parchment digital credentials account.
- Share your digital diploma on Facebook and LinkedIn or download a secure .pdf version.

Your digital diploma will always be accessible through your Parchment account. You can login and download or share it again and again -- at no cost to you.

Your diploma will be sent to your email address on file.

****Update your account to your personal email address after you set up your account.***



What You Can Do With It

Share your Achievements

- Easily share your digital diploma with employers with a secure and verified link
- Share with family and friends on Facebook and LinkedIn

View or Download

- View your digital diploma online at any time with permanent access
- Download your digital diploma and save as a PDF



Serve as an Alternative to the Apostille

- Many countries recognize digital diplomas. Parchment Award diplomas are supporting the needs of international credentials.

East Lansing High School's

WINTER

Dance



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

8:00PM - 10:00PM

\$10.00 per person

Buy on GoFan
or Pay Cash at the Door



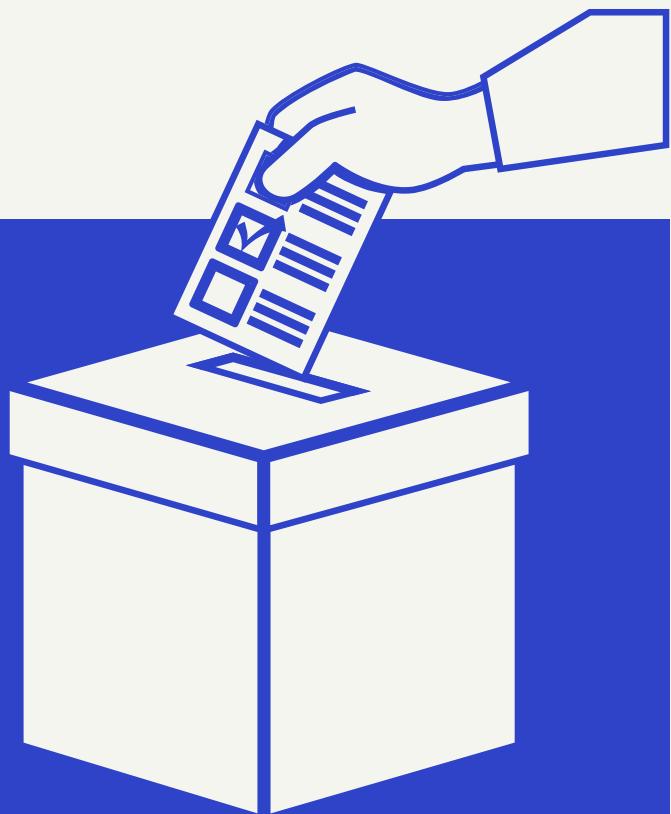
Let's Celebrate Together!

VOTE MSUFCU

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

ELHS HAS 10 ARTISTS
PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR! ART
WILL BE ON DISPLAY FROM 1/25
- 2/20 AT THE MSUFCU
HEADQUARTER BUILDING.

3777 WEST ROAD, EAST LANSING
MI 48823



ELHSCC Meeting Notes

Here's a quick snapshot of what's coming up and what we're working on at East Lansing High School:

What's Happening at ELHS

- Curriculum Night: January 28 at 6:00 PM – families are encouraged to attend!
- Winter Formal: February 7, 7:00–10:00 PM
- Multicultural Event: February 6 during second period
- Mental Health Summit: April 29 – ELHS Community Council will again support this important event
- The school-based health clinic is open and running, with more information to come soon

School Updates

- Finals are complete and a new marking period has begun
- Attendance resets with the new term:
 - Pre-arranged absences (requested 3+ days ahead) are exempt
 - Excused absences are not exempt
- An Associate Principal is expected to be hired soon

Supporting Our International Families

- We're working on an International Parent Toolkit to help families navigate:
 - Enrollment and grading
 - Curriculum nights and school communication
 - After-school programs and college prep
 - Advocacy, resources, and emergency supports
- The toolkit will be available in multiple languages and shared digitally

Mental Health & Wellness

- The Council voted to support the Mental Health Advisory Committee Summit this spring
- We're proud to continue partnering to promote student wellness and belonging

Get Involved

- Look for us at Curriculum Night – we'll have a QR code to follow the Council and get meeting invites
- We're always looking for families who want to help support students, staff, and school initiatives

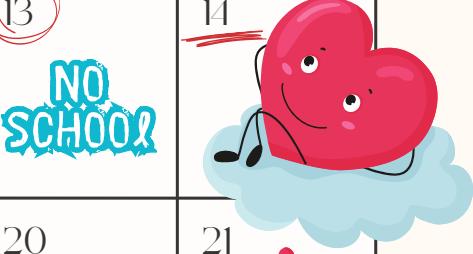
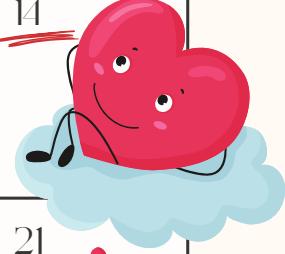
Join Us

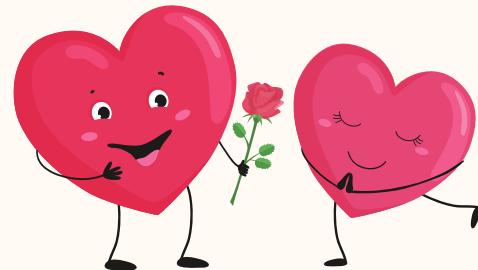
Feb 17 @ 6:00pm Google Meet

Follow Us



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7  Winter Dance
 8	9	10	11 COUNT DAY	12 No Students Staff PD Day	13  NO SCHOOL	14 
15	16 NO SCHOOL	17	18 NHS BLOOD DRIVE	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



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!!!

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

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



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!

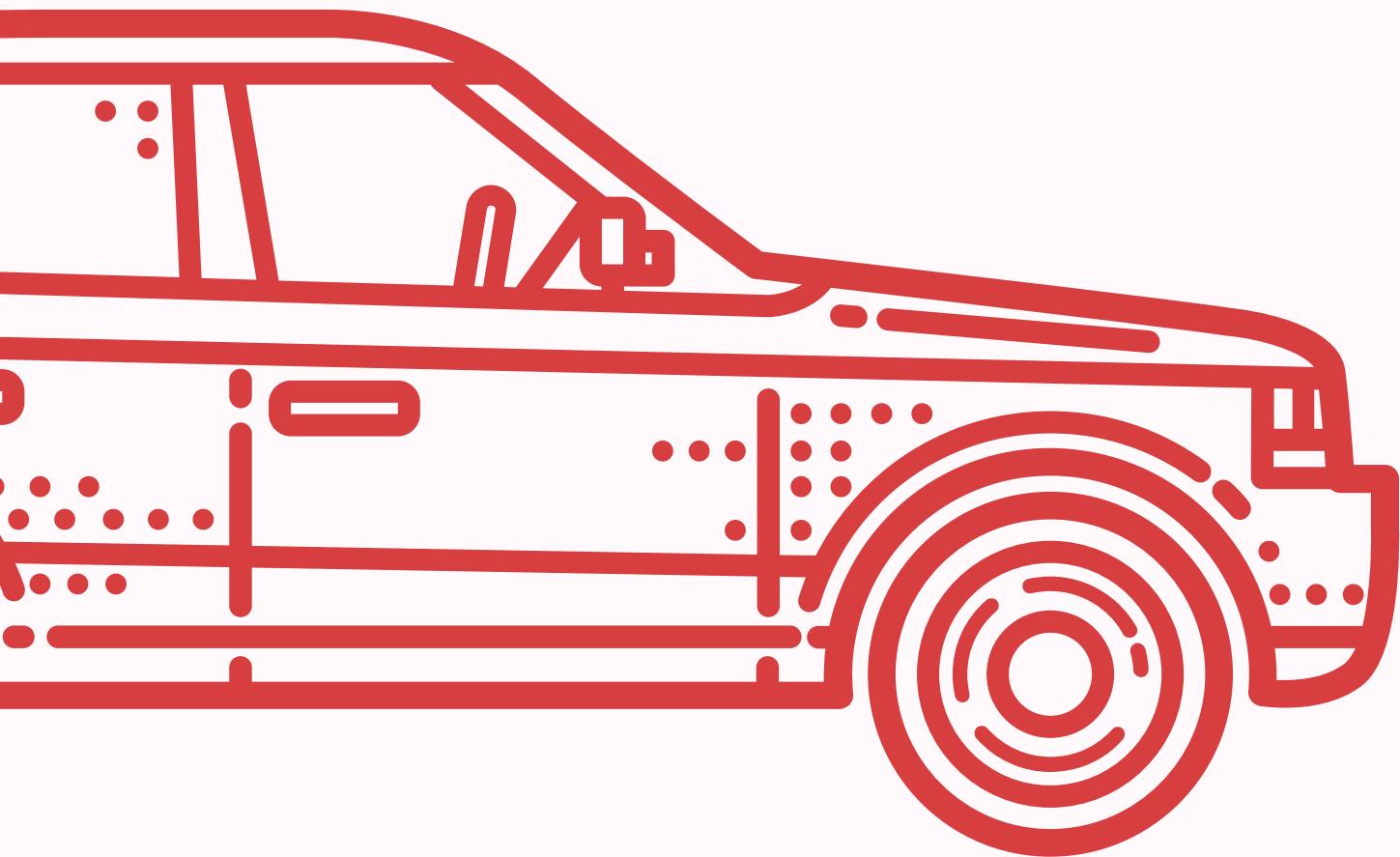
WE ARE DOWN TO EIGHT PAGES
OF SENIOR AD SPACE LEFT,
WHICH MEANS WE'VE SOLD
NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF
OUR AVAILABLE SPACE. DON'T
WAIT—SAVE YOUR SPACE BY
PURCHASING A SENIOR AD AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE!



PARKING PASSES

\$35/ YEAR

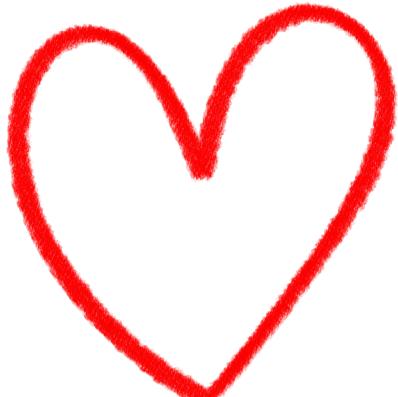
BRING TO MAIN OFFICE
CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT
INFORMATION NEEDED:
MAKE, MODEL, COLOR
AND PLATE NUMBER





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