

April 2025

Good evening!

I'm excited to share that at each student forum meeting, there is better and better attendance! I will be hosting two meetings during the day tomorrow, and I will make sure to base some of the questions on the things discussed here tonight!

Today, both climate club and Key club are holding Earth Day events. Many members of climate club participated in today's rally and march. Recently, climate club received a fifteen hundred dollar grant to further their composting project, and they will be taking a field trip soon to help plant 1,000 trees.

A handful of East students will be competing at the state history day competition this weekend. With our past successes including awards and national qualifications, I'm excited to hear about the results!

Track is East's largest spring sport, and the season is in full swing with a meet coming up this Friday. Boys tennis, baseball, softball, and boys and girls lacrosse have also been staying busy! Speaking of girls lacrosse, East student government is excited to be hosting a parking lot tailgate prior to the May 19 Sophie's Squad game. Sophie's Squad is an organization named after Sophie Wieland, a fourteen year old athlete who committed suicide in 2021. The organization works to raise awareness around mental health, especially for young athletes. The girls lacrosse team, made up of both East and Denfeld players, will be partnering with them on May 19, and we're excited for the events, activities, and fundraising connected to the game.

In connection to mental health awareness, students all around the district and country have been participating in an ice bucket challenge sponsored by the University of South Carolina's MIND Club. This is relevant within our district because of the huge number of students participating. The goal of this challenge is to reduce stigma around conversations about mental health. I have personally seen this challenge take over social media with friends in New York, Virginia, California, Wisconsin, the Twin Cities, and all over Duluth, Hermantown, and Carleton participating. Students need strong and clear access to mental health resources.

In connection to mental health, I definitely notice and feel the effects of getting so close to the end of the year. With our seven period schedule and few opportunities to catch up, many students feel as if they're drowning in work. That coupled with the yearly spring fever makes for patterns of high stress and low focus. I've had multiple questions from students about our schedule for next year that I haven't had the ability to answer, so I'd love to hear some updates about where you're at in that decision making process and what sort of student feedback you took into

account. It's exciting for me to receive questions about what decisions are being made and how those decisions were reached. With that, this is my obligatory reminder and encouragement to keep students in the loop. Often, we don't find out about something until it's already been settled on, which means that it's too late for you to consider our voices.

With that, I'd like to make a request to have better information provided to me. When I started this role, it was heartening to hear about how much you care about student voice, but I have received very little information beyond weekly schedules. I will put forward more effort to do research on proposals, and I request that you provide me with more relevant information. How can I gather student opinions on proposed changes to music programs if no one has helped me become aware that these decisions are even being considered? I am incredibly grateful for this position, and I appreciate the difficulty of what you do. I only hope that I can have access to resources that will allow me to best serve you and my peers.

With that said, I'd like to share what students really do care about and want more information on. At our last student forum meeting, students had conversations about a variety of issues including what they feel are the biggest issues around student safety, what they'd like to see from a city-wide student council, how much information they gain from the district digest, specific things they've struggled with and are looking forward to, what discussions they'd like to have in future student forum meetings, and what I can do better communicate to and from students.

As always, I have more details about all of these topics, so please ask me if you'd like to hear more! Thank you!