

East Lansing High School

November 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.**

**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

High School Administration

Ashley Schwarzbek – Principal

Ashley.Schwarzbek@elps.us

Quiana Davis – Associate Principal

Quiana.Davis@elps.us

Jeff Lampi – Associate Principal

Jeffrey.Lampi@elps.us

Nikki Norris – Athletic/Activities Director

Nikki.Norris@elps.us

Dorcas Shumake – Dean of Student Success

Dorcas.Shumake@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 students 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**

EAST LANSING HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2026 INFORMATION

FAFSA Night

**A representative from Lansing Community College will be delivering a presentation on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Since the FAFSA process is consistent across all colleges and universities, we encourage you to attend and learn more about this important application. Dinner will be provided!
RSVP [HERE](#)**



**See Cap and Gown
information on
pages 11 and 12!**

**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:

Career Speaker Series at ELHS:

We are excited to welcome a variety of professionals to share their experiences and insights with our students through our Career Speaker Series. Guests will discuss their career paths, what it took to reach their positions, and offer advice to students exploring their own futures. Scheduled and upcoming speakers include a Lieutenant with the East Lansing Police Department, the Deputy Chief of the East Lansing Fire Department, a sports journalist from WLNS, and a licensed mortician. We're thrilled to provide students with this opportunity to learn about diverse careers and the many paths that lead to success.



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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. 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!



*East Lansing High School Theatre Department
presents*

Almost, MAINE

By John Cariani



On a cold mid-winter's night, love touches one town in painfully hilarious ways...

THURSDAY, NOV 13TH – 7PM

FRIDAY, NOV 14TH – 7PM

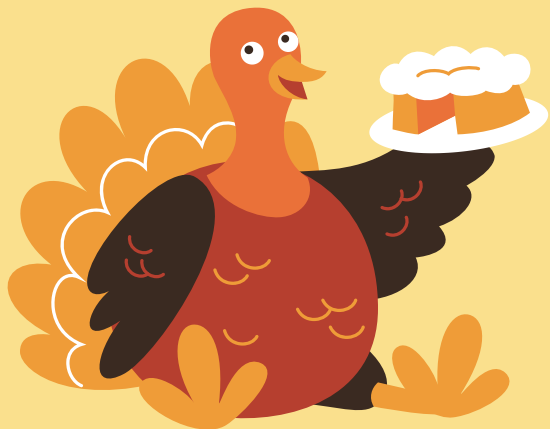
SATURDAY, NOV 15TH – 7PM

SUNDAY, NOV 16TH – 3PM

For Tickets:



ELHS Center for the Performing Arts



TURKEY DRIVE NOVEMBER 22

Help us with the annual NHS Thanksgiving Food Drive!

For over 35 years, our tradition of providing Thanksgiving meals has helped ensure every family in our community can enjoy a warm holiday. With rising costs, this year's drive is more important than ever, and we need your help to make it a success.

Need a Thanksgiving Basket? We understand that rising costs have made it challenging for many families to afford a holiday meal. If your family is in need of a Thanksgiving meal basket, please call

Christian Services directly at **(517) 394-5411**

between October 13th and October 28th to sign up.

Non-perishable food collection will begin the last week of October. We are collecting both food and monetary donations. The money raised will go directly toward purchasing turkeys and fresh produce like eggs, milk, bread, vegetables, and fruit. You can send non-perishable food items or a monetary donation with your student to their first-hour class. For the first time, you can also donate via Venmo! Send your donation to **@SheriSeyka** (9699) and add a comment with your student's first hour teacher. The first hour class that raises the most will win a doughnut & bagel party for their generosity!



Meeting Notes

School & Student Buzz

- Fall sports are wrapping up (time to give those athletes a nap), and our marching band is still out there dazzling judges and fans alike. The long-awaited Health Center is almost ready to open its doors—because healthy students are happy students!
- Each student should've received a **form to authorize care**, so check those backpacks (you know, the ones full of mystery items).
- We also welcomed Candace Moore, an MSU Ph.D. candidate who's now our new college advisor. She's already diving in to help students figure out their next steps—whether that's college, military, or job training.
- Mark your calendars for **FAFSA Night** on **November 11** at **6:00 PM**, featuring a special guest from Lansing Community College who can answer questions and calm FAFSA fears. Oh, and 25 brave souls are already signed up for the ASVAB test—good luck, test-takers!
- Meanwhile, teachers are deep into vertical curriculum planning (aka: "Let's make middle school and high school play nicely together").

Treasurer's Tidbits

- Mike reported that our finances are healthy—**\$12,800** on hand. PayPal is still being stubborn (we're working on it), but we're exploring Venmo and MSUFCU member-to-member options to make giving and reimbursements a breeze.

Community & Grants

- Grace is connecting with MSU to support our international families (because culture + community = connection).
- No new teacher or student grants this month, but both programs are ready to roll once we finalize our fundraising options. If you like helping others make great ideas happen—this is your moment to shine!

Fundraising & Fun Stuff Ahead

We're cooking up some exciting ideas:

- A Fall 2026 **special speaker** event is on the horizon!
- A **survey** will be released to hear what you want us to focus on for the special speaker.
- Fundraising opportunities that require **NO SELLING** are in the works!
- More ways to make sure families know who we are, what we do, and how they can get involved.

We Need You!
Join the Fun at ELHS Community Council!

District Council Representative

Be the voice of ELHS at the district level!

You'll attend a few meetings with representatives from other schools and bring back the inside scoop. No prior experience needed — just curiosity and a willingness to share updates with our group.

International Family Liaison Support

Work alongside Grace to help our international families feel at home. You can help organize welcome events, share community resources, or just make introductions to families new to East Lansing.

General Helpers

Maybe you don't want an official title — that's okay! Come to a meeting, share your ideas, or lend a hand when we need extra help. It's relaxed, collaborative, and (dare we say it?) actually fun.

JOIN US

Nov 18 @ 6:00pm in The HUB

FOLLOW US



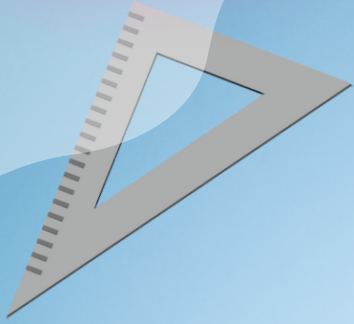
NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3 mp2 starts	4 	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>FAFSA Night</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 NHS Thanksgiving Food Drive	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
THANKSGIVING BREAK						
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

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

GET HELP WITH

HOMEWORK!



SOCIAL
STUDIES



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 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\](https://youtu.be/mld0tSw5clo)

QR Code on next page



East Lansing High School



YARD SIGNS



ACHIEVEMENT JACKETS



CLASS RINGS



Follow Us! @miherffjones



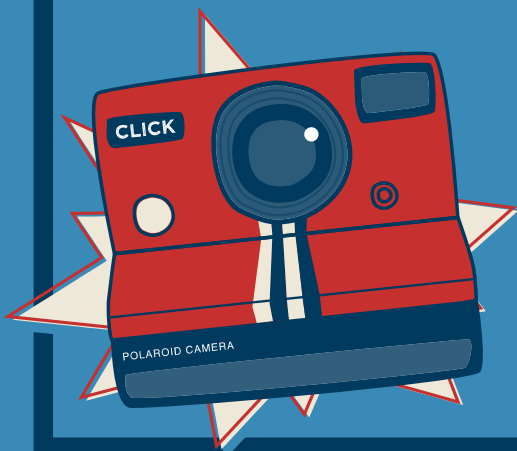
miherffjones.com

KEEP THE MEMORIES!

★ 2026 ★ YEARBOOK

**ORDER YOUR
YEARBOOK HERE!**

**40% OF OUR SENIOR AD
SPACE IS SOLD! YOU CAN
ORDER THROUGH
FEBRUARY OR UNTIL
SPACE IS SOLD OUT.**



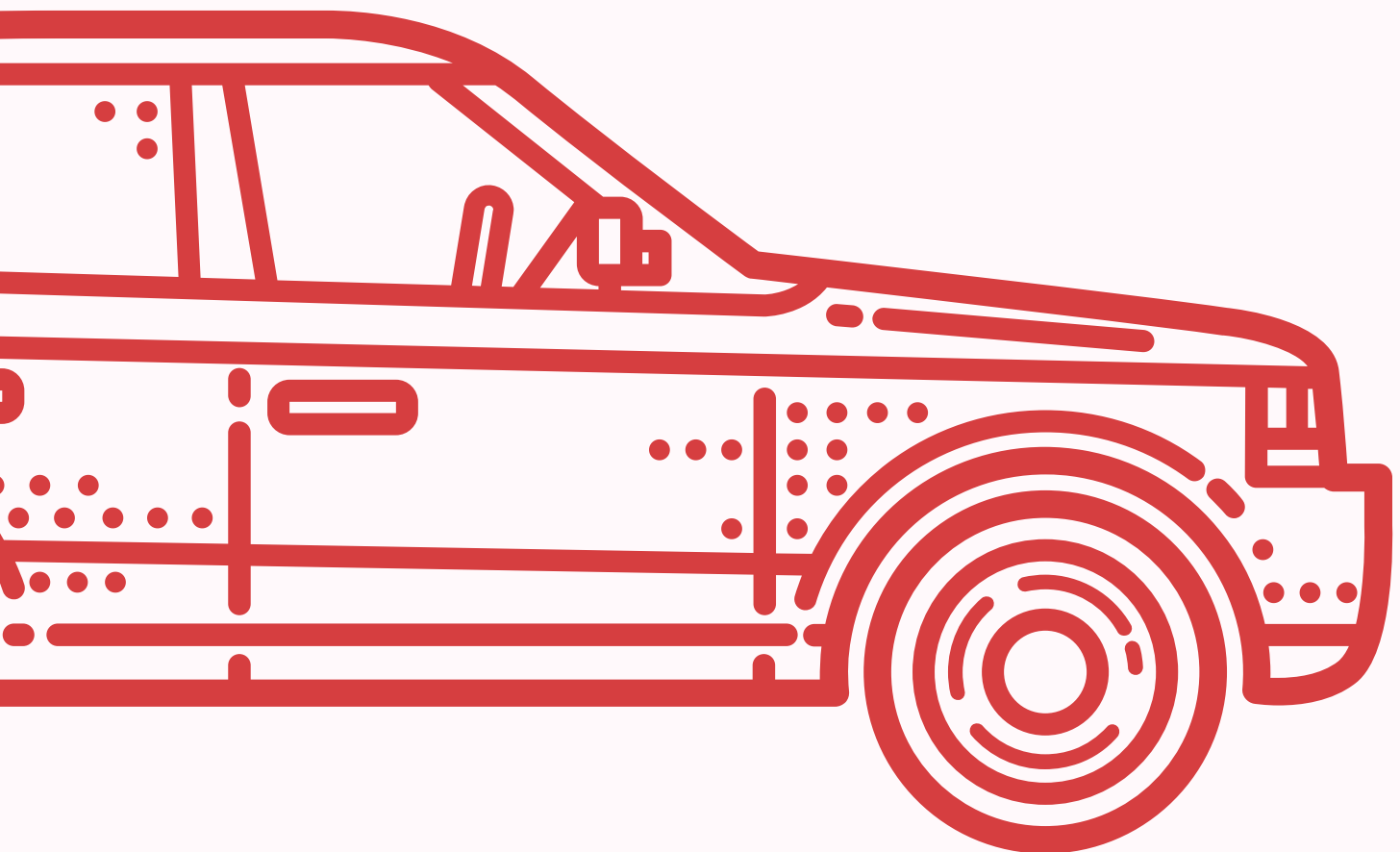
PARKING PASSES

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

