



Amanda '19, Samuel '28 and Ana '31 Aponte illustrate beautifully the joy of having K-12 under one roof this year. Photo by Andrew Gascho.

Let the Children Come! Update

As of January 15, we have raised more than \$440,000 of the final \$600,000 needed toward our move-in goal to renovate a building for our K-5 program. Supporters can close the gap of the remaining \$160,000 needed for the move-in goal. Then we will focus on the bridge connecting the two building sites and a central Gathering Space addition.

Please remember this project in your prayers. Contact us to talk about how you might participate! Call Paul Leaman, head of school, 540-236-6012. More at emhs.net/support/ltcc.cfm

Christmas Fund Drive 2018 Success!

Thank you for responding generously when students contacted you in person, by phone or handwritten letter. We raised almost \$138,000 as of Jan. 17, 2019. All proceeds go to our Second Century Fund which makes the EMS experience possible. Our students gained confidence, learned about giving back, and gained awareness about all that goes into making their school successful.

With gratitude!

Trisha Blosser
Development Officer

THANK YOU!



Students hand wrote more than 1,200 letters! Lily Byer '19 wrote nearly 200 herself!



Justin King (left), high school principal, and Paul Leaman, head of school, at the fund drive assembly.

Updated Look

This is the first print issue of *Today* using our updated logo, which was introduced last October. The revitalized logo builds on the flame motif first used in the mid 1970s. Herb Weaver '76 suggested the concept of flames for a new icon when then-principal Sam Weaver wanted to move away from "Colonials."

Read more: <http://link.emhs.net/logo>

Readers Respond

More than 170 alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friend readers in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio and beyond completed our reader survey in fall 2018.

THANK YOU!

We publish and mail a print version of *Today* three times per year. We will send a small supply to Virginia Mennonite Conference churches. We also send an electronic *Today*, with different content from the print version. Ask to join either mailing list, today@emhs.net or 540-236-6025.

Today creative team: Elwood Yoder, editor; Andrea Schrock Wenger '82, managing editor; Trisha Blosser '95, editorial assistant; Lindsey Kolb, designer; Paul Leaman, head of school.

Send feedback to today@emhs.net

Find past issues at emhs.net/about/publications.cfm



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TODAY

Volume 36, No. 2
Winter 2019

Join us!

Details at emhs.net

Feb. 18-22, 9:30 a.m. chapel – Spiritual Renewal Week with Graeme Dodds, pastor of Harehills Lane Baptist Church in Leeds, UK.

March 1, 3 p.m. Mennonite Schools Council instrumental festival

March 8 & 9, 7:30 p.m. Senior play, *The Literati Awards*, by Claire Epstein

March 19, 7:30 p.m. Spring middle and high school choral and instrumental concert

March 20, 7:30 p.m. "Screen Schooled: How technology overuse is making our kids dumber," with authors Joe Clement & Matt Miles

March 25, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Student Visitation Day

April 26 & 27, 7 p.m. Middle School play, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Come to a boys or girls basketball game. Schedule at emhs.net/athletics



Kerinna Good, brother Kyle '15 and father Lee Good, science teacher and Discovery leader, at Glacier National Park in Montana. Photo by Elwood Yoder

Summer Learning Creates Lifelong Memories

Kerinna Good '19

Each year, EMS upperclassmen are offered the opportunity to embark on experiential learning trips in the month of June. On even years, the Touring Choir travels in Europe, singing in cathedrals, learning about European culture from host families, teaching music to school children, and seeing the wondrous sights.

On odd years, students are offered a dissonance experiential learning "Discovery trip" on topics of agricultural sustainability, water, conservation, sustainable energy, technology, and First Nations.

Both of these trips encourage students to think critically and to grow in their faith. I am fortunate to have had the privilege of participating in both of these experiences.

In 2018, Touring Choir traveled through England, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Significant stops included Westminster Abbey; the Kolner Dom in Cologne, Germany; the Alps of Austria beside the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hallstatt; and Zurich, Switzerland where we learned about Anabaptist heritage.

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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.

VISION:

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

FOLLOW US:



Fore the Flames Golf Tournament

BENEFITTING EMS STUDENT FINANCIAL AID & ATHLETICS

Friday, May 3, 2019
Heritage Oaks Golf Course

emhs.net/alumni/fore-the-flames.cfm

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

FAITH COMMUNITY

THE ARTS



Touring Choir 2018 in front of Anabaptist leader Conrad Grebel home, Zurich, Switzerland, with Mennonite World Conference President Nelson Kraybill (kneeling right). Photo by Jared Stutzman

(continued from page 1)

One of the most formative faith experiences for me was the welcome we received at Harehills Lane Baptist Church in Leeds, England. Singing with the congregation and staying in their homes felt like a homecoming of sorts; they had been waiting for our choir to come back since the 2016 trip visited them. In that visit, I felt what it means to know people are Christians by their love.

At Harehills Lane, I shared that Touring Choir had taught me that God is in control, that I am able to take my hands off my life, accept that God has a plan, and learn to love that plan. *How Can I Keep From Singing* from the Chamber Choir repertoire describes that. “Day by day this pathway smooths since first I learned to love it,” says the classic folk hymn. How can I keep from singing through the tumult and the strife, through uncertainty, because I have learned to love the pathway God has set for my life? These words stay with me.

I spent June 2017 on a Discovery trip. I learned what it means to truly listen to another person’s point of view and to respect those who hold different opinions from myself. We were

another person’s point of view. A friend and I had a series of conversations about the biblical seven-day creation story versus the modern science theory of a 4.5 billion year-old earth. We disagreed in significant ways; at the beginning, our conversations were heated and defensive. As we learned to see perspectives from opposing viewpoints, we were able to talk with each other freely and respectfully.

I am grateful to the teachers, administrators and parents who make these kinds of learning experiences possible. Thank you EMS!

Editor’s Note: Myron Blosser ’79, long-time EMHS biology teacher, led the first Coast-to-Coast trip in 1998 from Harrisonburg High School. Five years later, after joining the staff at EMS, he and Elwood Yoder lead a trip called Lewis and Clark. This biennial trip was later called Discovery. Myron led trips until 2013. Science teacher Lee Good, joined the trips in 2011 and 2013 and has taken leadership since then. He will lead his third trip this summer. Numerous faculty, staff, alumni and parents have had the privilege of joining the trips as chaperones, cooks and learners.

challenged to think about different sides of controversial issues such as water management and land conservation in the Colorado River basin. We heard perspectives from Plateau Restoration, an organization that takes groups on rafting tours of the Colorado River and works for ecosystem preservation. We also heard from people in Las Vegas, a major user of the Colorado River’s limited water, and began to understand the complexities of the issues from different interest groups.

On this trip, I was able to grow in my ability to see and respect

Touring Choir 2019

More than 28,000 people have clicked and listened to a recording of Touring Choir sing *Oh, Shenandoah* in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey last summer. Visit the link on the Touring Choir Facebook page or at emhs.net/arts/touring-choir.cfm

The 2019 Touring Choir spring tour will take them to Pennsylvania to participate in the Mennonite Schools Choral Festival at Lancaster Mennonite School April 12 to 14. The group will then tour in western Pennsylvania. Watch for details online and in your mailbox. Alumni are especially invited to take in programs in their area.

ROMANIA TRIP? We continue to explore whether there is interest in a Touring Choir reunion trip to Romania in April 2020. See emhs.net/alumni/alumnichoir.cfm and let us know!

Digital Photography

Since teaching his first digital photography class at EMHS in 2012, Andrew Gascho has developed a communication technology program offering:

- 7th grade digital literacy,
- 8th grade digital projects,
- digital photography I,
- digital photography II,
- Photoshop,
- 3D printing,
- and photography independent study.

Gascho, who has a BA in communications and photography from Eastern Mennonite University, built on a program begun with one camera and a single digital photography class taught by long-time art teacher Barbara Gautcher.

Since then, Gascho has added two cameras per year, building up an equipment closet that includes 12 SLR cameras each with a 50mm lens, a 100mm macro lens, an 8mm Fisheye lens and a 70-200mm lens for sports and event photography.

“We use cameras from the Canon professional series,” explains Gascho. “Some are the exact model I used when I was shooting for The Hill newspaper in Washington D.C., during college. Our students are getting experience with the same equipment that professional photographers use.”

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Student interest has grown along with the program. Harriet King ’21 and Halie Mast ’21 wondered if they could continue to grow as photographers through independent study after they had completed digital photography I and II as freshmen.

Mr. Gascho said yes and “set us loose,” they report. This fall, they used the macro lens and props to capture images up close



such as fall leaves and splashing water. They also learned about light painting and shadow box photography.

And then, when alum and area educator Nathan May ’00 donated a light kit to the school, Gascho presented them with another opportunity. “My style of teaching is project based,” said Gascho, “so I gave them everything in the kit and said ‘set it up.’” After a bit of a “wide eyed look,” they “went to it.” Trying all kinds of things with stands, backgrounds and flashes – as well as trial and error – the young artists figured out correct camera settings for professional images.

Now, Gascho has all his photography II students set up the studio from scratch. After a group is done with their studio week, he tears it down for the next group.

As part of their Twelve Days of Christmas celebration, the student council approached Mr. Gascho about setting up a photo booth for lunch one day. Halie and Harriet stepped in, naturally. “It has been rewarding to see students take hold of something they had no



Left top: Andrew Gascho talks with Joelle Blosser ’22 and Angelina Semeniv ’22 in digital photography I class. Photo by Emma Resto ’20

Left bottom: Photography students in Park Woods. Photo by Andrew Gascho.

Above: Harriet King ’21 and Halie Mast ’21 on the “other side” of the camera during the Christmas photo booth. Photo by Andrew Gascho. More photo booth images can be found on the school’s Facebook page in December.

experience in and take chances and become ‘studio experts,’” reflects Gascho.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY PLUS

In addition to his role as communications technology department chair, Gascho also:

- oversees the school yearbook,
- coaches girls varsity soccer,
- gathers images for the school’s communications efforts,
- supports the school’s social media outreach,
- is graphic designer for the athletics program,
- and provides technology support for school operations, together with Mike Stoltzfus, director of business operations.

Class of 1968 has 50th reunion

by Elwood Yoder

Almost 40 out of 72 members of the class of ’68 attended their 50th reunion in October. For more detail on their gathering and photos, go to emhs.net/about/today-article.cfm.

UPDATES FROM ATTENDEES

Nelson Eberly ’68 was one of three students from Pigeon, Michigan. His parents made considerable sacrifice to allow him to attend for his senior year. Nelson sang in the Touring Choir with Marvin Miller, traveling to Iowa for the Mennonite choir festival. A few years after graduating from EMHS, Nelson married this writer’s sister. Today, he lives in Hartville, Ohio, has three children and four grandchildren.

Jeanne Hartman ’68 of Harrisonburg, was one of about 10 in the class to attend Park School in 7th grade, a nearby public school. Jeanne and the

Park School students enrolled in EMHS for the first semester of their 8th grade year, then helped carry books from the EMC administration building to the new EMHS campus at their semester break. EMHS bought the Park School building in 1968 and turned it into an industrial arts building. Jeanne remembers being suspended for a day and a half for cutting her hair. She went on to attend business college, buying her own business at age 23. She currently lives in Broadway, Va.

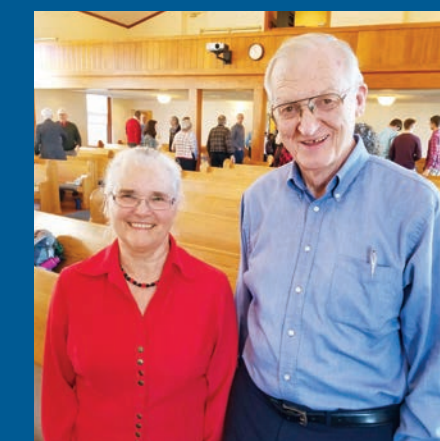
Two teachers crisscrossed their careers for one year in 1967-68: Jay B. Landis and James Rush. Jay B. Landis taught English and speech at EMHS for 12 years, serving as senior class sponsor for the class of ’68 and directing the senior class play, “The Thread That Runs So True.” Jay B. also helped launch the annual senior class service trip to Harman, West Virginia. In 1967, James Rush launched a 40-year career teaching history and social studies at the school. In his first year, he began requiring students to make a family tree, a practice that continues today.

Leo Heatwole ’68 grew up on a farm in the Harrisonburg

area and lived at home during five years at EMHS, helping with the daily chores. He married classmate, Carol Ann Goshow ’68, the only couple to marry from their class. Their daughters Carmen and Christy graduated from EMHS in ’92 and ’95. Carol passed away from cancer in 2009.

Heatwole nearly got kicked out of National Honor Society because of his grades; an EMHS counselor advised him not to go to college. This galvanized him to graduate from college with a business major. Heatwole recently retired from a successful career as a banker and a financial advisor in the Harrisonburg area.

Karla Showalter Souder ’68 came from Broadway, Virginia. Though she lived just nine miles from campus, her grandparents established a fund to help pay for their grandchildren to live in the dorm. Karla’s senior picture shows a covering perched neatly on top of carefully combed hair; on her snowy senior trip to Washington D.C., she and all the girls wore bonnets. Two years later, administrators relaxed the requirement that girls wear coverings to school.



Top: Karla Showalter Souder ’68, pictured with James Rush, long-time history and social studies teacher. Photo by Elwood Yoder.



Right: Leo Heatwole ’68, daughter Carmen Miller ’92, and grandchildren Clint Miller (left) ’22 and Ginny Miller (right) ’20 have studied in the same high school classroom. Photo by Andrew Gascho.