



1,000th Soccer Game

EMHS boys varsity soccer team played its 1,000th game on Sept. 29 with a home game against New Covenant Schools.

The program was launched in 1967 with Coach Ron Koppenhaver, followed by Eric Martin '72 and Kendal Bauman. Current coach Ryan Eshleman-Robles '09 is in his fourth season.

As a visual to help grasp the history, the team planted flags representing wins (731), losses (207) and draws (48) recorded by



Coach Ron Koppenhaver and the 1967-68 team.

Ember yearbook photo

the beginning of this season.

Alumni of the program enjoyed half time penalty kicks and the Booster Club provided celebratory cake. Read more at easternmennonite.org/news

New Multicultural Scholarship

The Students of Color Scholarship Fund has been renamed the Multicultural Scholarship Fund. The endowed fund provides financial assistance to qualifying students to diversify and enrich the school.

“We want our student body to better reflect the cultures and traditions of Harrisonburg, our country, and world,” says Paul Leaman, head of school. “We also want to increase access to an EMS education, and to enrich the EMS experience for students of all backgrounds.”

History

In the 1990s, a donor provided seed money to support Laotian immigrant students from a Mennonite church.

Following the death of George Floyd, EMS sought more tangible ways to address racial inequities and barriers in the culture at large and at EMS. An unsolicited gift intended to support students of color prompted review of the Laotian student fund and a rename to the



Students of Color Scholarship Fund. With promotion of the fund, new gifts came in and the fund doubled.

During the 2021-22 school year, Marsha Thomas, admissions counselor, heard feedback from some in our community that the term “color” harkened back to the pain of the pre-Civil Rights era. Subsequent stakeholder conversations and surveys resulted in the new name.

“The process deepened our awareness of the power of language to divide, confuse, wound or bring people together,” said Trisha Blosser, development officer.

Eligible students can be in any grade and will have demonstrated financial need. Applicants can begin the process by starting the EMS application, which opens Nov. 1. See easternmennonite.org/admissions



Three new high school teachers – Benjamin Bixler, Nathan Hershberger, and Karen Suderman – reviewed the Bible curriculum for grades 9-12 over the summer, building on the foundation of Anabaptist-centered Bible teaching at EMS since the beginning.

“Our objectives are to meet students where they are in their own faith development, to help them think deeply about who they are and how they understand the world, to present an Anabaptist Christian understanding of Jesus, and to affirm that they are loved by God for who they are,” say the teachers. Read more at easternmennonite.org/news

Today is written by Andrea Schrock '82 Wenger, director of advancement, and designed by Lindsey Kolb. Photos by Andrea Wenger unless otherwise noted. Page 1, bottom row, third photo, by Sabrina Forbes '24.

Paul Leaman, head of school

Send feedback to today@easternmennonite.org

Find past issues at easternmennonite.org/today

In admissions processes, Eastern Mennonite School does not discriminate on the basis of any race, color, handicap, national or ethnic origin, or religion, and admits students to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the school's non-discrimination policies, including its Title IX policy: Andrea Wenger, director of advancement, 540-236-6026. For assistance related to Title IX or other civil rights laws, please contact OCR at OCR@ed.gov or 800-421-3481, TDD 800-877-8339.



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TODAY

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Join us!

Oct. 14-15 – Homecoming.
See back page

Oct. 28-29, 7 p.m. and Oct. 30, 3 p.m. – High school play, *Our Town*, by Thornton Wilder.
easternmennonite.org/tickets

Nov. 1, 9-10 a.m. – Kindergarten Open House for parents.

Nov. 8, Jan. 17, Jan. 23, Feb. 24, April 3 – Visit dates for middle and high school prospective students. See easternmennonite.org/visit

Dec. 13, 7 p.m. – High school instrumental Christmas concert

Dec. 15, 7 p.m. – High school Choral Lessons and Carols

Feb. 9-12 – High school musical, *Godspell*

April 28 – Fore the Flames Alumni Golf Tournament

Flames athletics schedules and scores: easternmennonite.org/athletics

News at easternmennonite.org/news



2022-23 Launches With Hope

“Community” is our Chapel and Gathering theme this year which began August 16 with 383 students: 106 in grades K to 5; 118 in 6 to 8; and 159 in 9 to 12.

- 53 faith communities are represented, including Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and multi-faith, and some with no affiliation
- 21% identify as various races and ethnicities which are not white
- 20% qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program
- 27% receive needs-based tuition assistance

- 71% receive tuition support as discounts, scholarships, or other aid
- 100% benefit from donor support which makes the school possible

Jared Stutzman called faculty, staff and students to notice circles as he led opening music at the faculty/staff conference and the first chapel. “A circle is a beautiful thing... when you are inside it,” he said.. “...but it can really hurt if you are outside of the circle.”

Stay in touch as we learn about community – watch Chapel live or search for “Eastern Mennonite School Chapel” on YouTube.

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING!

OCT. 14-15, 2022

Your registration will help us prepare plenty of food for Friday’s picnic and Saturday’s breakfast.

Join the Homecoming Concert, Friday at 7 p.m. Volleyball and soccer, fun run/walk, and building tours on Saturday.

Reunions for classes ending in 2 and 7 all weekend.

easternmennonite.org/homecoming

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:



CELEBRATING ALUMNI STORIES

We celebrate alumni stories to hear each others' journeys since high school and to be inspired by lives of service, professional contributions, Christian commitment, and community engagement.

Carl Stauffer '82

Q: What years did you attend EMS? What “brought” you to the school?

I attended EMHS 1980-1982, my junior and senior years. My parents moved back from church work in Vietnam and the Philippines to Elkhart, Indiana, to complete seminary studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. I attended Bethany Christian School in Goshen, Indiana, my sophomore year. Then, my parents took a pastorate in Harrisonburg and that brought me to EMHS. This was my 3rd high school to attend, so I told my parents that if they moved again I would dorm at EMHS. The highlights of my time at EMHS were literally living across the street from the school, running cross country, touring choir, senior play, end of year banquets, and spring break trips.

Q. What was your academic and professional journey from EMHS to where you are today?

In 1988, my wife, Carolyn, and I moved to Richmond, Virginia, to plant an interracial church with Virginia Mennonite Conference in the city. The church was unable to fully support us so I found a part-time job as the Executive Director of the Capital Area Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (CAVORP) in 1991. I had already been trained by the Community Mediation Center in Harrisonburg, so this move into Restorative Justice mediation

in the courts was a natural fit. Three years later, we moved to South Africa with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and my first job there was as a “Mediation Trainer” with a peace non-governmental organization in Johannesburg. From there I became the Education & Training Coordinator, then worked with the South African Truth and Reconciliation Committee (1995-1997) and lastly became the Regional Peace Advisor for MCC in the Southern Africa region (1999-2009). After a three-year MCC term turned into 16 years, we (my wife and I and our two children) returned to Harrisonburg with our doctorates to teach at EMU (2010-2021). In 2021, I took a job with the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) in Washington DC covering the reconciliation portfolio.

Q. Any aspect of EMHS that served you well? Anything that was hard?

My favorite course was called Current Issues/Affairs with Harvey Yoder. This really sparked my interest in the fields of peace and conflict studies. Touring choir and spring break service trips satisfied my travel and adventure needs. My senior year I was told I needed another math or science to get into college, so I took chemistry with Mr. David Mumaw. It was the hardest course I took at EMHS, but Mr. Mumaw was very patient and worked with me to get through it.



Carl Stauffer, right, with Fania Davis, during a restorative justice conference at EMU.

Ember yearbook

Photos courtesy of EMU



Q. Involvements that give you joy in addition to professional work?

I continue to sing, dance, draw and enjoy worship. Jazz music is my favorite with a bias for South African jazz. I head to the beach for holidays; there is nothing more soothing to my soul than sleeping to the sound of ocean waves. I love a good dose of humor and cruising on my motorcycle.

Q. Any words to EMHS today?

EMHS was formative for me. My faith and vocation were shaped by these two years in significant ways. Daryl Zook, my cross country coach was much more than a coach, he was a mentor using every opportunity he had to give us life lessons within the experience and discipline of long distance running. The same could be said of Jay Hartzler, my choir director, and Harvey Yoder and David Mumaw, my teachers. May EMHS continue to be a refuge, an anchor for faith-forming, vocation-building, and life-transformative experiences for the generations to come!

Ethan Zook '72

Q: What years did you attend EMS? What “brought” you to the school?

I attended 8 – 12th grade from 1967 – 1972. After attending first grade in Belleville, Pennsylvania, followed by grades 2 – 6th at Park School, and 7th at Broadway, Virginia, I was looking forward to a small, Christian school near my home with sports like soccer and basketball, friends from the community and music and theater opportunities. I enjoyed playing JV basketball, varsity soccer and acted in *The Taming of the Shrew* and the first musical at EMHS. At EMHS, I learned to know many friends in all the grades and was challenged by the academics, and appreciated teachers who allowed me further study, especially in math. Some teachers became lifelong colleagues as I became a school psychologist and supported mental health and special education students at EMHS.

Q. What was your academic and professional journey from EMHS to where you are today?

After completing four years at Eastern Mennonite University in pre-med biology, I worked at improving my medical school application through EMT training and working at Rockingham Memorial Hospital in the Emergency Room. When the medical school door was closed, another door opened as I began and completed graduate studies at JMU in school psychology. With multiple internship possibilities, our family, with a newborn, decided to move to Pendleton County, West Virginia, and begin attending a small, Southern Baptist church that allowed for using many teaching and music gifts. I never expected to be a choir



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director and direct an Easter cantata at two local churches.

After four years in West Virginia, we moved back to Harrisonburg and I continued working as a school psychologist in Augusta County for nine years, with great memories of teamwork with a Christian social worker and many other teachers, administrators and medical professionals. The next 20 years I worked in Harrisonburg City Schools, mostly at the middle and high school levels. One of my most enjoyable professional roles as a school psychologist for Harrisonburg City Schools was being assigned to provide special education support to EMHS with somewhat strict adherence to the minimal level of services allowed by law. One time, my superior became upset when I became involved in a significant school traumatic experience, but I was convinced God's plan involved me that day in supporting the students and school.

Q. Any aspect of EMHS that served you well? Anything that was hard?

I believe the academic and sports rigor, and positive social student and adult interactions provided the necessary skills to be successful in my college and graduate school studies, and professional career. My love for sports and many opportunities at EMHS provided skills for a lifetime of enjoyment in basketball, softball and running... Academically, the three years of foreign language (Spanish), was challenging, but later the skills I did retain were invaluable with Hispanic students in the Harrisonburg area.

Q. Involvements that have given you joy in addition to professional work?

All during my professional years, I spent many hours outside of work volunteering at my local church (Park View Mennonite Church), and providing logistical and



Photo courtesy Ethan Zook

musical support to the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir.

I became involved in musical theater at Harrisonburg High School when a bass was needed for *Bye Bye Birdie*, directed by EMHS classmate Stan Swartz. [This] which led to 15 years of building sets and working backstage, assisting with taking a theater troupe to Scotland for the Fringe Festival, and then more recently, assisting with theater construction at EMS.

... [I]n my early 50s, I decided to take up distance running. [S]ince 2007, I have run nearly 70 races, mostly 5K fundraisers for autism and breast cancer, and then in 2009, began running marathons, 7 total, with 3 Boston completions... Running has given me another avenue to build relationships with young people in the community.... I admit I enjoy the competition and running faster than many of the younger racers.



Ethan Zook '72 with the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir.

Photo courtesy of SVCC

Janelle Cunalata '02

Janelle Cunalata is a member of the American Society for Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) and The National Association for Music Education (MENC). She teaches music at Hinkletown (Pa.) Mennonite School. Find her arrangements on YouTube.

Q: What years did you attend EMS? What “brought” you to the school?

I attended EMHS for my junior and senior years. Previously I attended Lancaster Mennonite School. We moved to the area so my parents could attend Eastern Mennonite Seminary. I'm so grateful God paved the way for me before I even knew I would be switching schools by giving me an excitement and curiosity in my heart for meeting new friends and new environments. While at EMHS, God provided me with friendships beyond my expectations and a supportive learning community that I truly enjoyed.

Q. How did you get involved in the music field?

As a young elementary student, I was interested in becoming an occupational therapist, a first grade teacher, or a meteorologist! It wasn't until high school that I considered music education. I took one year of piano in third grade before I switched to the most interesting and unique instrument I could find in the World Book Encyclopedia – the oboe!

In 10th grade, I participated in the Pennsylvania all state band and was surprised at all the hands that went up around me when the guest conductor asked who would be majoring in music in college. This was the first time I began to seriously consider continuing in the field of music in college...



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Music making became more frequent and diverse for me with... my attendance at EMHS. Singing in Chamber Choir, playing bassoon in orchestra and taking a music theory class and hand bell class with Mr. Hartzler helped me grow as a musician and teach me to be expressive musically using means besides the oboe. Mr. Hartzler was a mentor and role model to me as I confidently decided my senior year to step into the field of music education by continuing my education at Penn State University.

After graduation, I [taught] middle school and elementary level instrumental music at two schools before I moved to Ecuador. These early teaching years [exposed me] to instrumental pieces that work/don't work at different age levels... I also completed a master's of music through the American Band College in Southern Oregon.

In Ecuador, I taught music in Spanish and English and expanded my “musical palette”... It was also [where] I decided to try my hand at arranging music for string orchestra. After enjoying the craft of arranging for a few months, I decided to write my own original melodies and arrange them for



Photos courtesy of Janelle Cunalata

string orchestra and I began sending my music off to publishing companies in the United States for publication consideration...

Q. Any words to EMHS today?

I hope the school continues to foster an environment where students with all kinds of backgrounds and interests can find a learning community that they can call “home.” I hope the school continues to foster an environment where everyone, regardless of talent or experience, can experiment with different musical groups, ensembles and classes and find the beauty of prayer and worship through music and be bold and brave and take the time and effort to share their songs with others. And finally, I hope that the EMHS community continues to be a place where prayer erupts like a fountain frequently throughout the school day in conversation and in class, remembering that Jesus is our ever-present peace, love and joy.

The EMS Orchestra will perform one of her pieces at the Homecoming Concert, Friday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Read more of all three alumni stories at easternmennonite.org/news