

East Lansing High School

October 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

ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS

»COUNT DAY IS COMING!«

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OCTOBER



PLEASE ENSURE YOUR
STUDENT ATTENDS ALL
CLASS PERIODS THIS DAY.

ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS ELHS

"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

**Didn't get your senior
photo in by October 1st?**

Your senior will be given a free senior session during school on Thursday, October 16th. If you haven't received a timeslot by October 13th, please reach out to adviser [Cody Harrell](#).



**See Cap and Gown
information on
pages 22 and 23!**

**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:

College Advisor:

We are very excited to welcome a new college advisor this year, Candace Moore. Candace will be starting October 1st and is very excited to work with your seniors!

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.



Senior Parent/Guardian Night:

Counselors recently hosted a senior parent/guardian night on September 25th. All slides have been shared with any parents/guardians of seniors. If you did not receive this, contact Kristen Pfaendtner at kristen.pfaendtner@elps.us.



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!



HELLO EAST LANSING COMMUNITY!



I'm Candace Moore, joining you all as the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) College Adviser.

I'm originally from Sacramento, CA and am living in Lansing while earning a PhD in Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education at Michigan State. Before that, I was in high school classrooms in Brooklyn and Atlanta, teaching English — starting at East Lansing High School is a little bit like coming home and I'm really looking forward to working directly with high school students again! I'm eager to support students and families in the adventure of postsecondary planning and transitions, and hope that I can be helpful in making the processes smooth and comfortable.

These days, when I'm not writing my dissertation, you can find me listening to fiction while (pretending to) jog on one of the area's many trails, enjoying the lingering summer. Otherwise, I'm in the house watching true crime documentaries, intense dramas or ridiculous reality shows. I welcome recommendations for all of the above, and where to find the best pancakes!



East Lansing High School is proud to host the ASVAB again this year!

This is a fantastic chance for students to explore their skills and interests while getting some valuable career planning advice. Plus, it's a great way to gain experience with standardized testing! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 22nd, starting at 7:45am.

Want to learn more? Just click [HERE](#).
And if you want your student to sign up,
they can do so by clicking [HERE](#).

Let's make the most of this opportunity!

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

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](#)**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT AP EXAMS: IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON TAKING THE EXAM THESE STEPS MUST BE COMPLETED.

AN AP EXAM WILL BE ORDERED FOR YOU IF YOU HAVE JOINED THE AP CLASSROOM AND COMPLETED PAYMENT, BY CHECK, CASH, OR CREDIT CARD IN THE MAIN OFFICE. MS. TABOR OR MS. FATA CAN HELP YOU.



- An AP Exam cannot be ordered for you If you have filled out the AP Google Form but did not pay or join the specific exam on College Board.org.

- An AP Exam cannot be ordered for you if you did not fill out the Google Form, you paid but did not Join to the specific exam in College Board.org.



- If you are in a VHS class and would like to take the AP Exam, you have to join with the specific join code from Mrs. Smith, even if you joined with a join code from your VHS teacher.

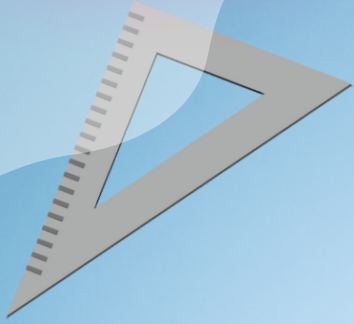
Joining the classroom has to be done by October 3rd! Completion of the Google Form must be complete by October 3rd! Payment of \$105 must be made by October 3rd! In the main office. Payment can be cash, credit card or check made out to ELPS.



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!!!**

ELHS Community Council



Meeting Notes

The East Lansing High School Community Council (ELHSCC) met on September 16, 2025, at The Hub to review updates and plan for the months ahead. Council members discussed ongoing construction and security improvements, including a new entrance policy and upgraded door locking systems, both of which are working smoothly. The school's new attendance procedure is being positively received, with clear guidelines for guardians and students. Excitement is also building around the launch of the school-based health clinic, which will be open by the end of September with a community kickoff event planned in October. In addition to administrative updates, the council highlighted upcoming events and student support initiatives. Homecoming and Spirit Week activities are underway, Senior Parent Night is scheduled for September 25, and German exchange students will arrive soon. The school is also rolling out new technology tools, including AI programs with Securely, and will welcome a new college advisor on October 1 who will support both a core group of families and the broader student body. The council's financial report showed approximately \$12,800 available, with efforts ongoing to simplify fundraising and payment processes. Members are exploring new fundraising outreach for October and February while continuing to support teacher, staff, and student grant opportunities. The council also discussed ways to strengthen its visibility within the school community—such as inviting student representatives, hosting special speakers, and expanding social media presence—ensuring ELHS families stay engaged and informed.

2025/2026 Meeting Schedule:

October 21	6:00pm	Google Meet
November 18		The HUB
December 16		Google Meet
January 20		The HUB
February 17		Google Meet
March 17		The HUB
April 21		Google Meet
May 19		The HUB

FOLLOW US





MY OCTOBER SCHEDULE

2025

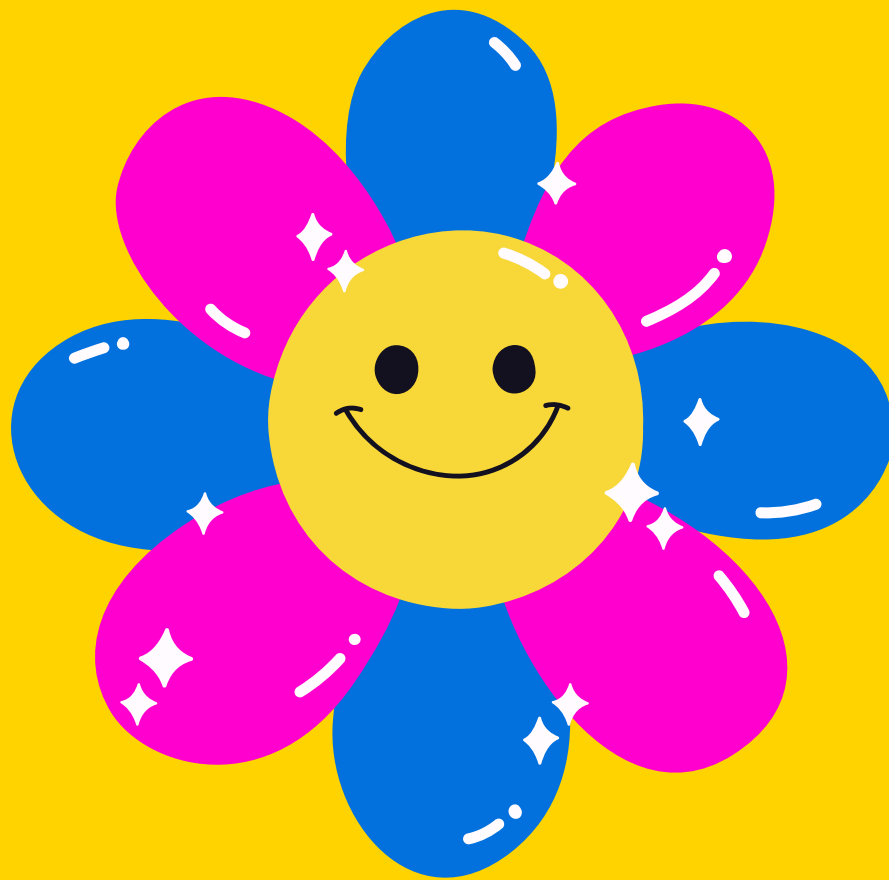


MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
29	30	1 COUNT DAY Senior Pictures due	2	3	4	5
6 PICTURE RETAKE	7	8 PSAT/ NMSQT TEST	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Senior PICTURES	17	18	19
19	21	22 ASVAB TEST	23 POWDERPUFF 7PM	24	25	26
27 NHS BLOOD DRIVE	28	29	30 END OF MP1	31 PD NO STUDENTS	1	2



Picture Day

Thursday, September 4th



**Picture Retake Day is
October 6, 2025**

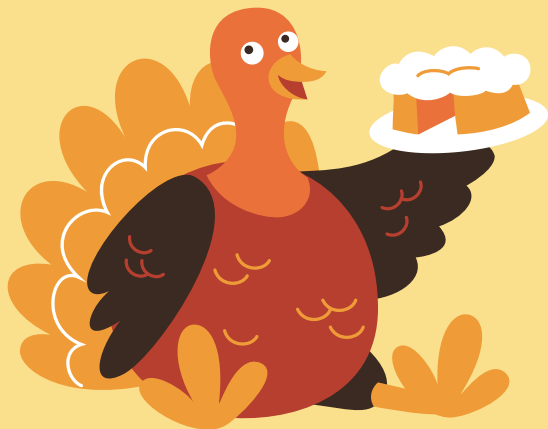
Order pictures [HERE](#)



ELHS BAND & ORCHESTRA

Scrap Metal Drive

The High School will be hosting a scrap metal drive fundraiser on Saturday, October 18th in the High School Night Activities parking lot. This is a fantastic opportunity to get rid of all that stuff laying around the house, yard, or garage:) If you have any metal items you would like to get rid off, please bring them up on that Saturday, October 18th between 8am-4pm. Here is a link to some of the items the company will take.



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!

EAST LANSING POWDERPUFF

**THURSDAY OCT 23
KICK OFF AT 7 PM
LYNN C. ADAMS
STADIUM**

**TICKETS ARE \$7
CASH OR VENMO
AT THE GATE.**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO
TO THE KARMANOS
CANCER CENTER
AT MCLAREN
HOSPITAL**



EAST LANSING BAND & ORCHESTRA



MATTRESS FUNDRAISER



Sunday
October 26, 2025



Time
11AM - 4PM



30% - 50% LESS THAN RETAIL

**Beautyrest
Therapedic
Malouf
Tranquilty**

Come try 25+ beds
and adjustable bases!

Prices ranging from
\$259-\$4,799



purple



purple

Over 30 mattresses to
choose from with
accessories available!

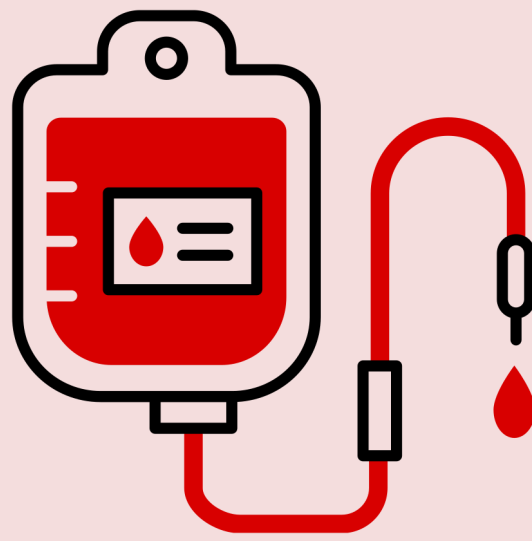


HELIX

ADJUSTABLE BASES



[Join Facebook Event Page Here](#)



STUDENTS AND STAFF
DONATE

BLOOD

SAVE LIVES

October 28th, 2025
11am-4:45pm

East Lansing High School

REGISTER NOW!



[https://www.redcrossblood.org/
donate-blood/how-to-
donate/eligibility-
requirements.html](https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements.html)

East Lansing High School Theatre Department
presents

FALL FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Tim Burton Double Feature!

A FUNDRAISER FOR OUR FALL PLAY AND SPRING MUSICAL



- 🎃 ENTRY BY DONATION!
- 🎃 CONCESSIONS FOR SALE!
- 🎃 COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!

OCT 30th
at 7pm

ELHS Center for the Performing Arts



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)



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

IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE.

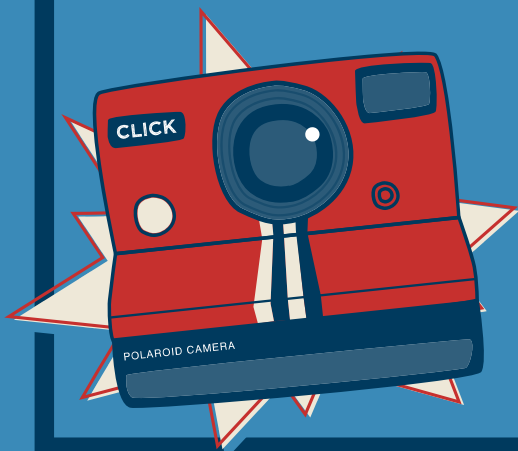
USE MICHIGAN'S POST-GRADUATION OPPORTUNITIES
RESOURCES TO PLOT YOUR COURSE.



KEEP THE MEMORIES!

★ 2026 ★ YEARBOOK

YEARBOOKS ARE THEIR
CHEAPEST PRICE FOR THE
FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SCHOOL.
ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK HERE!



SENIOR PHOTOS ARE DUE
OCTOBER 1ST. SEE
SENIOR PHOTO
REQUIREMENTS HERE!

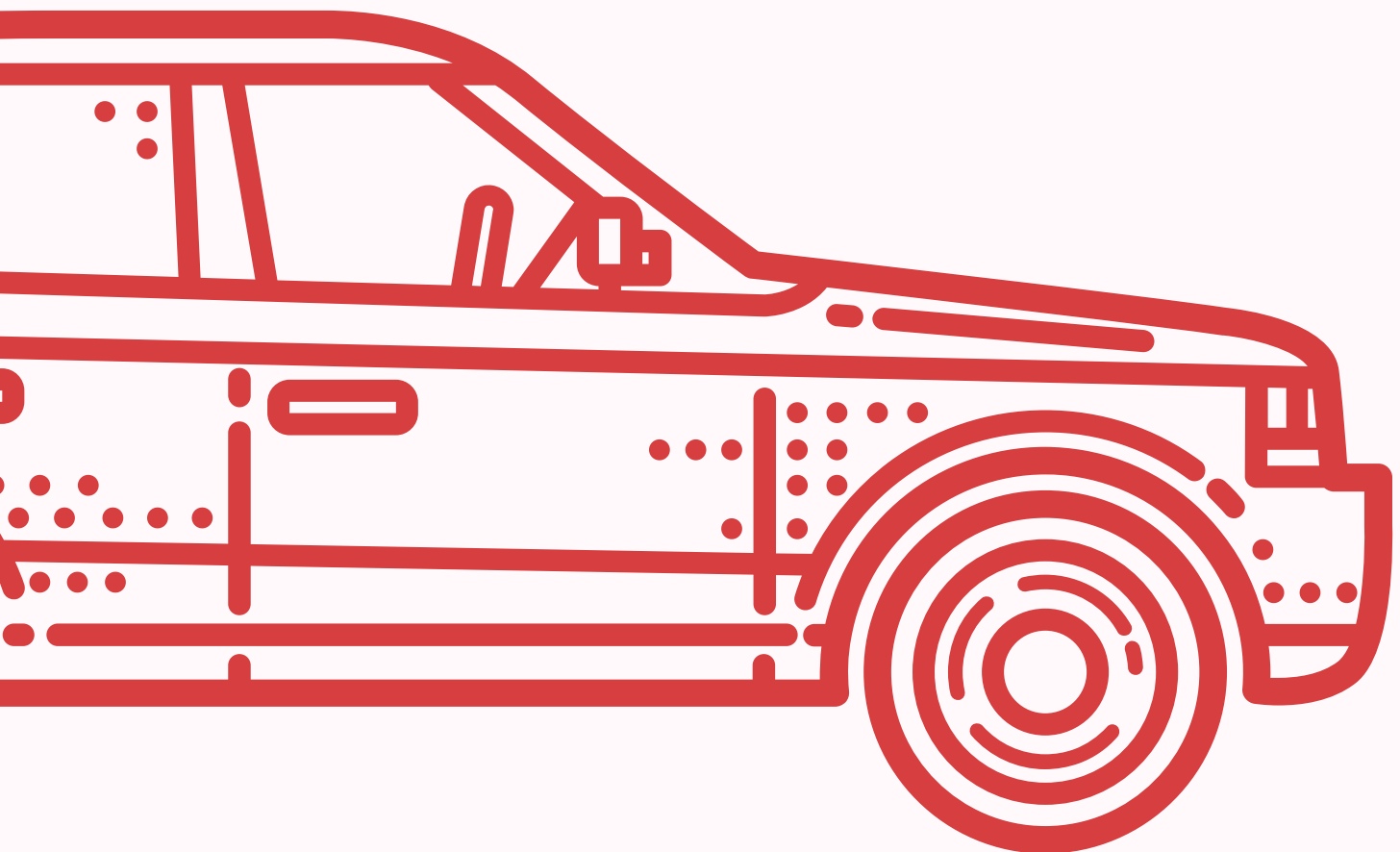
PARKING PASSES

\$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.

