



Home of the Eagles

EAGLE UPDATE

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DATES TO REMEMBER

EPS WEBSITE LIVE NOVEMBER 1ST



Nov. 10
Veteran's Day
Program 11:00 a.m.



Nov. 13
NVC One-Act at
Wheeler Central



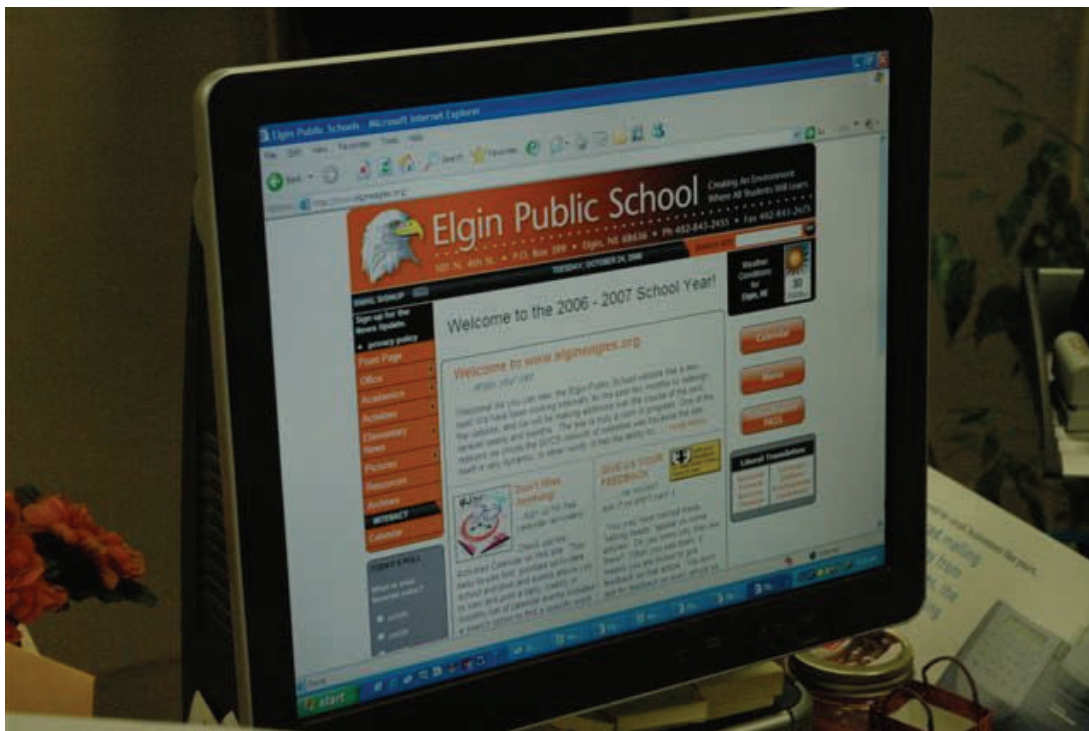
Nov. 15
LATE START
10:00 a.m.



Nov. 22
EARLY
DISMISSAL
2:00 pm



Nov. 23 - 24
NO SCHOOL



We are excited to announce that beginning November 1st, the new website for Elgin Public School will go online. It will be found at www.elgineagles.org.

As you will see, the Elgin Public School website has a new look! Mrs. Heithoff and Mrs. Jensen have been working internally for the past few months to redesign the website, and we will be making additions over the course of the next several weeks and months. The yearbook students and teachers will be trained to add content which will help to keep the site current and informational. The site is truly a work in progress.

One of the reasons we chose the SOCS network of websites was because the site itself is very dynamic; in other words, it has the ability to change... a lot! While the site won't be a daily newspaper, by any means, it is certainly our goal to keep the content fresh and exciting in an effort to entice you to return often.

So, we invite you to take a look now, and then keep checking in with us from time to time; hopefully you'll notice the changes, the new features, etc. Also, we encourage you to sign up for the News Update to get the latest news forwarded directly to you.

Be sure to visit the calendar component of the website. Sign up for weekly or monthly reminders for the events and activities you are interested in.

Thanks for visiting our new website www.elgineagles.org and come back again, soon!




COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY

On Thursday October 5, the American Government class traveled to Neligh for a look at how county government operates. The day was sponsored by the American Legion. The students gathered in the district court room to hear the reasons for county government day. The guest speaker at the morning activities was our very own Wes Prater. Wes discussed his summer at Boy's state and his experiences as the state governor and his trip to Washington DC for Boy's Nation.

The students then went to the various offices to gain a better understanding of the workings of county government. They were reminded that most of their contacts with government will occur at the county level. After a fine lunch supplied by the Legion Auxiliary the students had an opportunity to listen to State Senator Mike Flood of Norfolk. He discussed his responsibilities as a senator and how difficult many of the decisions are. He gave us some insight into some of the issues facing the legislature today.

The following is a list of the students and the offices they visited:

- Co. Attorney —Kyle Faust and David Weaver,
- Co. Clerk —Andrew Spalding,
- Co. Treasurer —Alisha Anderson,
- Co Sheriff —Chad Clouse and MiKayla Hoffart,
- Clerk of the District Court —Allie Schiltmeyer,
- Co. Judge —Shane Voborny,
- Clerk Magistrate —Jenna Schindler and Suzanne Hofer,
- Planning and Zoning Administrator —Amanda Hemenway,
- Veterans Service Officer —Cody Mork,
- Department of Social Services —Bryttanie Nelson, Brandy Suhr, and Becky Schindler
- Extension Educator —Jennifer Bush and Jessica Morrison,
- Co Supervisor —Matt Anderson
- Farm Service Agency —Michael Miller



Congratulations to the 2006 Yearbook class for winning an NHSPA (Nebraska High School Press Association) Golden Kernel Award for Excellence in Photography!



Is there money in your lunch account?

Please call the school 843-2455 or e-mail the lunch account bookkeeper Pat Beckman (pbeckman@esu8.org) or school secretary Paula Jensen (jensenp@esu8.org) if you would like to find out. All students with an account balance of -\$10.00 will not be allowed to charge seconds or extra juice. When an account balance reaches -\$25.00, students will not be allowed to charge at all. Please help us to keep all accounts current!



Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

NVC MUSIC CONCERT

The Niobrara Valley Conference Choral Clinic and Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7th. This year Niobrara Public School is the host. Schools in the east half: Elgin Public, Pope John, Clearwater, Wheeler Central, Orchard, Ewing, Verdigre, Santee and Niobrara will be in attendance. Each school will rehearse selected songs with their individual choirs until the day of the clinic. We will have mass choir rehearsals during the afternoon and present a concert that evening. The clinician for the event is Cheri Helmer-Reinsche from Papillion LaVista South. Elgin Public will be presenting a song with our choir at the concert. The concert is at 7:00 p.m. in the Niobrara Gym. We'd love to see you there!

MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING -- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2006 AT THE LUNCHROOM. PLEASE COME!!!



ELEMENTARY MATH

Students in grades 4,5, & 6 take timed tests on the four operations in math — addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. When they can pass all four timed tests in 4 days, they are finished for the YEAR. Students having passed their timed tests for the year are:
GRADE 5— Allison Koenig, Hunter Thramer, Madison Voborny
GRADE 6— Blake Anderson, Alex Grosserode, Nick Heithoff, Garet Schindler, Lexi Sanderson

DID YOU KNOW?

November 11, 1921 Congress made legal our first "Armistice Day." It was the third anniversary of the signing of an armistice with Germany ending World War I and was set aside to honor the Veterans of that war.

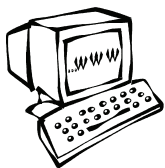
In June of 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill that would honor the veterans of World War II and the Korean War as well as Veterans of World War I. The name of the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day".

YEARBOOK STAFF



The 2007 yearbook students are off to a busy start. They began the year by choosing the yearbook theme of "007 Eagles...Elgin Eagles". Eagle versions of James Bond movie titles will be used throughout the book.

The students next job was to send out ad mailings. After a couple of days of envelope stuffing all of the ad mailings were off. Every business owner who buys an ad has their ad not only in the yearbook but on all home game rosters. The ads will also be included on our web page this year.



There are several firsts this year for the yearbook class. The yearbook is being created online. Students can work from any computer in the school or from home instead of just one computer at school. The 007 yearbook will be a full color yearbook instead of only the senior pages in color.

The yearbook class has also included the new web page. We chose SOCS (simplified online communication system). We are in process of converting over to the new system. With the new system in place we will be able to post articles and pictures quickly. The students are anxious to begin their web pages.

The students have been assigned yearbook and web pages and have begun creating them. They are busy collecting information and taking photos. We're looking forward to a

*Some succeed because they are destined to,
But most succeed because they are determined to.*
- Unknown

DISTANCE LEARNING SPANISH



by Miss Ellen Davis

Elementary students are having fun with distance learning Spanish. Each day presents a new challenge. It is a different experience for both the students and the teacher. It is amazing what the students are able to accomplish in a short amount of time. We are studying colors numbers, and greetings in the lower grades and doing quite well with them. In the upper grades we are reading short stories. We use repetition and questioning techniques. I look forward to the rest of the year. May it be as exciting as the first few months.



FFA NEWS

STATE RANGE JUDGING EVENT



Twenty members from the Elgin FFA Chapter attended the State Range Judging Contest in Marquette on October 3, 2006 and had another very successful day. Mr. Simpson was extremely pleased on the student's performance. "He said that this contest was by far the toughest Range Judging contest that he had been too in a long time and the kids responded well".

"There were nearly 350 student's from across Nebraska competing at this contest", said Simpson to be able to place second in the state is a great accomplishment.

In the junior division Brett Mahnke, Linsey Bode and Austin Mitchell all finished in the top 25% of the junior division and received a green ribbon for their efforts.

In the senior division Wes prater, Michael Miller, Travis Sprout and Paige Redding finished in the top 25% of all competitors and received green ribbons. Ben Beckman finished second individually at the contest and was awarded a blue ribbon for his efforts.

The Elgin FFA team of Ben Beckman, Paige Redding, Brandon Grosserode and Vicky Overman finished second overall in the contest. The team will be awarded a travel scholarship from the Society for Range Management to attend the National Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma City in the spring of 2007.

In the Professional Division Mr. Simpson finished third in the State.



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM SET

NOVEMBER 10, 2006

11:00 P.M.

EHS GYMNASIUM

Please join the local veterans organizations, school students, and the Elgin community as we pay tribute to our present military personnel and the veterans who have served in past years.

Hope to see you there!

IT'S FLU SEASON!

Mary had a little lamb,
She also had the flu.
And when she left her school,
The others had it too.
So anytime your child is sick,
Please keep her home with you.
Then the children in our school
Will be happier and healthier too!

-Author Unknown

HEALTHY HAND WASHING



If you have not done so already, now is a good time to help your child develop healthy hand washing habits.

Proper hand washing can prevent the spread of many communicable diseases. Water alone, however, won't kill germs. Soap is needed too.

Drying the hands with a disposable paper towel will help stop the spread of germs.

Here are some appropriate occasions for your child to practice hand washing:

- ⇒ When he comes into the house after playing outdoors.
- ⇒ After using the toilet.
- ⇒ After petting an animal.
- ⇒ Before eating food.

Good habits--learned early--can last a lifetime.

So, help your child develop the good habit of washing his hands.

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention.

--Duguet



From the Activities Director.....

Did You Know: The NSAA has made a strong effort the past several years to place a higher emphasis on sportsmanship. Below is a piece taken from the 2006-2007 NSAA Sportsmanship Manual. You can read the NSAA Sportsmanship Manual in full by logging on to the following website: <https://www.nsaahome.org/nsaaforms/pdf/manualsp.pdf>

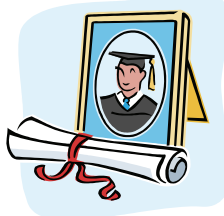
Responsibilities of the Spectator

1. Show interest in the contest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the performance of both teams.
2. Show proper respect for opening ceremonies by standing at attention and remaining silent when the National Anthem is played.
3. Understand that a ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally attack others, or to be obnoxious. Maintain self-control.
4. Do no "boo," stamp feet or make disrespectful remarks toward players or officials.
5. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
6. Know that noisemakers of any kind are not proper for indoor events.
7. Obey and respect officials and faculty supervisors who are responsible for keeping order. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
8. Stay off the playing area at all times.
9. Do not disturb others by throwing material onto the playing area.
10. Show respect for officials, coaches, cheerleaders and student-athletes.
11. Pay attention to the half time program and do not disturb those who are watching.
12. Respect public property by not damaging the equipment or the facility.
13. Know that the school officials reserve the right to refuse attendance of individuals whose conduct is not proper.
14. Refrain from the use of alcohol and drugs on the site of the contest.

S

eniors!

You need to be turning in your senior photos as soon as you have them. I have 3 so far. I need a vertical, head and shoulder, formal pose in dress-code-appropriate clothing. I scan this photo for the yearbook, it's also used on the class composite, Paula uses it in the newsletter and Julie Dickerson uses it in the newspaper composite. Parents, if have any questions call me at school (843-2455) or email me at rheithof@esu8.org.



I have everyone's kindergarten photo! Thank you for promptly turning them in!
Mrs. Heithoff

SCHOOLMASTER PASS SYSTEM

Upon enrollment at Elgin Public School, each student is assigned an ID number and PASS PIN. This information is used to access your student's school progress on our Schoolmaster PASS system. Go to our EPS website www.elgineagles.org

and click on Schoolmaster. Type in your student's ID and PIN. Now click on the view you wish to see.

If you have any questions or difficulties, please call or e-mail Paula Jensen in the main office. 843-2455

Counselor's Corner



by Mrs. Barb Bode

Seniors...it's time to start the admissions process!

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track. **Contact your top college choices NOW** and ask about deadlines and the process for applying for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid. Also, ask about application fees. This information may also be available in the [College Profiles](#) section at www.educationquest.org.

Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline. Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay and an interview.

Update your Activities Resume. Because extracurricular activities are an important part of the admissions application, keep them up-to-date by using the *Activities Resume* at www.educationquest.org. In many cases, you can simply print your resume and include it with the application.

Contact your admissions representative periodically to stay informed about deadlines and campus activities.

Juniors...start researching colleges

If you can narrow your choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

Review College Profiles at www.educationquest.org for information about Midwest colleges. If you're interested in going to an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program at <http://msep.mhec.org>.

Visit an EducationQuest location in Lincoln, Kearney or Omaha and use our free college search resources.

Meet with college representatives who visit your school.

Once you've narrowed your choices, **schedule campus visits**. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while college classes are still in session.

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn college funding options

To learn about financial aid and other college funding options, attend an upcoming **Financial Aid Program** with your parents. To find the date and location of the program at your school or in your area, ask your guidance counselor or see the Upcoming Events section at www.educationquest.org.

Countdown to College to air December 6

The 8th annual *Countdown to College* Live Call-In Show will air on NET **Wednesday, December 6** at 7 p.m. Central Time / 6 p.m. Mountain Time. This annual program will feature a panel of experts who will answer college planning and financial aid questions on the air.

If you have questions for the panel, submit them to countdown@educationquest.org and they may be featured on the program. If your question is not answered on air, you will receive an answer via e-mail.

November "To Do" List

_____ Seniors, register by November 3 for the December 9 ACT.

_____ Juniors and seniors, apply for scholarships. Visit free sites such as *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org, www.fastweb.com, www.fastaid.com and www.srnexpress.com.

_____ Juniors and seniors, meet with college representatives who visit your school.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

www.educationquest.org

EducationQuest Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.

*Make the most of yourself,
For that is all there is of you.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson*

FFA District Livestock Judging

The Elgin FFA Chapter hosted the District X Livestock Evaluation CDE at the Antelope County Fairgrounds in Neligh on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. Youth from Valentine, Ainsworth, West Holt, Stuart, Spencer-Naper, Butte, Elgin Public, Elgin Pope John, Elkhorn Valley, and Neligh-Oakdale high schools participated in the event.

In the senior division individual placings from the Elgin FFA Chapter (includes students from Elgin Public, Pope John, Elkhorn Valley, and Neligh-Oakdale) had 10 out of the top 25 individuals. These students rankings were Paige Redding 3rd, Luke Beckman 4th, Ben Beckman 7th, Amanda Hemenway 8th, Tony Selting 13th, Travis Sprout 16th, Vicky Overman 17th, Jessica Morrison 20th, Steven Bartak 22nd, & Kyle Childers 25th.

In the junior division Tad Henkenius finished 10th, Linsey Bode 16th, Sam Janssen 24th, & Carlie Redding 25th

The District X Livestock Evaluation contest is a State Qualifying contest and the Elgin FFA Chapter was well represented. In the senior division the following teams qualified for state:

Senior Team 1: Luke Beckman, Tony Selting, Steven Bartak, & Kyle Childers

Senior Team 2: Paige Redding, Travis Sprout, Jake Bode, & Ben Beckman

Senior Team 3: Amanda Hemenway, Vicky Overman, Brandon Grosserode, & Jessica Morrison

In the junior division the team of Tad Henkenius, Carlie Redding, Linsey Bode, & Tyler Reestman also qualified for state.

The Elgin FFA Chapter would like to thank all of the individuals who donated their time and livestock for the contest, the Elgin FFA Boosters for helping set the contest up, and the Antelope County Fairboard for allowing us to use the fairgrounds to host the event. The contest wouldn't have been as successful as it was without the help, hard work and support of our community members.



FCCLA Attends Conference

On October 18, 2006, fourteen members and one advisor attended the District 8 Leadership Conference in Norfolk. All students were present for the general session where Chrissy Starman was inducted as Vice-president of Peer Education.

After the general session was over, the keynote speaker told us his inspiring story. He became blind at the age of 3 when a horse jumped over him and the hind legs kicked him in the face. It broke every bone in his face and he had to go through a long process of surgery to put his face back together. He went on to describe how he went through life experiencing as many things as a normal person would.

After the keynote address, each member attended two of the break-out sessions with topics such as meth use, organ donation, officer information, and internet safety. Members felt these sessions to be very informative.

Mrs. Bode received an award for 25 years of service in FCCLA. Jennifer Bush was elected as a state officer candidate from District 8. Teri Kittelson won 3rd place at Creed Speaking. She presented her speech to everyone who was at the closing session. Several members from Elgin won door prizes.

Kindergarten students from Elgin Public School completed the following sentence.



**If I had to live like the Pilgrim
children,
I would miss:**

Nicholas Barnes: **nice playground equipment**

Garet Behnk: **stuffed toys**

Brea Carr: **jewelry**

Tyler Iburg: **warm house**

Emma Kerkman: **watching the cheerleaders**

Mateo Kirstine: **water in the house**

Vada Kruse: **telephone**

R.J. Lierman: **football games**

Brie Magdefrau: **my pets**

Kaylee Martinsen: **McDonald's**

Hunter Reestman: **my Dad's nice pick-up**

Kira Widger: **TV**

Mrs. Score: **a clothes dryer**



Being a Discriminating Consumer

The idea of being a discriminating consumer is hardly new. There are entire magazines devoted to helping consumers pick just the right product. Go online and one can find the book price and value of almost any new or used vehicle. Consumers are used to price shopping at the department store and the grocery.

There is a very important place, however, where consumers may not be doing as good a job. How effective and discriminating are voters when faced with the choices at the voting booth? Thomas Jefferson strongly believed that our form of government and indeed our way of life depended on an educated citizenry. Yet, we are living in a world in which democracy is under serious attack, both at home and abroad.

Just consider the questions that we have been bombarded with over the past month or so. Is the United States to blame for the rising level of Muslim Jihadism? Why does so much of the world hate us? What types of rights should the terrorists now held at Guantonimo Bay be given? More closely at home are the questions about which candidate will be best for governor. Whom do we want to elect to replace Tom Osborne? What initiatives deserve to be passed and which ones should be buried so deeply they never see the light of Nebraska politics again.

The only way we can do justice to this election season is to follow Jefferson's advice: We must educate ourselves. Now, this means more than turning on the television and listening to attack ad after attack ad. None of these types of advertisements really tell us what we need to know as we go to the polls in a few days.

If, you haven't already done so, now is the time to dig out the newspaper that explains what each initiative will do. Take the time to study the effects of the initiative if passed. Are the effects what you want to live with, for your children to live with and even your grandchildren? Will it make our state a better more progressive place that will be attractive to live in? Which candidate will be the best spokesperson for our needs and interests?

This is democracy in action, and we need to be modeling it for our young people. We need to model it by thoughtfully selecting our leaders at the local, county, state, and national levels. We need to model it by being able to knowledgeably discuss the initiatives and Constitutional Amendments that are on the ballot this fall. Most of all, we need to model it by taking the time to vote. It is embarrassing that such a small percentage of eligible voters take the time to cast their ballots on election day.

So, I urge you: Study the issues, know the positive and negative effects of each initiative and Constitutional Amendment; then, go and vote! In this way, we can model democracy and pass a better Nebraska down to our children and grandchildren.



Don't Throw Away That Empty Printer Cartridge! Bring it to school!

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. Our school will receive \$2.00 for each cartridge turned in.

Bring in your empty cartridges (use a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) to the office recycle bin.



WELCOME NOVEMBER!

The Kindergarten Class will enjoy Social Studies this month as we will be discussing the Pilgrims trip to America. We will talk about all the adjustments they would have to make upon arriving in a new country and meeting their new friends, the Indians.

Veterans Day is November 11. We will attend the Veterans Day Program and pause to honor the men and women who fought in wars for our independence and freedom.

Did you know that November is National Peanut Butter Month?!!

American Education week is November 6-10. We will be reading some famous authors books like Eric Carle, Cynthia Rylant and Ann Jonas to name a few.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

YEARBOOK ADS

Have you sponsored an ad in the yearbook yet? What a terrific way to support our school. Besides the advertisement for your business in the yearbook, your name is also listed in every home sporting event program. If you would like to sponsor an ad, please contact Mrs. Rita Heithoff 843-2455.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

F rom the Principal's desk . . .



by Mr. Corey Fisher

What a weird fall season. Warm weather, arctic fronts, rain, and snow and let us not forget about that wind! This fall season has put a big exclamation point on the old saying: "If you don't like the weather in Nebraska...wait 10 minutes!" I guess we will take whatever Mother Nature sends us.

I have been addressed on several occasions about the concern that our staff is grading too soft or that our focus has shifted to looking good in the eyes of the public and not necessarily preparing our kids for success beyond their secondary education. This was certainly a shock for me as for the most part, I have spent some time the past couple of years addressing questions and concerns referring to how the USDE (United States Department of Education), the NDE (Nebraska Department of Education) and our local board, administration and staff has made education so difficult. As with most issues regarding education, there are always two viewpoints depending on whom you are talking to, or which 10 minutes of Nebraska weather you are currently enduring...just kidding. Seldom do I have parents and students come to the office complaining that things are just too darn easy!

The best way to respond to this concern is to look at the recent and past directions of those who have graduated from our school system. I hang my hat on the fact that our students have the opportunity to graduate these days from Elgin Public Schools with as many as 17-20 college credit hours completed before they begin their first day on a college campus. Our staff is dedicated in providing an education that is based on the principles of accountability, meaning that students must earn success. The philosophy here is that grades are earned. They are not given. Students do as well as or as poorly as they choose to do. If you are doing well, you have earned it. If you are doing poorly, it is most often a result of choices that are being made by the student. There are students that have learning difficulties. We work hard to meet the needs of students who need to have accommodations. Still, the belief at Elgin Public Schools is that there should still be a high degree of accountability for all students.

Students whom are accountable for their learning will accept the challenges posed by our curriculum and the state standards. They will succeed. This is not just a high school way of thinking. Our elementary students are also held accountable. We believe that it is never too early to instill the value of accountability. Students who understand the importance of high expectations and develop the work ethic to meet those expectations are more apt to place academics as a priority and enjoy success, even as an elementary student. At the high school level, our ACT scores continue to be equal to or higher than the state average on a regular basis. The majority of graduates from Elgin Public Schools will go on and attend a post-secondary institution and continue their education.

Getting back to the concern that was addressed earlier. Our teachers have a responsibility to all of our students. They must prepare these kids for life after elementary and high school. They do not take that responsibility lightly. Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the teaching staff at Elgin Public Schools has earned their Masters Degree. I heard a comment made years ago that a Masters Degree only means that you are an educated moron. While I cannot speak for all educators who have earned their Masters or other degrees and endorsements, I think I can speak for our staff here. They are good at what they do and they understand how to deliver the kind of education needed to succeed in our society. I would never consider them as a group of individuals making it easy. Earning an A here is not an easy thing to do.

Every school is different to a certain degree. Every school has its strengths and weaknesses; positive supporters and nay- sayers looking to find fault in everything they do. I believe that small schools in small communities have an advantage in many ways and a disadvantage in others. One thing is for sure. If you are looking for an easy way to graduate or a place where there is a low expectation and a lack for student accountability...Elgin Public Schools is not the place! We are constantly looking for ways to improve what we do. We rely on graduates to provide insight as to what we need to do for our students. At the elementary level, we must stay focused to what the scores of our kids tell us. What areas need more focus and how can we become better. We must be constantly looking for ways to better an already excellent education.

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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