

Communication Advice for Parents of 9th Graders and New Parents to ELHS

One of the reportedly biggest challenges families face as their child transitions to high school is the change in **communication**. The school and the parent council have worked together over the last several years to ease this transitional challenge so that both students and parents feel fully informed and included in the school community.

Most items are communicated to students through the **daily announcements**, which occur both morning and afternoon. A written version of the daily announcements is also posted on the school web page under “Parent/Student Resources.”

*** Tip: For new families, it’s very helpful for parents to review these written announcements to assist their child, as the messages often contain club or sports enrollment deadlines, or meeting times for extracurricular groups that take place after school. These are helpful for parents assisting students who find it difficult to hear or process announcements or need help determining if the announcement applies to them.*

Other forms of Communication:

ELHS main website and home page – information links added weekly with important or time sensitive information. The website also includes Teacher Pages, where teachers post assignments and resources, etc.

Emails from the Principal or Superintendent: Usually contain information that is more urgent or time-sensitive and that may apply to the whole student body or district.

Monthly Parentline Newsletter – issued on or about the 15th of every month. This contains a message from the principal and general information pertinent to parents and the school community. Any curricular information and deadlines will be included in this document. Parentline is emailed to parents or sent in the postal mail to those families without an email address in our system. An archive of our newsletters is available on the ELHS website under “About Us” Tab, “Newsletters” or at this link: <http://elps.k12.mi.us/our-schools/east-lansing-high-school/building-information/newsletters/>

Emails from “PSSUPPORT”: These are emails that update parents on their student’s grades and attendance every week. To modify this arrangement, parents can access their parent PowerSchool page and click on “email notification”.

*** Tip: It is heartily recommended that 9th grade parents review this information when received. As your student matures, the need to monitor their schoolwork and attendance should diminish, but it is a helpful tool, especially for the first year, to help your student stay on top of his/her studies.*

Emails from “ELHS Parent Council Courtesy E-bulletin”: This is a weekly email sent to parents about general school community news that applies to families. This would include volunteer needs, meeting notices for various school-related parent groups, and fundraiser information as well as reminders about upcoming dates and deadlines that are especially important (eg – open house, parent-teacher conferences, etc). This is written by a Parent Council volunteer.

Emails from Gail Gillengerten about “**Local Events and Opportunities**”. These emails outline a wide variety of community events and learning opportunities.

Good Luck and Welcome to East Lansing High School!