



# VIKING NAVIGATOR

EVERGREEN LOCAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MR. LYONS IS THE BEST!



Mr. Chris Lyons, Evergreen High and Middle School band instructor, has been named the American Legion Department of Ohio's 2022 Educator of the Year. An Evergreen teacher for 31 years, Mr. Lyons was initially nominated by his peers and then selected by Evergreen's administration to be endorsed by the local American Legion Post 373 in Delta, Ohio. His nomination progressed through the county, district and state levels where he was selected as the best teacher in Ohio in 2022. He was presented with the award in late January 2023 in Columbus.

"Chris's charismatic personality attracts students to the band and his skill as an educator turns them into musicians. No one is more deserving of this honor than Mr. Lyons," said Eric Smola, superintendent.

Under the direction of Mr. Lyons, the EHS Band has expanded from 13 members in 1991 to a membership of 160 students. The number of students enrolled in the EHS Band encompasses over 40 percent of the school's entire enrollment. The EHS Band consistently earns Superior awards at Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Large Group Contests and actively performs throughout the region at numerous parades and festivals. The band has also performed in Washington D.C., Boston, and Walt Disney World. In 2001, the Evergreen Band performed at the Liberty Bowl Halftime and earned first place honors in the Liberty Bowl Parade.

Mr. Lyons has been selected as the recipient of the Franklin B. Walter "Teacher Who Makes a Difference" award eight times throughout his career. He is a Jennings Scholar and was selected as the *Toledo Blade's* Teacher-of-the-Month in November 2005 and March 2014. In addition, Evergreen has selected him as the school's Outstanding Educator for 2005-06, 2011-12, and 2021-22. In 2018, he was inducted into the Roy C. Start High School Hall of Fame. Mr. Lyons is in demand locally as a clinician, leadership conference speaker, and guest conductor for numerous Honor Bands.



# THANK YOU

Evergreen's 0.25% income tax levy renewal passed in November. This funding will help pay for planned operating expenses while allowing the District to maintain its current levels of service and programming for its students. Schools cannot survive without community support, and the residents of the Evergreen Local School District come through time and time again.

## MEET THE MAIN OFFICE SECRETARIES



Evergreen's three building secretaries are an essential part of the District's support team. Thank you (from L to R) Ashlee Ricker (EMS), Jeri Szabo (EES), and Jen Burghardt (EHS)!

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Nora Kiefer - President  
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- Jason Miller - Vice-President  
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- Zach Murry  
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- Don Smith  
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- Matt Vaculik  
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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Eric J. Smola, Superintendent



It's hard to believe the school year is more than half over. So far, it has been filled with many positive factors, including an increase in school spirit, elevated building atmospheres, and an overall sense of heightened energy. This enthusiasm is creating outstanding learning experiences for our students.

In November, the Evergreen Board of Education approved the District's updated Strategic Plan, titled *The Viking Compass*, to serve as the District's directional framework through 2025. Like other organizations, we used the strategic planning process to reflect upon our progress, gather feedback, review our core values and mission, and establish goals for the next several years. Our strategic plan clearly identifies what Evergreen Local Schools value most and what the District stands for as an educational institution. Our goals are to increase student opportunities, improve student preparedness for the future, and to improve the overall student experience while at Evergreen. We are committed to continue building upon Evergreen's rich traditions while ensuring our place as one of Ohio's most excellent school systems.

Also in November, Evergreen had a .25% renewal operating levy on the ballot. These funds are used to pay teacher and staff salaries, building utilities, and instructional resources and curriculum. It passed by 306 votes. Thank you! Community support is critical to our ongoing operations of the District. We can't do it without you.

Congratulations to our boys soccer team who was named back-to-back Sectional Champs this fall! Also, congratulations to our faculty members who have been recognized for their outstanding career accomplishments.

Without a doubt, it is a great year to be a Viking! Thank you to our students, staff, and community for your continued support of Evergreen Local Schools!

## OUR GOALS

In order to continue providing outstanding educational opportunities and services for our students, supply the resources necessary for our staff, and meet the high expectations of our community, the District has outlined the following five goals in its updated Strategic Plan. Objectives and strategies have also been defined to help attain these goals. The detailed Strategic Plan can be found on the District's website.

1. **Academics:** Achieve academic excellence and maximize student development.
2. **Culture:** Promote a cohesive culture to empower our students and staff.
3. **Engagement:** Engage the Evergreen community and deliver clear and consistent communication.
4. **Student Supports:** Facilitate social-emotional and academic supports to enhance student learning.
5. **Facilities:** Provide optimal learning environments for the education of our students.

## SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION

Special thanks to (L to R) Don Smith, Nora Kiefer, Jason Miller, Matt Vaculik, and Zach Murry for serving Evergreen Local Schools.





## GRIEF-SENSITIVE DESIGNATION

Evergreen Local Schools has been designated a “Grief-Sensitive School” by the New York Life Foundation. As a result, Evergreen has been awarded a \$500 grant to help create a bereavement support plan while encouraging ongoing staff development as part of the national Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative. The initiative is a pioneering effort to better equip educators to care for grieving students in their schools while gaining a better understanding of grief’s impact among school-age children.



## STEM GRANT RECIPIENT

Evergreen has been awarded \$5,000 to expand its STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning projects through the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Classroom Grant Program, funded by Battelle. Evergreen is one of 164 public schools in Ohio to be awarded this grant. According to Dr. Dolores Swineford, assistant superintendent and curriculum director, the grant will be used to purchase additional classroom resources and supplies to foster creative learning and problem solving skills across multiple grade levels.



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year opens February 6. To begin the process, a parent must access FinalForms on the Evergreen website at [evgvikings.org](http://evgvikings.org). Once the online registration is complete and submitted, a screening appointment will be confirmed. Screenings will take place April 11, 12, and 13.

## HONORED VIKINGS



Kelsey Ford, EES 5th grade teacher, was recognized this fall as a distinguished graduate of Trine University and honored with an alumni award during its annual Touchstone and Homecoming celebration. Ms. Ford received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award for being an accomplished professional and role model in her career, as a community activist, and as an active supporter of Trine University.



Jerry Keifer, EHS teacher and varsity boys basketball coach, was recognized this fall as a Defiance Alumni “Coach of the Year” for his outstanding 2019-2020 boys basketball season. The Vikings were named NWOAL Champs and Sectional/District Champs. Their Regional contest was canceled due to the COVID pandemic. This is Mr. Keifer’s third time being honored by Defiance College. In addition, Mr. Keifer celebrated his 400th career win after the victory against North Central on November 29. Mr. Keifer’s 400 wins have all been attained during his tenure at Evergreen while coaching the Viking boys basketball team.



In addition to being named Teacher-of-the-Year, Chris Lyons, was one of four professionals chosen to present at the Northwest Ohio Education Service Center’s (NWOESC) Building and Design of a Successful Program conference. These district leaders of co-curricular programs discussed how their successful programs operate in terms of organization, climate, culture, and expectations.

## HAPPY RETIREMENT!



**Sharon McCabe**  
EES Head Cook  
29 years of service to  
Evergreen Local Schools



Mrs. McCabe’s retirement plans include serving as a substitute for the Fulton County Senior Center, spending more time quilting, and traveling. “I will miss the people I work with and the EES students,” says Mrs. McCabe as she looks forward to her new adventures.

## COLORADO BOUND

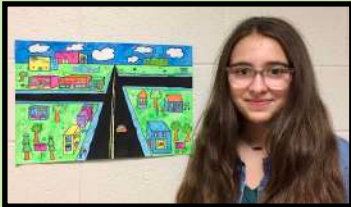


**Meegan Gleckler**  
FFA Member

After completing a vigorous application process, Meegan Gleckler, gr. 10, has been selected to attend the National FFA Next Generation Conference in Animal Sciences. Less than 100 students are chosen to attend the conference in Denver, Colorado. Meegan will attend with other FFA members from across the country to learn about the animal sciences industry.

## EMS ARTISTS OF THE WEEK

The following EMS students have been named Artist of the Week.



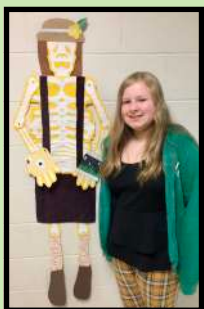
▲ Ella Ashenfelter, Cityscape



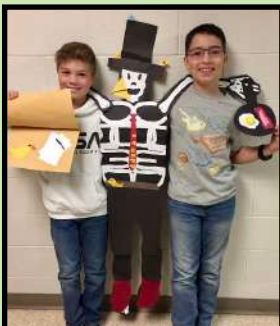
▲ Isla Beroske Clay Bell



▲ Peyton Mossier & Lilly Finfera, Calaca



▲ Autumn Silcox, Calaca



▲ Aimon Hill & Waylon Damaske, Calaca

## STUDENT SAFETY

According to Eric Smola, superintendent, one of the greatest fears school personnel face today is a threat to student safety. As swatting events are becoming more common in northwest Ohio and around the country, District leaders have never been more vigilant and concerned with student safety. Swatting is the action of making a prank call to emergency services in an attempt to dispatch a large number of armed police officers to a particular address. While Evergreen Local Schools hopes to never experience a real or fabricated threat, the District must be prepared for this possibility.

In addition to having a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus daily, the District has formed a Threat Assessment Team comprised of administrators, a mental health specialist, special education professional, and the school's SRO who is also a Fulton County Deputy. The team is designed to address all types of safety concerns and how to keep the students as safe as possible. In December, the team participated in Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Training. Additional training will take place in February when team members will focus on crisis management for rural-based incidents with law enforcement and first responders.

"Unfortunately, the need to be prepared is greater than ever, and the District continues to take the necessary steps to ensure student and staff safety," said Mr. Smola.

## FFA NEWS

Evergreen's FFA celebrates its 55th year! Members are busy with various contests, community service events, and other chapter activities. The 2022-23 school year opened with a new agricultural teacher and advisor, Alexis Howell, and 80 students in grades 9-12. The chapter has four officers leading the program: Kyle Feedback (president), Jessica Campbell (secretary), Meegan Gleckler (treasurer), and Haley Entenmann (reporter). Listed are just a few of the many notable experiences to date:

- 45 new, first-year members were inducted as "Greenhands"
- 8 members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis
- 10 members attended the District 1 Leadership Night in Elmwood
- 14 members attended the Farm Science Review
- 65 fair projects displayed at the Fulton County Fair
- 7th place at District Milk Quality Judging
- 2nd place in County Job Interview
- 6 members participated on FFA's Trap Shooting Team
- 75% of the members have competed in a FFA contest
- 53% of the members have completed a community service project
- 4 officers attended the Ohio Legislative Leadership Conference in Columbus
- 360 chicken dinners were sold & prepared with help from the Evergreen FFA Alumni
- Over \$16,000 of fruit, nuts & products were sold during the annual FFA Fruit Sale
- 13 family-sized Thanksgiving meals were donated to Evergreen families in need



▲ Officer Team





## NEW NHS MEMBERS

The EHS chapter of the National Honor Society held its new member induction this fall. Selection is based on the student’s academic standing, character, leadership and service. Congratulations: Claire Dowling, Jackson Kamm, Emileigh Myers, Briahna Schweer, Brooklyn Camacho, Jessica Campbell, Andrew Gillen, Alexa Hartbarger, Elijah Hernandez, Lilly Herr, Brooklynn Hinz, Katherine Hoffman, Rachael Hoffman, Ryder Hudik, Haley Johnson, Eli Keifer, Kamryn Merrill, Lyla Nash, Jared Peppers, Raegan Radel, Grant Richardson, Paige Shivley, Brooke Sintobin, Lanegan Smallman, Adam Smith, Jesse Spradlin, Jack Stubleski, Tyson Woodring, and Kendall Wyse.



◀ Congrats new NHS members!

## WORKING TOGETHER

Kindergartners learned how to create their own Google slide presentation with help from students in the fourth grade. Since it was “D Week,” kindergartners learned about dogs, and then they were tasked with making a title slide and a second slide which included a dog fact and pictures. The older students got a chance to share their skills and help with the technology and computer features.



## WINTER LESSON

Mrs. Call’s pre-school class learns about winter by creating an Alka-Seltzer snowstorm.



## MEET VINNIE!



Evergreen’s School Resource Officer (SRO), Deputy Kathy Zumfelde, has a partner named Vinnie. The six-month-old goldendoodle’s official name is “Vinnie the Viking,” and he was named by the Evergreen students. According to Deputy Zumfelde, Vinnie is considered a school facility dog and he is currently in obedience training. Vinnie enjoys visiting classrooms, and he is able to sit with students who may be having a rough day, need a stress reliever, or just a little extra comfort. “I’m not sure who enjoys the cuddles more; the students or Vinnie,” says Deputy Zumfelde.

## MORE EMS ARTISTS



▲ Juliette Okos & Addy Gleckler, Calaca



▲ Calli Kwiatkowski, Clay Bell



▲ Hannah Lazenby, Slab Structure



▲ Ella Ashenfelter, Mystery Painting



▲ Emma Hummel, Mystery Painting



▲ Weston Placzekiewicz, Digital Mosaic

## EMS FALL SPORTS REVIEW

### 7th Grade Volleyball

- Record: 9-7, 3-4 NWOAL

### 8th Grade Volleyball

- Record: 11-5, 5-2 NWOAL

### EMS Football

- 7th Grade Record: 0-5
- 8th Grade Record: 5-3

### 7/8th Grade Cross Country

- Micah Vivian ran the two mile course in 11:12, breaking the EMS school record. The previous record was 11:47 set in 2015.



## COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETE

Carson LeRoux, gr. 12, has officially signed a National Letter of Intent to participate in athletics at the collegiate level. Carson has committed the University of Findlay where he will be a member of the Oiler cross country team. He is joined by his parents, Laura and Charles LeRoux, to mark the event.



## EHS FALL SPORTS WRAP-UP

### VARSITY FOOTBALL

- Record: 3-7, 1-6 in NWOAL
- Riley Dunbar named 1st Team NWOAL Wide Receiver, 1st Team All-District & HM All-Ohio.
- Colton Robertson named 2nd Team NWOAL Returner
- Conner Hewson named HM NWOAL Linebacker
- Hunter Vaculik HM NWOAL Punter
- Grant Richardson named 2nd Team NWOAL Defensive End
- Cam Schlueter HM NWOAL Linebacker
- Robert Pennington HM NWOAL Defensive End
- Sam Worline 2nd Team NWOAL Guard
- Diesil Stoykoff named 2nd Team NWOAL Defensive Line
- Andrew Geer named HM NWOAL Center



### VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

- Record: 12-11, 3-4 in NWOAL
- Lyla Nash named 1st Team NWOAL & 2nd Team District 7
- Ellie Johnson named 2nd Team NWOAL & HM District 7
- Haley Johnson named HM NWOAL

### BOYS GOLF

- 0-7 NWOAL
- 7th Place in NWOAL Tournament
- Caden Beier named HM NWOAL

### GIRLS GOLF

- Record: 2-9
- 5th Place in NWOAL Tournament
- Brookelyn Gleckler named HM NWOAL
- Ashlynn Luttrell named HM NWOAL

### CROSS COUNTRY

- Jayden Harmon named HM NWOAL
- Deanna Hoffman named HM NWOAL
- Blake Fisher set a new freshman record of 18:00 minutes.

HM=Honorable Mention



### GIRLS SOCCER

- Record: 6-10-1, 1-5 in NWOAL
- Raegan Radel named 1st Team NWOAL & 1st Team All-District
- Lydia Gleckler named 2nd team NWOAL & HM All-District
- Alivia Mitchey named 2nd team NWOAL
- Rebekah VanWormer & Kiersten Taylor each named HM NWOAL

### BOYS SOCCER

- Record: 14-5-1, 4-1-1 NWOAL
- Back-to-Back Sectional Champions!
- District Final Runner Up
- Undefeated at home for 2 straight years.
- 3rd Place in the NWOAL
- 3-year record: 36-15-3
- Tyson Woodring named Player-of-the-Year NWOAL, 1st Team All-District & 2nd Team All-Ohio
- Elijah Hernandez named 1st Team NWOAL & 2nd Team All-District
- Nick Rosinski & Brodie Setmire named 2nd Team NWOAL & HM All-District
- Walker Lumbrezer & Cory Kanneman named HM NWOAL



▲ Boys soccer team, Sectional Champs!





## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

For years, a handful of former student athlete photos have hung above the entrance to the EHS gym. These individuals were named All-State athletes in their respective sports and their photos marked their place in Evergreen's Athletic Hall of Fame. In an effort to recognize more of the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of our Vikings, in addition to the state contenders, the Evergreen Athletic Hall of Fame has been expanded and now includes a formal process for nomination and recognition.

"Every sport is unique and our Vikings deserve to be honored for more than their state-bound performances," says Dylan Henricks, athletic director. "The new Hall of Fame allows Evergreen to be more inclusive of our outstanding Vikings' accomplishments and contributions," Mr. Henricks adds.

A nomination process is now in place which allows candidates to be selected by a committee after filling out an application. The Hall of Fame will include athletes, coaches, community members, and administrators who have made a significant impact on Evergreen's athletic program. In addition, the photo wall has been moved to the athletic entrance corridor to make it more visible to guests and to accommodate displaying future honorees. For more information on the Hall of Fame application process, please see the District's athletic webpage at [evgathletics.org](http://evgathletics.org).

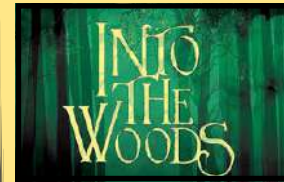


## HOMECOMING 2022

Homecoming festivities took place in mid-October. Spirit Week kicked off the celebration followed by the home football game against Bryan. The EHS Homecoming Court was presented during the high school pep-assembly where the senior king and queen, Conner Hewson and Lucy Serna, were announced. Attendants were: (gr. 9) Ava Vaculik, Brynley Lipinski, Joey Okos, and Will Ruetz, (gr. 10) Mary Daugherty, Addison Ricker, Jon Hawkins, Jr., and Colton Robertson, (gr. 11) Hannah Wilson, Lilly Herr, Riley Dunbar, and Elijah Hernandez, (gr. 12) Emileigh Myers, Ahrianna McCabe, Walker Lumbrezer, and Remi Taylor.



## EHS MUSICAL



This year's musical production is *Into the Woods*, a story

intertwining the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales while exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes. Performances are April 14, 15, and 16. Ticket information will be announced soon.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **No School for Students**  
February 17, Professional Day
- **No School - Presidents Day**  
February 20
- **Dueling Pianos**, fundraiser for the 2023 After Prom, on February 25
- **EHS Band Concert**  
February 27 at 7:00 pm at EHS
- **PreSchool Developmental Screening** March 6 at Delta Church of Christ, see website
- **No School - Spring Break**  
March 13-17
- **Music Booster Reverse Raffle**  
April 1 at Holy Trinity, ticket information to be announced soon
- **No School** April 7 & 10
- **EHS Musical, *Into the Woods***  
April 14 & 15 at 7:00 pm and April 16 at 2:00 pm in EMS gym
- **District Art Show** April 14 & 15 from 5:00-7:00 pm in EHS gym
- **FFA Spring Banquet** April 22
- **EMS & EHS Band Concert**  
May 11 at 7:00 pm at EHS
- **EMS & EHS Choir Concert**  
May 16 at 7:00 pm at EMS

# The Community Bulletin Board

- Evergreen Board of Education Meetings: February 21, March 21, & April 17 at 6:00 pm in the EHS media center. See agendas and summaries at [www.evgvikings.org](http://www.evgvikings.org).
- The Swamp Rats, the area's competitive trap & skeet team, are hosting a parent information meeting regarding the upcoming season on February 23 at 6:00 pm at Toledo Trap & Skeet. This group is open to area youth in grades 5-12 as well as college.
- Tickets are on sale now for Dueling Pianos on February 25 at the Bunker Bar & Banquet Hall. This is a fundraiser for the 2023 After Prom. For information or to purchase tickets, call/text 419-256-7449.
- Evergreen Music Boosters' Annual Reverse Raffle is April 1 at Holy Trinity School. Ticket information will be announced soon. Proceeds benefit the Evergreen music program.
- Village of Metamora Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 25. Rain date is April 1.
- St. Mary's Catholic War Vets and Auxiliary is sponsoring a \$600 scholarship. All 2023 graduating seniors living in the Evergreen School District are eligible to apply, including private and home school students. A 250-500 word essay is the only requirement. The topic is: "What Memorial Day Means to Me." Essays must be turned in to the EHS counseling office by April 20, 2023. The winner will be asked to read his/her essay during the Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 29. Students do not have to be Catholic or a member of Holy Trinity Parish to apply. For an application, contact [cpinkelman@evgvikings.org](mailto:cpinkelman@evgvikings.org).
- Applications for the 2023 Dairy Ambassador are available and can be downloaded at the Fulton County Extension website.

# Community CONVERSATION

Let's keep the conversation going!  
The community is invited to come have a casual conversation with Mr. Eric J. Smola, Superintendent of Evergreen Local Schools, and Mr. Brian Carroll, Treasurer, to learn more about our school district.

Want to know more about the schools or school finances?  
Put a rumor to rest? Ask a question about your tax dollar?  
Introduce yourself? Express your opinion or give feedback?  
Then come to any of the following open tables, grab a seat, and let's talk!

➡ **March 8**

Country Charm Cafe from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Metamora

➡ **March 23**

Wolf It Down BBQ from 4:00-5:00pm in Lyons



**Evergreen Local School District**  
**14544 County Road 6**  
**Metamora, OH 43540**