

We're back!

We're pleased to bring you the newly revised Today publication! Look for the latest news and happenings coming directly to you six times a year. We value your feedback as we seek to provide timely and relevant information that keeps you up-to-date and connected to EMS. Send us your story suggestions, feedback and ideas to the Today editorial board: Elwood Yoder (Editor), Mary Golden Hughes (Managing Editor) and Paul Leaman (Head of School) by sending an e-mail to today@embs.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars and join us for these great events:

October 16-18: Homecoming

October 25: EMES Fall Festival

October 30: History Day

November 2: Student Visitation Day Grades 6-12

November 7: PTF Dinner & Auction Benefit

Details on these events and more can be found on Facebook.



excellence

Praying Together

In Matthew 18, when Jesus is asked "Who is the greatest?" he calls adults to the "lowly position" of children and cautions against any teaching or action that causes a child to stumble. What an extraordinary challenge for Christian educators today! The vulnerable years of



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Fall 2015

2015-16 EMS K-12 Faculty and Staff usher in a new year together. (Photo by: Andrew Gascho)

childhood are sacred moments of influence. I invite your prayer partnership as a caring community for the following intentions:

• Forty-two EMS students are recipients of the VDOE's **Education Improvement Scholarship** for K-1st grade students and for public school transfers. Please pray for the continued success of this program and encourage new families to explore this scholarship opportunity.

• After-school care for EMS students ages 12 years or younger began this fall on Main Campus. Please pray for this program that allow EMS to be a viable option for working families.

• **Online instruction** opens potential course and enrollment opportunities and yet threatens traditional teaching practices. Please pray for wise discernment as EMS explores appropriate integration of technology into our curriculum.

• The **Virginia High School League** has opened competition to private schools. EMS will be weighing the pros and cons of participation in a public school league. Pray for wisdom in our cost-benefit analysis.

• EMS and MennoMedia have agreed to option-to-buy terms to explore the purchase of the MennoMedia property on Virginia Avenue for potential future use by our elementary program. We are excited to explore design ideas that create natural light, green space for play, operational synergies, and conveniences for families, while preserving the unique and successful offerings our 10-year elementary program has built. Please pray for adequate resourcing for this *"Let the Children Come"* facility project.

Please consider *Today* as your reminder to whisper regular prayers on behalf of EMS. Many wonderful experiences are planned for this year and we invite you to join us as frequently as possible.

integrity service

Pal & tea



www.easternmennoniteschool.org

Alumni News & Updates

Join us for "Thy Spirit Leads Our Way," Homecoming 2015, October 16-18. We welcome all alumni to Homecoming, especially those from graduation classes ending in a 5 or 0, as well as those who just wish to celebrate with us. We're especially excited to offer a reunion concert and presentation of the beloved and oft performed cantata *David the Shepherd Boy* led by former EMS music teacher Marvin Miller. For more information on these events go to www.emhs.net or call (540)-236-6024.

Thursday, October 15, 2015

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., David the Shepherd Boy rehearsal.

Friday, October 16, 2015

8:30 a.m., Homecoming Golf Tournament, Heritage Oaks Golf Course Advanced registration required; call (540) 236-6024 by 10/9.

9:25 a.m., Chapel-Recognizing Allison Yoder Seabeck '00 Young Alumnus of the Year Reception follows in the Commons.

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Alumni Open House. Join us at the Parkwood campus throughout the day for chapel, tours, and visits with faculty, staff and classmates. If you want to join us for lunch, please call for a reservation at (540) 236-6024.

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., David the Shepherd Boy rehearsal

5:30 p.m., Founder's Day Dinner - Recognizing Ron Brown '70 *Lifetime Service Award*. Advance reservations required; call (540) 236-6024 by 10/9.

7:30 p.m., EMS Student Homecoming Concert

8:30 p.m., Dessert reception in the Commons for retiring EMS staff: Jean Fisher, Jay Hartzler, and Marlin Yoder.

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Reunions for classes ending in "5" and "0"

9a.m. - 11a.m., David the Shepherd Boy dress rehearsal

11 a.m. -12 p.m., 2015 Touring Choir practice

Noon, JV Girls Volleyball

1:00 p.m., Varsity Girls Volleyball

3:00 p.m., Varsity Boys Soccer

5:00 p.m., David the Shepherd Boy cast dinner - EMS dining hall

7:00 p.m., David the Shepherd Boy Concert

Sunday, October 18, 2015

10:30 a.m., Homecoming Worship Service, Eastern Mennonite School Auditorium Recognizing Joseph Longacher '55, *Alumnus of the Year*. Special seating for the classes of 1950, 1955, 1960 and 1965.

12:00 p.m., Lunch in the EMS Dining Hall. Cost is \$10 per person. Advance reservations required; call (540) 236-6021 by 10/9.

1:00 p.m., David the Shepherd Boy cast and choir warmup

1:30 p.m., David the Shepherd Boy Concert

20	15 Reunion	Information			
Yr	Name	Contact	Event	Location	TIME
45	Eugene Souder	easouder@gmail.com	Reunion & Lunch	Village Hall VMRC	12:30 p.m.
50	Edna Brunk	hebrunk@comcast.net	Reunion & Lunch	Gathering Place – Everence	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
55	Bernard Martin	martinbj56@gmail.com	Reunion & Lunch	Harrisonburg Menn Church	10 a.m.
60	Eleanor Isner	isnereleanor@juno.com	Friday	Home of Ed & Charlotte Swope	6:30 p.m.
			Reunion & Lunch	EMS DH Foyer	12 – 4:30 p.m.
65	Lois Maust	wlmaust@gmail.com	Friday	EMU Discipleship Center	6:30 p.m. – until
			Reunion & Lunch	Park View Mennonite Church	11 a.m. – until
70	Diana Berkshire	wdbshire1971@gmail.com	Reunion & Lunch	EMU Discipleship Center	10 a.m. – until
75	Don Shank Jude Martin	dshank3965@comcast.net judemartin@verizon.net	Reunion	Shady Oak at Weavers Menn Church	9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
80	Dianna Lehman	edlehman@gmail.com	Reunion & Lunch	EMS Commons	11 a.m. – until
85	Renee Brunk Branner	reneebranner@comcast.net	Reunion & Dinner	Wildwood Park, 600-648 W Bank St. Bridgewater, VA 22812	2 p.m. – until
90	Jay Yutzy	jay@funkhousergroup.com Facebook Group	Reunion	EMS – Room 105 follow signs	12 p.m.
95	Wendy Hochstedler Heidi Lantz-Trissel	wwenger@gmail.com simplehillfarm@gmail.com	Reunion Informal gathering	EMS FCS room – follow signs Lantz-Trissel Farm	1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
00	Joanna Showalter	joanna.showalter@gmail.com	Reunion & Lunch	Harrisonburg Menn Church Outdoor Pavilion	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
05	Rachael Charles	mikerach.charles@gmail.com Facebook Group	Reunion	EMS Library – Look for signs	10 a.m.
10	Kaitlyn Revercomb	rcaitlyn@vt.edu	Reunion - 10/16 Friday Evening	Taste of Thai	7 p.m.
15	Joy Driver Esther Ghale	540-830-0229	Reunion	EMS patio by the auditorium	5 p.m.

VISION:

Eastern Mennonite School aspires to reflect Christ's light as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives, and lives God's call.

EMES 5th grade graduates get congratulations from their younger classmates as they head to middle school. (Photo by: EMS staff)





Before our 8th grade heads to high school, they spend an Explore Week in Philadelphia seeing the sights together and bonding one last time as a middle school group. (Photo by: EMS staff)

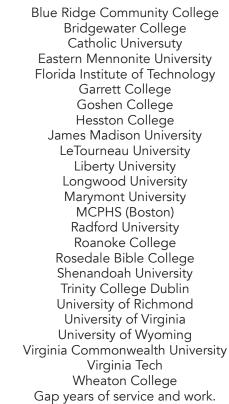
History Day 2015 – The Times They Are a Changin'

Join us October 30, 2015 for our second annual History Day, this year focusing on the 1950's and 1960's. EMS History teachers are planning for a day of K-12 activities to teach students about the history and culture of these important decades. All faculty and staff will be involved in some element of the day's teaching and fun. In the afternoon history teachers are planning an all-school one-mile walk along Martin Luther King Jr. Way (formerly Cantrell Avenue) in Harrisonburg. Visitors are invited to campus on October 30, and are asked to register at the front desk upon arrival. For questions on History Day 2015 or to volunteer to help, contact Elwood Yoder at yoderee@emhs.net.

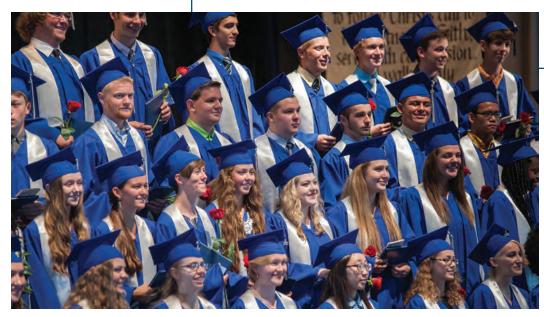


Where you'll find our graduates!

Class of 2015



Congratulations Class of 2015! We're proud of your choices and hard work!



EMS proudly graduated 54 students in the Class of 2015. (Photo by: Nick Seitz '13)



EMS Secondary Principal Phil Landes '81 awards a diploma to Natasha Kwera '15. (Photo by: Nick Seitz '13)

Discovery 2015: Finding Sustainable Solutions

by Elwood Yoder

Two days after graduation, June 9, 2015, twenty-five EMS high school students and three teachers boarded a motor coach and left Harrisonburg for a 19-day academic expedition through 15 states called "Discovery." Their goal was to seek sustainable solutions to complex issues facing the United States including energy, agriculture, water, and bison management.

EMS Discovery is an academic learning trip that brings together knowledgeable experts

in many fields of study with students who are open to learning and questioning various options, and have a desire for faith development. These trips, conducted every other year since 2003, foster a desire to learn about the world, to investigate real-life issues in a hands-on way, and to discover the meaning of faith in the process.

Discovery 2015 students quickly discovered that social and economic issues have multiple perspectives and do not lend themselves to easy answers. Discovery teachers had arranged for meetings with experts who represented starkly different points of view, which forced the students to think and create their own opinions.

The water case study, conducted in Colorado and Utah, pushed students to evaluate their own use of water. From a cool mountain stream in Rocky Mountain National Park to the dry environs of Arches National Park, Discovery students studied the use and misuse of water resources. A three-day

rafting trip on the Colorado River, with skilled and knowledgeable guides, challenged the students and teachers to consider their place in God's creation. Erin Hostetler '16 learned that "God calls us to be caretakers of the earth." Holly Mumaw '16 discovered that showers aren't a daily necessity, in terms of water usage, and Leah Wenger '16 found flush toilets strange because of their enormous consumption of water after her own experience using simple pit toilets along the Colorado River.

Reflecting on the 6,000 mile trip, Leah Wenger stated that going out and seeing the vast diversity of geography across the United States has helped her realize the "richness of home" in the Shenandoah Valley. When asked whether Discovery was worth the money, time, and resources, and whether it should be offered again in two years, Holly Mumaw resoundingly said, "Absolutely."

Want to know more? Go to www.easternmennoniteschool.org and pull down to "Discovery" under QuickLinks to view links from past trips.



EMS Discovery, Quinter, Kansas, June 13, 2015. (Photo by: Adam Schmid)



Erin Rhodes, Ellie Pence, Megan Good, and Leah Huyard at 12,000 feet in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, June 14, 2015. (Photo by: Rachael Brenneman '16)

2015 Discovery Participants

Juniors: Rachael Brenneman Gabby Forward Leah Huyard Caty Melendez Ira Miller Lukas Petersheim Alexander Wagner Ellie Pence Lucas Wenger

Seniors: Caroline Bell Nathan Cripe Jacob Eggert **Ryan Gandy** Megan Good Luke Hertzler **Erin Hostetler** Alan Liu **Holly Mumaw Lorien Myers Erin Rhodes Bailey Rhodes** Addison Rhodes **Drake Wagner** Leah Wenger **Jason Yu**

Faculty: Gretchen Cessna Lee Good Ben Roth Shank

Drivers: Barry Darr Gary Myers '82 Sara Roth Shank

Support Staff: Anna Berkshire '09 Haarer Adam Schmid

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MISSION:

Eastern Mennonite School joins home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world.



Congratulations to Girls Varsity Soccer - 2015 VISAA Division II State Champions! Stay up to date and cheer on the Flames by checking www.easternmennoniteschool.org. (Photo by: Erika Gascho)