



# The Panther Pulse

AKA: Eastbrook Middle School Newsletter  
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Principal: Elizabeth Duckwall  
May 1, 2023

## **Online registration is now open until May 12th!**

**Please make sure to log into Skyward and register your students for the 2023-2024 school year!**

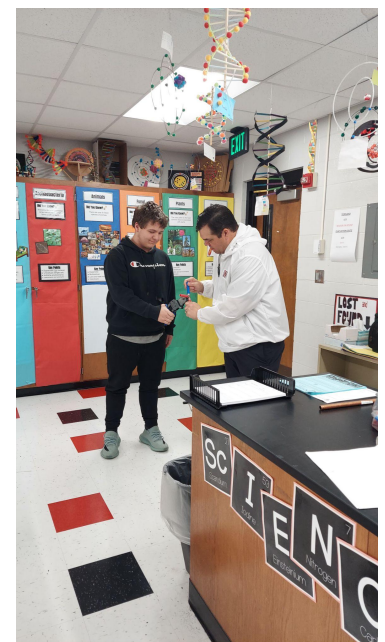
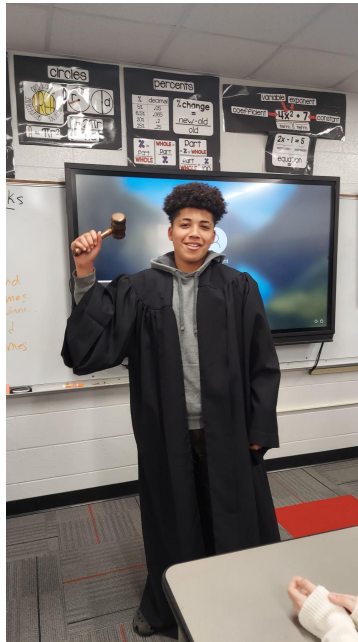
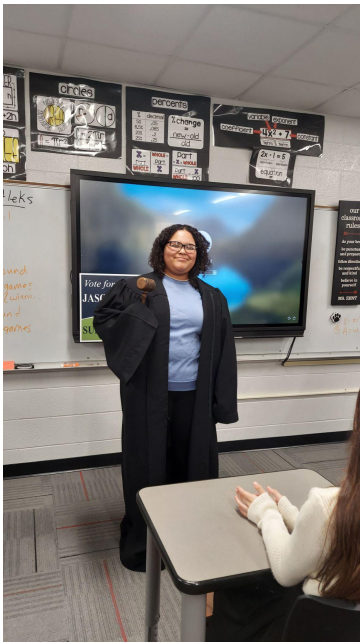
### **6th Grade Orientation**

All 5th graders from Eastbrook North and Eastbrook South will be coming to the middle school on Monday, May 8th, for 6th grade orientation from 9:15-11:45. Students will learn some general information about what middle school is like, eat lunch, and take a tour of the school. We are looking forward to meeting our incoming class of 6th graders. There will also be an additional summer orientation in early August right before school starts. Be looking for Parent Square messages and website posts with more details about the summer 6th grade orientation day.

**On May 24th from 5-8pm, incoming 6th graders can come in and try out band instruments with Mr. Wamhoff.**

### **Math & Career Day**

On April 6th, we had a great career and math day! Each grade level spent one hour participating in math games in the gym. The high school Mu Alpha Theta students, along with their sponsors, Mr. Garver and Mrs. Vanderberg, planned and supervised these activities. Then, each grade level spent an hour listening to presentations about a variety of careers. We want to thank all of our presenters for giving their time to speak to our students: Eric Richards, Amber Apple, Tom Nash, Amy Beebe, & Jason McVicker. We appreciate all of you very much! It was a fun day of learning for all!



The EMS RG Club took their contraption to competition at Southern Wells High School on April 12, 2023. The club met for the first time in October 2022 and members began exploring ways to create chain reactions. Last year's task, watering a plant, was used while members explored materials, setups, and results. They learned the importance of teamwork and paying attention to minute details such as how to hold dominos when standing them. They also worked tirelessly on specific steps to troubleshoot results and to answer questions such as, "Why is the yoyo not hitting the mousetrap correctly?"

The club received the new task for the 2023 competition in January - throwing away a can. They began tailoring their existing contraption to complete this task. At competition the contraption must complete a "simple task" using multiple steps. The required number of steps this year was 15. Deductions are taken if a piece of the contraption leaves the competition area or if the contraption is touched after the initial start. The EMS RG Club's contraption was student built and had 23 steps!

The club's contraption was one of eight entered in the competition. After two tries for each group, it was close but our contraption won first place! Congratulations to these members of the club on a job well done: Bella Dean, Dylan Gard, Bella Hoss, Jaxon Luckey, and Izzie Paschall.



### Eighth Grade Math

Eighth grade math students will learn about polynomials: how to identify them and how to simplify them. Students will learn the differences between monomials, binomials, and trinomials, and how to classify polynomials by degree. Students will also learn to simplify polynomials by applying the Distributive Property. This means multiplying each of the terms in a polynomial that is inside the parentheses by one or more terms outside the parentheses.

#### Simplifying a Polynomial ex:

$$\begin{aligned} & (-5x^2y - 2xy^2 + 7xy) + (4x^2y + 7xy^2 - 3xy) \\ &= \underline{-5x^2y} - \underline{2xy^2} + \underline{7xy} + \underline{4x^2y} + \underline{7xy^2} - \underline{3xy} \\ &= -x^2y + 5xy^2 + 4xy \end{aligned}$$

Algebra students will then learn to simplify, multiply, and divide rational expressions. Rational expressions are very much like fractions, and you simplify them by dividing out common factors that appear in both the numerator and denominator.

#### Simplifying Rational Expressions ex:

$$a) \frac{x^2y}{2xy^2} = \frac{\cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot y}{2 \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot y \cdot y} = \frac{x}{2y}$$

$$b) \frac{x^2 - 9y^2}{3xy - 9y^2} = \frac{(x+3y)(\cancel{x-3y})}{3y(\cancel{x-3y})} = \frac{x+3y}{3y}$$

## 6th/7th/8th GRADE CHOIRS

The students had a concert before spring break. The concert was movie-themed, including movies from Aristocats, Trolls, The Peanut Movie, O Brother, Where Art Thou, to list a few. They did a great job!



Our final concert/awards night will be on Tuesday, May 16th @ 7PM. It is musical-themed, so every song we are singing is from a musical. The middle school choirs will be singing songs from Mary Poppins Returns, Teen Beach Movie, Mary Poppins, Grease, and The Greatest Showman. Reminder, admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students, and kids 5 and under are free.

Thank you for supporting Eastbrook Choirs!  
Mrs. DeLong

The Grant County Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Awareness Quiz Bowl was held Thursday, April 27th at Justice Intermediate School in Marion. Our school had a very strong presence. Representatives from EMS were

- Sixth Grade
  - Grady May
  - Emerson Willis
- Seventh Grade
  - Mirage Bauer
  - Toby Krcmarik
  - Kora Carpenter
  - Alicia Contreras
  - Jhiasia Cook
  - Skyler Marshall



Five of our contestants remained throughout the True/False, Fill in the Blank, and Multiple Choice Rounds. Several of our students also had a strong standing in the last round (the spelling round). The students outlasted the number of prepared questions forcing the MC to find new questions. In the end, EMS student, GRADY MAY, became Grant County's 2nd place winner! Congratulations to Grady. He showed great knowledge and poise while competing and we are very proud of him and the way he represented our school.

Grady received a prize bag containing several prizes including:  
\$50 Visa gift card  
\$10 Walmart gift card  
\$40 Restaurant gift cards  
A summer splash house pass

Again! Congratulations on a job well done Grady and all of our EMS contestants!



# EMS STAFF SPOTLIGHT



I am Elizabeth Duckwall. I am married to Gary Duckwall, and we have four children who are now grown. We are also blessed to have eight grandchildren. I graduated from Eastbrook High School and earned my Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Indiana Wesleyan University and my Master's degree in educational administration from Ball State University. I taught middle school for eleven years at Mississinewa and then taught fourth grade for four years at Eastbrook-Washington Elementary School prior to coming to Eastbrook Junior High/Middle School as the principal. I enjoy the opportunity to work with the students, staff, and families of Eastbrook Middle School. Outside of school, I enjoy traveling, Christian concerts, shopping, and spending time with family.

My name is Mr. Wilson. I graduated from Eastbrook High School in 2014. In high school I participated in football, basketball, and golf. After high school, I chose to further my education and basketball career at the University of Saint Francis (Fort Wayne). I graduated with a degree in health and exercise science with minors in biology and psychology. I was also a member of the university's basketball team. The team won a couple conference tournaments, and we were contenders in the 2016 NAIA National Championship Game against Indiana Wesleyan University. Unfortunately, that game was the only time we lost to IWU that season. After college, I returned to Eastbrook. I was a substitute teacher at Eastbrook for three years. After my first year of substitute teaching, I realized that I enjoyed teaching and being around students. I then decided to enroll in Taylor University's teaching program. I have taught business and agriculture at Eastbrook Middle School for the past two years. In addition to teaching, I coach basketball (5 years) and golf (1 year). Outside of school I enjoy playing golf, fishing, tae kwon do, and playing video games (2K).



## **6th Grade Student of the Month: Alayna Semilla**

- Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate
- Favorite Subject: Reading
- Favorite Color: Blue
- Hobbies: Drawing, reading, cooking
- When I grow up I want to be a lawyer.



## **6th Grade Student of the Month: Braxton Mark**

- Favorite Ice Cream: Cookie Dough
- Favorite Subject: Gym
- Favorite Color: Red
- Hobbies: Hunting & video games
- When I grow up I want to be a hunter.



## **7th Grade Student of the Month: Bristol Brodkorb**

- Favorite Ice Cream: Vanilla
- Favorite Subject: Social Studies
- Favorite Color: Teal
- Hobbies: Volleyball, basketball, softball, hunting, & fishing
- When I grow up I want to be in the air force or a cop.



## **8th Grade Student of the Month: Emerson Futrell**

- Favorite Ice Cream: Cookie Dough
- Favorite Subject: English
- Favorite Color: Purple
- Hobbies: Reading, hanging out with friends/family, & playing with my dog
- I don't know what I want to be when I grow up.



## **8th Grade Student of the Month: Brady Wolfe**

- Favorite Ice Cream: Mint Chocolate Chip
- Favorite Subject: Flight & Space
- Favorite Color: Orange
- Hobbies: Sports, video games, & drones
- When I grow up I want to be an engineer.