

ECA NEWS

New Student Newsletter Summer 2023



A Message from Dr. Fischer, ECA Principal

The 2023-2024 school year is quickly approaching! In the ECA's Main Office, we are using the summer weeks to prepare for the start of school.

Next up on our calendar is our **New Student Orientation** on Thursday, August 3rd. We cannot wait to see our new students (and parents/guardians) next week! See below for more details.

Following that event, we will host our annual **New Parent/Guardian Social**, co-sponsored by ECA PI (Parent Involvement) members. The event is on Thursday, August 10th from 6:30-8pm on campus in the Student Center Building, Room 310. The Social is a great opportunity to meet other parents/guardians, both fellow "new" parents and those who have been at the ECA for a few years. There are always lots of questions and answers, and information about how to get involved in our ECA PI group this coming year. I hope to see many parents/guardians there!

Upcoming dates to remember

Thursday, August 3rd, 8:30am - 1pm: New Student Orientation!! Lunch will be provided. See below for details.

Thursday, August 10th, 6:30pm *DATE CHANGE* New Parent/Guardian Social: (NOTE: Date was changed from 8/17). Sponsored by ECA PI (our Parent/Guardian Involvement organization), this is a great chance to meet other new and returning ECA parents/guardians and ask questions. This will be an in-person event at EMU's Student Center Ballroom.

Tuesday, August 22, 8:30am - 12:30pm: CORE Challenge Day. This half-day event is devoted to meeting as a whole school and in CORE groups of all ages.

Wednesday, August 23, 8:30am-12:30pm--CAMP-US Orientation, which is a chance for students to get to know the specifics of their ECA schedules, learn more about the way our program operates on a day-to-day basis, and meet with students who will be in ECA high school classes with them. **Please bring a backpack/book bag to carry your materials.**

Tuesday, August 29th: First day of ECA classes - Full day of school (NOTE: This is before Labor Day).

Friday, September 1st, and Monday, September 4th. No School (ECA or EMU) for Labor Day.

Thursday, September 7th, 6pm - 8pm: Curriculum Night. Late Start for ECA & Academy Classes to accommodate Curriculum Night; details TBA. Mandatory meeting for parents/guardians of new/incoming & Returning Academy students.

Friday, September 8th -- First Early Release Day for ECA & Academy classes. Early Release for these classes will take place on most Fridays.



New Student Orientation, Thursday, August 3rd, 8:30am - 1pm

- Please arrive at EMU's Student Center Auditorium between 8:00 - 8:30am for check-in. Dress for the weather--we will be outdoors quite a bit.
- We will have a short program for parents/guardians from 8:30-9:00am, attend if you are able; we will provide the information in writing, as well. The student-only program will begin at 9:00 and will conclude by 1:00pm. Lunch will be provided--please email Mrs. Jackson (jackson@earlycollegealliance.info) if your student has dietary restrictions.
- Students will also be taking pictures for their ECA ID cards.
- **Important: If you are sick or experiencing any symptoms of Covid, do not come to campus!**
- Students should be dropped off and picked up at EMU's Student Center (900 Oakwood St.) – we will meet in the Auditorium. EMU's interactive campus map can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/maps/>. If parents are not able to stay from 8:30-9am, the best place to drop students off is toward the east end of the Student Center Pay Lot--you will enter the Pay Lot and take a ticket, then drive all the way to the "front" toward the building. The Parking folks do not charge unless you are in the lot for over 10 minutes. Otherwise, parking costs \$2/hr and *you must have a credit or debit card for payment because they do not accept cash*. If someone plans to park and stay on campus during the time the student is in Orientation, be advised that unless you have purchased a parking pass for the semester, you must park in a pay lot, where you will take a ticket. *IMPORTANT: if you enter a lot that doesn't have a ticket kiosk, then you are in a reserved lot and will most likely get a parking citation (unless you have purchased a pass)!*

Common ECA Definitions

The ECA is a unique educational program, and as such, we have some unique vocabulary terms that we use to talk about our program:

Academy, or ECA²: Short for ECA's 9th grade Academy. All other incoming ECA students are referred to as **10's/11's**.

Returning Academy: Last year's Academy students who are 10th graders this year.

Cohort: We refer to students based on when they start the ECA program, using Fall (or F) and the year of their first semester. This year's new students are the Fall 23 Cohort (F23).

CORE Advisor: The CORE Advisor is an ECA teacher or staff member who serves as the mentor, coach, and point of contact between the student/family and the school. The role of a Core Advisor is to monitor the progress of students, meet privately on a regular basis to give feedback, support, and constructive criticism, even after students transition to all EMU courses. Each CORE Advisor has a CORE group of up to 30 students.

Carpool List

In the next week or so, we will share the carpool list via email. On it, you will find a list of incoming families who indicated in Registration Gateway (online registration system) that they are interested in carpooling. Please make carpooling connections independently as you see fit if needed. This list will be updated and available electronically as more families complete the registration process.

Fall '23 ECA Class Schedule

Class schedules for Fall 2023 ECA Classes will be distributed during Camp-Us on August 23 (as well as books/materials - please bring a backpack/book bag to carry your materials).

Technology Needs for Students

All ECA students, enrolled in either ECA and/or EMU classes, should plan to have a laptop computer for use in all of their classes. Students are welcome to bring their own device (i.e. Macbook, PC laptop, or Chromebook; tablets are acceptable but may have some limitations to their use) or to check out a Chromebook from ECA.

There is no cost to check out a school Chromebook, but we do recommend that students purchase insurance to cover accidental damage or replacement of their school Chromebook (not including replacement chargers) for \$30. If students choose not to insure their school devices, they accept responsibility for the cost of any repairs or replacement needed (see this list of common repair costs: <http://bit.ly/DeviceRepairCosts>)

Our device checkout (rollout) event is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 23 during Camp-Ut**. If you have any questions about technology or checking out a school Chromebook, please reach out to our device technician, Mr. Patel, at patel@earlycollegealliance.info, or instructional technology coach, Ms. Young, at myoung@earlycollegealliance.info.

EMU also uses Duo Authentication (enhanced sign-in security) in order to access all online accounts (student email, drive, documents, etc.). The easiest way for students to have consistent access to their student account is by installing the Duo App on the cell phone they will be using on campus in the fall. If students bring this phone with them on CORE Challenge day, activating through Duo will be part of setting up their access.

Suggested School Supply List

Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/ECAsupplies> for parent/guardian-and-teacher recommendations for supplies that students will need for the start of school. We gladly accept donations of extra materials (if you have extra) to give to students who may be in need of some!

EMU Parking Permit

Are you a new student needing a parking pass for the Fall 2023 semester? Via ParkEMU, Fall parking permits are \$206 per semester and will be available for sale starting August 14. Permits can only be purchased online at www.parkemu.com and you will need to log in with your EMU ID. Before purchasing, please read the permit details to know where you can park without being cited or towed. Questions? Please contact ParkEMU at (734) 217-4890.

ECA PI (Parent Involvement)



ECA Pi is an organization run by parents, family & guardians of ECA students to support and promote the ECA Program and its students. The ECA Parent Involvement group meets monthly and all parents/guardians are welcome to join. Mark your calendars for the first ECA Pi meeting of the school year on Thursday, September 21st from 6-7:30 pm, via Zoom. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ECAPISept23> for the Zoom link. For more information about ECA PI, please email eca.pi.emu@gmail.com.

New Parent/Guardian Social

Our annual **New Parent/Guardian Social**, brought to you by ECA PI (Parent Involvement) members is Thursday, August 10th (**DATE CHANGE**) from 6:30-8 pm in EMU's Ballroom B. The Social is a great opportunity to meet other parents/guardians, fellow "new" parents, and those who have been at the ECA for a few years. There are always lots of questions and answers and information about how to get involved in our ECA PI group this coming year. We hope to see many parents/guardians there!

ECA Parent/Guardian Commitment

Parents and guardians are a vital part of the ECA community. There are many opportunities for parent/guardian involvement, and the expectation is that families will contribute their time, talent, and/or resources throughout the school year. The following are options for the minimum expected level of commitment:

- 3 hours of volunteering/semester (6 hours/year)
- 3 ECA Pi meetings/semester (6 meetings/year)
- \$25 in check, cash, or donations/semester (\$50/year, payable to ECA PI)

If any of these options poses an undue burden for your family, please contact your CORE advisor or the Main Office.

Introduction from Ms. Peet, ECA Assistant Principal

Greetings and Welcome to the ECA 9th Grade Academy! As we prepare for our August start, I'm kicking off our introductions. One of my primary responsibilities as ECA's Assistant Principal is to serve as the Academy Coordinator, so I strive to be a resource to all members of our 9th grade team: students, families, and faculty. To launch our working relationship, I'll share a bit about myself. In no particular order, here are 9 things about me as leader of the 9th grade:

1. I'm a first-generation college graduate; it took me 17 years to earn my first degree (life happens and it paused my college attendance).
2. After starting college at UM Ann Arbor, I finally earned my first 2 college degrees (BA & MA) from EMU; my MS in Educational Leadership is from Western Governors University.
3. I've been with ECA since 2008, when I started as an English teacher & CORE Adviser. Before that, I taught drama at Ypsilanti High School for 9 years.
4. I used to direct and choreograph musicals--I especially loved inserting tap numbers into shows.
5. During the pandemic, I re-read the entire *Harry Potter* series so I could immerse myself in struggles with happy endings.
6. I have two grown children (son & daughter), a husband, and two cats.
7. I love to travel, read, hike, swim, bike, learn, dance, and do pilates.
8. I struggle tremendously with names of people, books, songs, etc. (the formal name is anomia), but always remember faces. Please continue to remind me of your name and correct me when I get it wrong!
9. I love the work we do at the ECA & Academy and truly appreciate the inclusive, celebratory community we strive to create in our school culture.

If you'd like to share your introduction or contact me about anything else, please email me at peet@earlycollegealliance.info. I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks!



My husband and I met Gov. Whitmer last summer.

Ms. Fountain's (Counselor) Information Station

Hello students! I hope that you're having a great summer thus far! I am Mrs. Taisha Fountain, your High School Counselor. First, I'd like to welcome our new incoming Academy (9th grade) and First Year (10th/11th grade) students to the ECA. You've made a wonderful choice!!

Secondly, welcome back to all of my Returning Academy students!

Here are just a few reminders regarding C.L.I.C.K (Character-Learning-Involvement-College-Knowledge), our Counseling curriculum:

- You will have C.L.I.C.K every semester while you're a student at ECA
- C.L.I.C.K is a Pass/Fail grade and you must pass each semester to be eligible for graduation
- C.L.I.C.K will consist of online (Canvas), paper, and in-person assignments

Lastly, I hope you are keeping current on your studies by reading at least 4 times a week, for 30 minutes each day, as well as using Khan Academy for math. I'm so excited to see you all in the Fall. We're going to have an awesome year!!

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Questions? Email Mrs. Jackson at jackson@earlycollegealliance.info

