

## **November 2025**

Good evening! Per usual, East Students have been staying busy!

- The Fall Talent show, put on by Student Government, is tomorrow evening. We have a great line up of student acts and skits by StuGo. There will be a canned food drive to benefit CHUM, and each can brought in will earn people raffle tickets to win prize baskets.
- Next, the debate team has been practicing and is looking forward to what will hopefully be another successful season.
- Last month, around 50 seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society. They have been connecting with students throughout East as tutors: at Saturday school, at Ordean, and through one-on-one sessions.
- Turning to the fine arts, One Act auditions started today and will continue tomorrow after school. The team will be competing with a production of Country Gothic.
- Additionally, band, choir, and orchestra have all recently completed their fall concerts. Practice for the Holiday Concert is now underway!
- Recently, the culinary classes opened Greyhound Kitchen. Before school, students work as baristas at the cafeteria coffee cart and sell fresh baked goods. The new program has been successful so far, and we're excited to see how it will grow!
- Next, the boys and girls basketball teams have both begun their seasons with practices well underway.
- Last Saturday, the dance team travelled to Roseville for their first competition of the season. JV and Varsity Kick both placed first, Varsity Jazz placed third, JV Jazz placed fourth, and BSquad Jazz placed second.
- The girls hockey team, combined students from East and Denfeld are a few games into their season. We're excited to see what they achieve.
- The Nordic and Alpine ski teams have also been practicing, despite the lack of snow. Next week, the Nordic team will head to West Yellowstone for their annual trip. We're wishing them snowy trails!
- Additionally, the boys swim team has begun captains practices and has their season ahead.
- Last weekend, the girls swim team competed at the State Tournament with multiple swimmers setting school records.
- To wrap up the activity updates section of this report, tomorrow, ABO Hounds will be hosting their first of three blood drives. There will be one bus and nearly 70 donors.

With so many clubs and activities available to join, I've heard a lot of feedback about students not having time or support to be as involved as they hope to be. The current PAWs day schedule doesn't allow for students to attend more than two clubs, and often, students are

required to attend a meeting or other obligation during that club time. PAWs Days simply aren't working. They've become catchall days: chaotic and stressful. To quote student forum from last week, we have, "No time to take tests, teachers [are] giving content, [and it's overall] very unproductive." Due to the shortened class time, there are no stretches of uninterrupted time to focus, and involvement in clubs and other groups has been tanking. Something I've always seen as a strong part of East culture and loved is the ability to sample a variety of groups just for fun. Whether it's International Snack Club, Harry Potter Club, German Club, Taylor Swift Club, Cribbage Club, or one of the other groups on offer, East students love and value the culture of trying new things and getting involved simply for the fun of it. Our current schedule not only diminishes this key part of our school. It is an ineffective attempt to provide academic support. With no more than 30 minutes in one class and a month's worth of make-up tests and needed support piled up, students go through PAWs days with heightened stress and diminished productivity. We need a standard solution, and we deserve to know what a day that's supposed to be for us will look like more than 24 hours in advance.

Thinking of spaces and opportunities for students to focus, I also asked student forum about access to the library this year. Last year, we were excited to hear that we'd have continued daily access to our media center. Unfortunately, students have found that hours are unpredictable and that even students with passes have been turned away from the media center. Personally, I have not checked out one non-textbook from the library this year, and I do not personally know anyone who has. I love reading, and I love browsing for material, but I have no clue when the library is open. Am I able to go sometime during the day? Will it be available before school? After school? My peers have struggled with the lack of quiet space to study in the mornings or to take a break on an overwhelming day. As a district with proclaimed dedication to foundational education, like reading, and media skills, I hope you will question whether these goals are being fulfilled. Unlike CTE and other additional programs, all students are impacted by the funding that goes (or in this case, doesn't go) to the library. Access to books and study space in a school shouldn't be a goal. It should be a guarantee.

As is my self proclaimed responsibility, I always take a moment to remind you to take student feedback with a fresh perspective each time you hear it. One of my favorite parts of this job is learning about what you do. I never understood the complexities that go into your decision making. There are regulations to follow and groups to be pleased. Not many students understand the nuances. On the other side of things, none of you have experienced what it's like to be a high school student in 2025. Curriculum decisions determine how I spend the majority of my time. Access to media resources determines the quality of my work. Your choices affect what students eat, how they get to school, what activities they join, and more. You see only some of our perspectives, and students see only some of yours. There needs to be balance, and luckily, that's something you can contribute to. I challenge my peers to question why decisions that frustrate them are necessary. I challenge them to look at broader pictures. I challenge myself to encourage collaboration rather than frustration. It's an ongoing goal with imperfect execution. I hope that

you will continually and critically reflect on how you're incorporating student voices. There is a difference between listening and hearing.

With all of that said, thank you for your time.