ELPS Updates
October 10, 2021

Board of Education Meeting – Monday, October 11, 2021

The ELPS Board of Education will be holding its next regular meeting Monday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board room in East Lansing High School. The meeting will be held in person and will be live streamed.

Here is a link to the agenda: https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1629?meeting=499919

New Positions and Staff Members

We recently hired two employees in new positions to better support the physical and emotional wellness of our students and staff.

Lindsay Young began on September 27 as our District Wellness Leader. Ms. Young is a licensed School Social Worker and will lead and oversee district initiatives around social emotional learning and student and staff wellness.

Sara Smith started last week as our District School Nurse. Ms. Smith will coordinate our COVID testing program, support COVID response and support general student health throughout the district.

We are excited to have these new positions and staff members as we work to better support overall health and wellness of our students, staff and families.

Update on Vaccination Approval for Children Age 5 - 11

This past Thursday, Pfizer and Biotech requested emergency authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for their coronavirus vaccination for children age 5 - 11. The FDA has tentatively scheduled a meeting for October 26, and official approval could come as soon as November 2 or 3.

ELPS will work with the health department to schedule a vaccination clinic for students of this age as soon as possible following approval. Stay tuned!

ELPS Seeking Paraprofessionals and Other Staff

We still have a few paraprofessional and other positions available. If you or someone you know is interested in helping to support our students, we would love to have you join our team.

Here is a link to apply for our open positions - teaching, coaching and lunch monitor positions are available, too
- https://www.applitrack.com/IASEC/onlineapp/jobpostings/view.asp?internaltransferform.Url=&choosedistrict=true&applitrackclient=43651

Final Call to Register for Weekly COVID PCR Testing!

We are still accepting staff and student registrations for weekly COVID PCR pool testing. This testing consists of a shallow nasal swab that can be self-administered. Results typically come back within 48 hours. Here is more information on this testing program: https://testedandprotected.org/#/about/overview

For Week 1 testing, we had 243 individuals registered.

For Week 2 testing, we had 364 individuals registered.

For Week 3 testing, we had 470 individuals registered.

We encourage everyone to participate in this program, so if you are interested and need assistance getting registered, please email kelly.hocquard@elps.us.

If you signed up for staff or student ongoing COVID testing but have not electronically signed consent forms, please search your email (and clutter) for an email from **support@testedandprotected.org** **titled "Midwest Coordination Center Invitation."** This email includes a code for creating your account so that you can electronically sign the consent and HIPAA forms and access your child's test results.

When completing your registration, you must use a computer, and the Google Chrome browser seems to work the best. The registration cannot be completed from a phone.

In order to participate in this week's testing, consent and HIPAA forms must be completed no later than 4:00 p.m. today.   This is so we can prepare our testing lists for the week. The lists for this week will be updated after 4:00 p.m. today.

If you register and sign the forms after 4:00 p.m. today, we will add your child's name to the list to be tested beginning Monday, October 18.

Testing schedule for each building is as follows:

Mondays: Glencairn and Marble

Tuesdays: Robert L. Green and Whitehills

Wednesdays: MacDonald Middle School, Donley and Red Cedar

Thursdays: East Lansing High School

While we have a day scheduled for testing at each building, we sometimes have to adjust if the weekly labels have not arrived by that day. We are working with the Midwest Coordination Center to tweak a few processes so that our schedule will be consistent.

This program and process is new to us, and we are one of the first and few districts in the midwest participating in weekly COVID testing as part of this USDHHS program. Please bear with us as we navigate the unknowns and establish a process that works for everyone.

COVID-19 Reporting and Communicating

For students who are eligible for the vaccine, know that the state and local guidance allows vaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts to NOT have to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free. Please let us know if you need assistance in getting your eligible student the COVID-19 vaccine.

Also, it is important to notify the school as early as possible if your student is presenting COVID symptoms, even before you may have COVID-19 test results. This will allow us to contact trace quickly and prevent potential transmission.

Here is a link to the district's COVID-19 dashboard. Positive school-related cases must be posted on this site within 24 hours of the district learning of the case. If we are notified of a case over the weekend, updates will be posted Monday morning.

https://elps.us/our-district/district-covid-19-dashboard/

COVID-19 Guidance from the Ingham County Health Department

The ICHD has updated its COVID-19 guidance documents for schools to align with the new Emergency Orders. You can access these documents with the following link:

https://hd.ingham.org/Portals/HD/Home/Documents/cd/coronavirus/ICHDSchoolCOVIDHandouts.pdf