



# TODAY

Volume 35, No. 1  
October 2017

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for these events -  
details at [www.emhs.net](http://www.emhs.net)

Oct. 12, 9 a.m.- Groundbreaking for K-12 unified campus, new elementary location

Oct. 12-15 - EMS Centennial Homecoming - see complete schedule on page 3

Oct. 29, 2 p.m. - 4p.m. - EMES Fall Festival

Nov. 4, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. - PTF Auction "100 Grand Years"

Nov. 6. Student Visitation Day (middle and high school)

Nov. 21- Jan. 6 - Christmas Fund Drive Campaign

Dec. 5, 7 p.m. - EMES Christmas Program

Dec. 12 & 14, 7:30 p.m. - EMHS Christmas Worship Program



## Join the EMS "Block Party!"

by Paul G. Leaman, Ph.D., Head of School

Back in the 1970's, my neighborhood on Rockingham Drive held an annual summer block party. People grilled hotdogs, served mac and cheese, and ate watermelon. Favorite foods brought neighborhood kids around the table, but before long basketball hoops and backyards beckoned us for games lasting past twilight. Each year as new people joined our growing neighborhood, the block party turned acquaintances into friendships and our street as a place of belonging.

EMS' Centennial Homecoming is our block party for you! There will be great food to bring you to the table, but events and friendship sightings will quickly grab your attention. Held during a shared weekend with EMU, October 12 - 15, 2017 will fill your life with opportunities to reminisce, rekindle, and remember alongside friends from over the years. It will also be a chance to hear about future vision, break ground, and watch today's generation speak, play, and perform.



Pictured below are the faculty and staff of Eastern Mennonite School's Centennial year. Can you identify the 19 alumni in this photo? Alumni called back to teach and serve represents a powerful testimony of the influence EMS has in shaping lives for the future. Shouts of confidence in EMS also come from the 59 children of EMS employees who currently attend the school.



EMS' Centennial Faculty and Staff, August 2017. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

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faith excellence integrity service

[www.easternmennoniteschool.org](http://www.easternmennoniteschool.org)



# From Generation to Generation

by Elwood Yoder

As we reach our Centennial, it is important to note that although EMS has evolved over the years to include students from many diverse backgrounds, geographical locations, and faith traditions, the school still maintains a long history of familial commitment. In this Centennial year alone, there are several families who have five or more generations of family with involvement in the life of the school. We know there are more, too. If we have missed a family with five generations at EMS, please contact us with that information - we'd love to tell the story!

Austin Showalter '18 (Grade 12) is the fifth generation in his family to attend EMS. His parents are Laura Berkey Showalter '93 and Christopher Showalter '92. Laura's parents are Rosie Neer Berkey '69 and Carl Berkey '70. Rosie's parents are Earl and Rhoda Weber Neer '46. Rhoda is the daughter of Nellie Burkholder Weber '19 and Newton Weber. It's interesting to note that Nellie Burkholder Weber was in the first EMS graduating class, while Austin is in the 100th graduating class.

Tyler Blosser '28 (Grade 2) is the sixth generation in his family to be vitally involved with the school. Tyler's parents are Ellen and Jesse Blosser '98. Jesse has been a Mathematics teacher at EMHS since 2008. Jesse's parents are Janet and Floyd Blosser '72. Floyd's parents are Dorothy Nice Blosser '49 and Glendon Blosser '47. Glendon's parents were Pauline and Mahlon Blosser '24. Mahlon's parents were Mary and Daniel A. Blosser and Daniel served on the first Board of Trustees of EMS.



Pictured left to right are four of the six generations of the Blosser family who have EMS ties: Glendon '47, Floyd '72, Jesse '98, Tyler '28. Not pictured are Glendon's father Mahlon (1924), and grandfather Daniel Blosser. (Photo by Jesse Blosser)

Brothers Braden '18 (Grade 12) and Ryan '21 (Grade 9) and their cousin Michelle '19 (Grade 11) Brunk are fifth generation EMS students. Ryan and Braden are sons of Cynthia and Benjamin Brunk '91. Michelle is the daughter of Steve '82 and Beth Hess Brunk '82. Steve and Benjamin's father is Gerald R. Brunk '55. Gerald's father, George R. Brunk II was a professor at EMS for many years and his father, George R. Brunk was a key, visionary founder of EMS.

Grant Leichty '19 (Grade 11) is a fifth generation descendant of EMS school founder Lewis J. Heatwole. While only three generations of Bishop Lewis J. Heatwole's family line have attended EMS, L. J. Heatwole carried a leading role in the movement to establish EMS in Harrisonburg, and he served as the first Chair of the Board of Directors.

Mary '19 (Grade 11), Maggie '21 (Grade 9), Hannah '24 (Grade 6), and Grace '27 (Grade 3) Fairfield are fifth generation EMS students. The girls' parents are Joshua '92 and Christine Glick Fairfield '93, and Joshua's parents are John '66 and Kathryn Stoltzfus Fairfield '66. Kathryn is the daughter of Grant and Ruth Brunk Stoltzfus '34, and Ruth is the daughter of EMS founder George R. Brunk I.

This multi-generational commitment is a powerful testimony to the relevance of our school today. As we look toward the next century of EMS, we look forward to adding even more generations to our community!



Faculty of Eastern Mennonite Elementary School pose in front of a "We're moving!" sign at the current elementary location off of Rte. N. 11. Plans to move the elementary to the former Menno Media building, adjacent to the Parkwood Drive Main Campus are underway. More details can be found at [www.easternmennoniteschool.org](http://www.easternmennoniteschool.org) under *Let the Children Come*. (Photo by Elwood Yoder)

# Centennial Homecoming Schedule

**Seating for Founder's Brunch is limited. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 540-236-6000 or emailing [alumni@emhs.net](mailto:alumni@emhs.net). All events free of charge except where noted.**

## Thursday, October 12, 2017

**9:00 a.m.** EMS History Day Featuring EMS Centennial K-12 Campus Groundbreaking followed by all day events for K-12 students

## Friday, October 13, 2017

**9:30 a.m.** Chapel and reception honoring 2017 Young Alumnus of the Year Matt Weaver '92, EMS Auditorium

**4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Touring Choir Reunion rehearsal led by Jay Hartzler, EMS Auditorium

**5:00 p.m.** Booster Club Tailgate before Volleyball games, EMS Gym Lawn

**6:00 p.m.** JV Girls Volleyball vs. Harrisonburg High School, EMS Gym

**7:00 p.m.** Varsity Girls Volleyball vs. Harrisonburg High School, EMS Gym

## Saturday, October 14, 2017 Reunion Classes "2" and "7"

**8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

EMS Founder's Brunch honoring the 2017 Lifetime Service Award winner Dr. Robert Eshleman '52 (**reservations required, R.S.V.P. to [alumni@emhs.net](mailto:alumni@emhs.net)**)

**10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Alumni Open House – tours of EMS available

**10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Touring Choir Reunion rehearsal, led by Jay Hartzler, EMS Auditorium

**11:00 a.m.** EMS Booster Club Tailgate before Soccer Game, EMS Soccer Field Parking Lot

**11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Relive "Walk to Lunch" @ EMU. Reminisce about the good old days by walking as a reunion class to lunch "up the hill" at the EMU Dining Hall. Shuttle buses available as needed. (**reservations required, R.S.V.P. to [alumni@emhs.net](mailto:alumni@emhs.net)**) Cost \$7.50, \$6.50 for seniors over 55

**1:00 p.m.** EMS Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Virginia Episcopal School - EMS Soccer Field  
Recognition of Boys and Girls Soccer State Championship Title Teams at halftime

**6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

EMHS Instrumental Concert, followed by intermission and stage change

**8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

EMS Centennial Concert, EMS Auditorium, featuring Touring Choir Reunion Concert led by Jay Hartzler. Touring Choir members of all years are invited to participate!

## Sunday, October 15, 2017

**9:00 a.m.** EMS Centennial Worship Service, EMS Auditorium, honoring 2017 Alumnus of the Year Beryl Jantzi '77, special seating for the classes of 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967.

**Please visit [www.easternmennonite.org](http://www.easternmennonite.org) for up to date information on homecoming events.**

## VISION:

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

YEAR	Contact	EMAIL	PHONE	LOCATION	TIME
'47	Mary Reitz	maryreitz@myvmrc.net	540-432-7254	VMRC Park Place Dining Room Buffet \$10pp, must R.S.V.P. to Mary Reitz	11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
'52	Sam Weaver	weaverso@emu.edu	540-478-6905	VMRC Hartman Dining Room (Lunch at noon, \$15 pp, R.S.V.P. required) R.S.V.P. to Sam Weaver	10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
'57	Janet Martin	arlinmartin@gmail.com	540-456-6410	VMRC Village Hall (R.S.V.P. required 434-760-0777) R.S.V.P. to Janet Martin	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
'62	Juanita Kiser	Kisamo1@comcast.net	540-833-2462	EMS Room 163	immediately following brunch
'67	Ruth Jost Mim Wenger	ruthsjost@gmail.com wengergrapes@ntelos.net	540-271-4014 540-241-0461	EMS Main Campus Room 105	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Encouraged to walk to lunch together at EMU. Cost \$7.50, \$6.50 seniors. R.S.V.P. to Ruth Jost or Mim Wenger
'72	Kathy Weaver	kandkweaver@comcast.net	540-820-1074	EMS Room 158 (FCS)	immediately following brunch
'77	Phil Yutzy	pyutzy@harrisonburg.k12.va.us	540-833-4313	Friday Dinner, Capital Ale House. Saturday, Reunion EMS Dining Hall Foyer, Walk to Lunch in EMU cafeteria, Evening gathering @ 248 Northview Drive, Dayton VA at the home of Gerry Lehman	Friday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Saturday Reunion 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Walk to lunch 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Evening gathering 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
'82	Cheryl Mast	cmast@rockingham.k12.va.us	540-820-8776	EMS Commons, Lunch	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
'87	Jeremy Nafziger	jfnafziger@gmail.com	540-209-3767	Friday, October 13, 2017 Evening dinner party 2532 Harpine Hwy, Harrisonburg VA at the home of Lawson Yoder	7:00 p.m. until
'92	Jan Emswiler	jankajungu@gmail.com	540-435-5158	EMS Library	9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
'97	Sarah Kratz	kratzes14@gmail.com	540-421-6033	920 Smithland Drive, Harrisonburg VA at the home of Heidi Yoder	11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
'02	Patrick Weaver	patrickethweaver@gmail.com	540-830-1177	Morris Park Pavilion Lunch (Close to Waterman Elementary School)	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
'07	Jessica Fitzgerald	Jessica.renee.fitzgerald@gmail.com	865-200-9913	EMS room 156	10:00 a.m.
'12	Katherine Hartzler	katherinehartzler1@gmail.com	540-435-3800	EMS Commons	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
'17	Elijah Powell	ekp6036@rit.edu	540-910-0301	EMS outside of Auditorium foyer	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

# In the News



The EMHS Advanced Biology course recently visited Virginia Tech with their teacher Wendy Stapleton, Ph.D. (far front right) to meet with theoretical physicist Nigel Goldenfeld, Ph.D. of the Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Students attended his lecture on biocomplexity, completed a lab activity, and toured the Virginia Tech campus. (Photo by Staff)



## **Continued from page 1.**

Over the past 100 years, Eastern Mennonite School has formed neighborhoods of belonging and friendship which last a lifetime. Learning together and being part of events and activities during formative years create stranger-no-more communities. . . and we are so blessed to have thousands of graduates and friends who give of their talent, time, and treasure as part of God's faithfulness and blessing to EMS.

Visionary ideas from the early 1900's sprouted and have been carried forth by generations of many loyal families. The early vision for a Bible, music, and vocational school grew into a college, and now a university with a seminary, graduate programs, a satellite program, and world-renowned Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. This early vision also grew deeper, attracting young families with today's unified elementary (EMES), middle

(EMMS), and high (EMHS) schools. On October 12th, we're excited to break ground on the next century of our K-12 campus as we begin work on our new elementary location through *Let the Children Come* campaign.

Our one-of-a-kind school environment where everyone belongs has attracted many newcomers to the EMS neighborhood. Our doors are open wide for families seeking Christian education from an Anabaptist perspective, where each student is known, is taught and encouraged to follow Jesus, belongs to a caring community, explores and thinks constructively, practices leadership, serves, and learns peacebuilding skills. Presently, our neighborhood includes 15 denominations and 48 congregations . . . and growing. We love our neighborhood where God's love rules and strangers become friends for a lifetime. Come join in our "Block Party" and celebrate with us this Centennial year!

**Today is published six times a year for families, alumni and friends of Eastern Mennonite School. We value your input. Send your feedback and story ideas to: [today@emhs.net](mailto:today@emhs.net).**

**Look for previous issues of Today online at <https://issuu.com/easternmennoniteschool>**

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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.*

# 100

*An evening of giving—  
honoring our past and  
focused on the future!*



# GRAND YEARS

**Saturday, November 4, 2017 • 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**  
**Eastern Mennonite School • 801 Parkwood Drive**

Join us for an evening of giving - honoring our past and focused on the future! You'll enjoy a silent and live auction items featuring gourmet dinners, beach and ski vacations, household items, and much, much more! Tickets are just \$25/person and include dinner and dessert from Bowl of Good. Tables for 8 are just \$175. All proceeds benefit classroom and Annual Fund needs of EMS. **Reserve your seat today by contacting [hesse@emhs.net](mailto:hesse@emhs.net) by October 20th.**