

# 11th Grade English

# Classroom Journal

Be selfish for a while-Take it easy-have more fun- It's not going to be always easy, there are going to be good and bad parts about being at school but you can get through it-I wish I knew how to trust the process while making art-Don't walk slow in the hallway! Other people need to get places too-Nothing just happens, you have to make it happen-trying as many things as you can is an amazing thing, even if you are not the best in those things. Gaining experience and getting to know new stuff is something that shapes you as a person and prepares you for life-Everything is going to work out eventually-That time goes really fast-Take advantage of flex-Your thoughts are not reality, people listen to their own thoughts over reality-Take school seriously-Don't rush your time here-Learn better study habits early on-high school isn't always the fun experience everyone talks about. It is about dedication, hard work, and compassion. Without these three factors, high school can be your bully, as if you don't try even after having help you won't go far in life-all credits end up adding up and mattering-Join more clubs-To open up, to talk to people. Living in your own little world isn't fun-Volunteer More-I wish I wasn't worried about figuring out my post-high school plans as much -Everything works out eventually-To not let other people's opinion of you affect who you become in life-I wish that I had learned better time management skills, and learned that due dates are important because I am now a mega procrastinator-do NOT compare yourself to others it won't make you happy-Joining clubs is scary but very worth it in the end. You can meet people and have a purpose at East-How fast High School goes, cherish every moment-no one cares about your drama-no one actually cares about your insecurities-learn more about more tech ed class opportunities-That small things can make big impacts-To stay out the way and do what I'm supposed to to hurry up and get out-That I should make friends-Some people are just going to act the way they act not because it is logical or kind but because it is easier or less intimidating for them-You may not ever know where you belong and that's okay, you'll find your people-Don't take things too seriously-Studying is important-Get your homework done so you have more free time-Clubs make friends-Just focus on yourself. Don't worry about anything that happens around you-Get involved because if you don't, you'll regret it-I wish I had known about the effort and focus it takes to be a high schooler-I wish I knew who my best friends were sooner-Your friends will change through out the years, and you will too.Take math more seriously-take more fun classes-To take advantage of college courses-Cherish every moment and enjoy life, it goes by so quick. It may not seem like it in the moment, but it does-it won't always be easy you can get through it-open up, to talk to people-get involved

2022-23

# LET'S RECAP...

-Delaney Lehman

Wow, this year flew by, as many do. This year started off the most normal since COVID started. There were no masks, social distancing, etc. East was gifted a new principal: Ms. Smedberg. Link Crew welcomed the incoming freshmen, while seniors got up early to enjoy Senior Sunrise. Seniors had their *last* first day of high school, while freshmen had their *first* first day of high school. Nerves were high for the newcomers, so Dream Team and Link Crew tried their best to integrate and make freshmen feel more comfortable in their new school.

Appleton East's DECA and Key Club hosted East Tackles Cancer on September 9 and raised \$15,151. When Homecoming arrived, the Powderpuff kickoff sadly had to be postponed to Wednesday (Late Start) before school. That did not stop our Patriot pride. The week leading to Homecoming had a dress-up theme each day: Monday was PJ day for underclassmen and seniors had movie/cartoon characters; Tuesday was country for underclassmen and seniors were country club; Wednesday was decades day for each grade; Thursday was bikers for underclassmen and surfers for seniors; and finally Friday was spirit day for everyone. At the Homecoming Dance, Serena Timmer was queen and Sameer Chawla was king.

Senior class picture day was October 13, and seniors were asked to show their Patriot pride. East hosted Boo Fest for the freshmen, which included spooky treats, drinks, and games. Then on November 6, DECA held Fall Yard Clean Up to rake people's yards. On Veteran's Day, East held its annual ceremony. The week of November 14, East held International Education week with our four International Exchange students from Thailand, Georgia, Ukraine, and Spain. In December, Student Council, DECA, Key Club, and National Honor Society joined to raise money for Adopt-A-Family, which provided families in need with a magical holiday.

Appleton East's STAR organized a community celebration for Black History Month on February 4 with entertainment, games, prizes, and more. On February 11, East's Valentine's Day dance to raised funds for Ukraine (where one of our exchange students is from). March 7 was the national testing date for the ACT, and the juniors faced their fate. Then on March 20, the East End Espresso opened to sell various of drinks. April 15 marked senior prom, their last high school dance. On May 3, East held its annual Patriot Pasta Party, and all proceeds went to the Patriots Pay It Forward Program.

Finally, it is graduation, Wednesday, May 24. Many are leaving their shell and venturing off to bigger and better things. To the readers who have made it this far, I hope you have recall feeling part of East in some shape or form after reading this. Cheers to the Class of 2023!



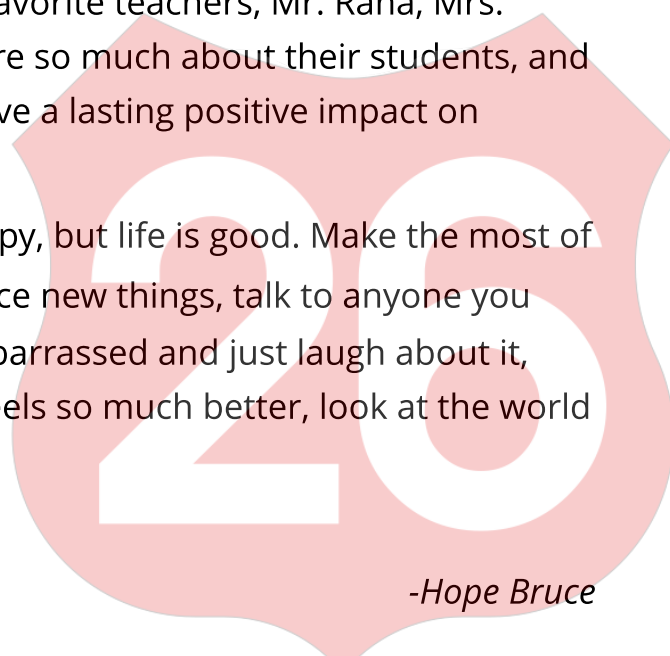
The first year of high school feels like it's gone by so fast. There are only a few weeks left of school, and it feels unreal! This year has been a rollercoaster of highs and lows, curves, and loop-de-loops. Coming into high school for my first year was, I'll admit, a little bit intimidating, but I will miss it a lot when summer break starts.

Let's rewind a bit. The first day of high school, 2022! It was warm outside; groups of kids were buzzing and greeting each other with delight and excited anticipation. Hugs, squeals, cheers, and groans filled the air. The cheerleaders performed for the incoming students after Link Crew members and teachers talked and after that, we played a few games on the football field's of itchy turf.

Halfway through the first semester, I struggled to find my self-identity and dove deep into someone I wasn't. I was unhappy, so I left behind things holding me back and bringing me down because that would be how I got out. It was a tough decision and process. I often felt like giving up on school and, honestly, anything. There were aggressive ups and downs during this period, but I was changing drastically and was coming a long way from where I started. In January, I joined Forensics and found a passion for performing. I gained more self-confidence and made new friends. At the end of the first semester, I was much happier, and six last-minute test retakes later ended with an 80% or higher in all of my classes.

Now, semester two is almost over, which I cannot believe. This April, Forensics season ended, and I went to New York for Fashion and Interior Design (which you should take, by the way). I'm finishing strong with a 4.0 GPA, and I'm so proud of myself for everything I've persevered through. I became someone I could better recognize and admire through Forensics, pursuing my faith in God, the help of friends and family, and self-improvement. I surely won't forget my favorite teachers, Mr. Rana, Mrs. Spring, and Mrs. Biese. They're so funny, They care so much about their students, and I think we connected well. Teachers like them leave a lasting positive impact on people.

All in all, I've learned we might not always be happy, but life is good. Make the most of **freshman** year and all of high school. Experience new things, talk to anyone you want to be friends with, don't be afraid to be embarrassed and just laugh about it, keep your mind sharp, try your best because it feels so much better, look at the world around you, and learn about everything you can.



*-Hope Bruce*



Another school year, come and gone. And what a **sophomore** year it was! Way fewer yellow alerts, that's for sure. We did the pre-ACT, and everyone I talked to said they probably didn't do well on the mathematics portion. Then again, we're not really supposed to discuss the test after we take it. I didn't know hats weren't allowed. Really makes you think about those who tried to cheat with a hat in the past.

Some of us took foreign languages, and some of us took different science classes. Some of us took culinary, others of us took tech ed classes. Fewer classes are required, so we had more freedom than we did freshman year. I know all of us wrote a *lot* of DBQs and CERs. None of us will ever forget how to write one, that's for sure.

This year most of the COVID-19 restrictions are gone. Some students still choose to wear masks, and I respect that decision. I'm just glad we can go up and down whatever door we want, and any direction in the halls. It makes everything way easier. On top of being able to get to classrooms faster, there aren't any stickers on the ground.

This year had all kinds of highs, too. The play for this year was *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and that was a lot of fun. I actually went and saw this play, since I wrote the wrong day on my calendar for *Once Upon A Mattress*. We also did the pre-ACT. The worst part, for me, was having to sit on my butt for almost five hours with only one break. I can barely sit still for one class period!

The weather, in true Wisconsin fashion, was unpredictable and inconsistent. We had one really nice week, and then it got cold and dreary again. But when has that ever stopped us Wisconsin kids from wearing shorts and t-shirts? Never in recent memory, that's for sure. What can I say? We've got thick skin. (And nerves, apparently.)

In the end, sophomore year was a roller coaster in more ways than one. The highs were high, the lows were low. That's why they're called "highs" and "lows," after all. This paragraph, and this year, is finished. Thanks for reading and, in the immortal words of a certain song-writer, "Everything works out fine in the end."



- Liliana Monson

As many of you know the stereotype for **junior** year is that it will be one of the most challenging years of high school, but honestly it's only semi-true. Yes, the workload will depend on which classes you take and if you choose to stay on top of your work. Teachers have gotten better with knowing that we have many things going on than just school. Most teachers will give you time within the class to get work done; every teacher I have had this year and in past years has given time within the class to get what they assign done. Although, there have been times that I have also had to work on a project at home. That is to be expected sometimes. Having a balance between school, work, and friends will be a challenge for some, it was for me but finding this balance will help you later in life as well as now. Getting in that pattern in high school, but when we start to settle down and start having families and jobs. Finding these balances are important. Junior year is also the time that we are supposed to start to figure out these things that we want, our goals, what we're supposed to do with our lives. It's the time that we have to start getting serious (or at least that is what we are told). We still have time to figure out everything. Take the time that you need to do things right; otherwise, you risk going down a path that doesn't suit you. We are told stories of people who don't figure out what they really are passionate about until they're in their late 40's. Yes, you should start paying attention more and taking the classes that you are taking more seriously by junior year. Put the effort in and make connections, but at the same time, you need to remember to have fun. We're still in high school, and it is time to find ourselves without the weight of the world on our shoulders.

Join a group or club that you never thought you would but have always had interest in. Getting involved is such an important part of high school, so find something that doesn't take energy out of you but rather gives you energy. Something that you are able to connect over, maybe find something that you can keep to yourself but enjoy doing these things with other people. Junior year is not something to take for granted, and it goes by so quickly but so slowly at the same time.



*-Lorelei Graf*

It's a cold morning, the sky has yet to shine in warmth. A baby bird sits in a nest soon to be pushed into a world where it learns how to survive, love, and fly. A rite of passage is filled with a mixture of emotions. There is a fear the bird may not make it, an anxiousness to stay in its nest, an excitement to finally feel the warmth of the sun on its feathers, hoping it is better than the shade the tree has provided. Graduating Class of 2023, we are the birds departing from our nests, and East has been our tree.

Since we first hatched, the sun has been rising. We have always been confronted with new challenges and rites of passage; first friends, days of school, confirmations, auditions, competitions, and interviews. On many other days, the sun has risen just the same, with the bright, orange shining always walking over the horizon. What makes this specific sunrise so important? This one rite of passage is what we have been guided towards since we each hatched.

We have experienced relatively little when compared to some of our parents or teachers, yet among us, there have been birds who triumph. Stunning songs by choir, band, orchestra, and theater, all learning to use their talents to create art. Compassion and confidence from DECA, robotics, Esports, and Forensics, proving accomplishments can be claimed by anyone with the right amount of hard work. Amazing altruism by the Key Club and National Honor Society, looking to better the East community. Athletes of all kinds work their hardest to succeed in the activities they love. This East class is made up of a group of impressive students who will soar far after our departure.

There have been many days leading to this one where the sun has not shined as brightly as we would have liked. Maybe you did not do as well as you would have hoped in a competition, but you worked hard and broke new limits. Perhaps you never found the purple stairs which may or may not exist somewhere in the East hallways. There is a solid chance that along the way you have lost some amazing friends and teachers, but there is an equal chance you have found new ones you will never forget. The sunshine flows through silver linings; every loss has come with the benefit of more knowledge for the future. If this sunrise is not as bright, that does not mean flowers can not bloom from it.

Here comes the sun edging closer every second of every minute of every hour of every day. Is the heat of the sun going to be familiar to any of us? It will not feel like the recesses in elementary school that were warm enough to melt the snow, yet still did not make us sweat, because we will undoubtedly sweat as we move forward. We do not know if this will burn like touching a hot stove top, but we do know the sun will rise. Though we wish this warmth will feel like the times we have been hugged by the people who love us, it's time to grow. This is something new, but bright to all of us, and it is somehow both scary and comforting.

All our lives, we were only waiting for this moment to arrive. The **Appleton East Class of 2023** may not have feathers or eat worms, but it is time for all of us to fly. Embrace the sun, and allow the push from your nests, our tree, to soar in the warmth that the rising sun brings.

*-Fletcher Meyer*

# Senior Goals: To Infinity and Beyond

Z Abernathy: To have a family and provide for them

Morgan Aldana: Become someone that my kids will be proud of

Lily Altmann: Get a doctorate in psychology

Vincent Austin: Become a better teacher than Mrs. Marx

Alexandra Baerenwald: Have a family of my own and be happy while making my family proud

Nico Burr: Graduate college

Sameer Chawla: Mentor a robotics team

Morgan Dehn: Find a healthy balance of work, family, and friends

Quaron Eli: Have a successful clothing brand.

Ben Engebos: Become a manager in supply chain

Haylie Ferguson: I want to start my own private practice for therapy to help those that need it

Zander Flemal : I want to build and own a multi million dollar business

Manuel G Islas Nungaray: Be a better version of myself

Cullen German: Graduate College

Morgan Gerrits: Complete college and get my esthetics license. I want to spread more kindness to everyone!

Jaymick Golden: want to own 100 properties by 30

Michael Hahn: I want to keep finding things that make me happy

Zachary Handwerker: I want to run a Marathon and get my 10k time down under 38 minutes.

Casey Hanzaki: To be the best man I can be whether it's to try and be successful, or just to simply get up after a long day of just being put down

Cole Harp: Graduate from college and become a CPA

Leticia Harper: I want to go to college for 4 years, go into criminal justice career area and make great impact on my community, and hopefully be a great police officer

Nick Hayes: Get back in the Milwaukee Zoo's good graces

Carmella Henning: Be successful in my future career and have a healthy family

Tommy Hintz: Become a VP of an engineering company

Katie Hintz: Open my own physical therapy practice

Carter Jeche: Strive to achieve what I'm looking for

Char Kauffman: Become a professional and lucrative artist

Paiton Kayden: Strive for happiness and success along with building a future for myself.

Nevaeh Kersten: I want to do well in college and maybe get my M.D.

Paul Ladewig: Get through boot camp

Noelle Lee: Counsel children

Athan Leicht: Better my mental health

Utkarsha Marasini: Become Batman

Elle Martine: Become a private investigator

Wesley Mead: Work hard through college

*I want to be a teacher, but not just any teacher, I want to be the teacher that students can come to if they have a problem. I want to provide support and be a role model for my students.*

*-Makenna Carver*

Maddox Meulemans: Be a creative person in the future

Heather Meyer: Help sick children as a pediatric nurse

Fletcher Meyer: Found an independent game company

Jay Moua: Help my community to be a better place

Connor Pitterle: I hope to be a good father someday

Max Plutz: Squat 500 lbs

Logan Pokwinski: Patent Something

Owen Radocay: Own my own general contracting business

James Rangel: Own my Own Business

Sofia Ristow: Travel the world and have a secret Lego room in my house

Lilli Sanders: Impact peoples lives in a good way

Lily Sanderson: I want to find peace with myself

Lillian Schafer: Go to UWO. I want to help people and help the earth by keeping it clean.

Elias Schroeder: Engineer something

Star Schuler: I want to start volunteering again and more often. And make others be happy and be there for them.

Nayan Sheehan: Win a Grammy

Clara Shoher: Get married and be a good mom

Osgar Sierra: I want to be the best landscaper in the entire country, and then I want to start a roofing business and be the best at that as well

Hailey Steffes : Become a travel nurse, and save lives!

Matt Still: Become a certified electrician

Jamie Stroebel: Pursuit education in Radio/TV/Film at UW Oshkosh as well as continue to grow my clothing brand

Jens Telfer: Graduate from FVTC with an agronomy degree, and eventually own my own farm

Jeffrey Thao: Be a good role model

Jayden Thowless: Get a bachelors degree

Serena Timmer: Obtain a PhD

Shania Vue: Complete my master aesthetician degree and own my own place

Zach Washburn: Go to the tech

Cosmyx Welker: Make public buildings have character again and not just be gray or brown boxes

Melia Wendt: Run a psychology research study and publish a novel  
Daniel Whalen: Pursue creative projects

Willow Whitman: Be financially stable and have my own house

Madelyn Wickershiem: Become a DNR and forensic scientist

Rosanna Williams: Have a successful Music Career

Gloria Williams: I want to help people feel safe as they deliver their babies

Nolen Winkers: Provide a service to people that need it

I want to accomplish life. Explore the world, live a life without fear. Live without the fear of the unknown. I want to explore, skydive, live on my own private island, be a millionaire. I want to do whatever I can to live my life to the fullest  
-Emily Wiitanen

I want to become financially independent, and then create my own interior designer business or work for a higher end interior designing company. I would like to create a chain of homeless shelters throughout Wisconsin and maybe even other states.  
-Desiree Williams



## ***Goodbye, East.***

I can't believe I'm writing this, and it is unbelievable that our time together came to an end so quickly. However, here I am, trying to fit all my emotions into words. For those who still don't know me, I'm Elene, an exchange student from the Republic of Georgia, and I'm going back to my country before graduation. This is my "farewell letter" to you all. First of all, thank you for making my exchange year one of the most memorable and interesting parts of my life. I am beyond grateful for this experience and will never ever forget how welcomed people made me feel here.

Every single smile, "Hi," or compliment made a huge impact on me. My senior year in the USA became the year I will cherish forever. I would like to thank all my teachers for supporting me and having my back during every moment whether it was happy or sad. The connections and the memories I made here will always be unforgettable. I will miss the warm and welcoming atmosphere here. Being a Patriot and having the opportunity to spend my senior year at East will be a very precious memory for me.

East High School made me grow, discover myself. Joining many clubs and taking many interesting classes made me realize what I really loved to do. I embraced my love for writing here, in The Courier. Psychology and criminal justice became my potential majors because I enjoyed those classes so much. The experiences and the knowledge I got from this school is incomparable. I loved my art and band classes so much, even though sometimes I felt behind. That was my first time in a band, and it was still fun. I will miss US history and very deep, interesting movies that we watched there, AP English, class which was scary to me because I am a foreigner and English is my second language but it was worth it. I also tried a new language and fell in love with France.

I'm writing a journal about my exchange year and it feels weird. Mixed emotions, I'm so happy and sad at the same time. I want all of you to know that you are and will be very special to me. I will never ever forget any of you and will try to keep in touch so don't worry, you will never get rid of me:) Sending love<3

Not a goodbye, see you later.

***Elene Giorgadze***

*When I go back to my country, I'm thinking about majoring in Psychology or International Relations. I want to have a good impact on people and the world. I would like to create more volunteer opportunities back home and do my best as a FLEX alumni. I would like to travel a lot and participate in many study abroad programs to be rich with experiences and connections.*

## The Teacher In The Purple Room

When I first walked into room 1111, I had absolutely no idea what to expect other than a typical ELA class. I had only heard bits and pieces about what Senior Communications with Mrs. Marx was like from former East students and siblings. What I was not expecting was a loving, considerate, empathetic person who made it absolutely clear she treated her job as something beyond a paycheck. The very core of what makes an amazing teacher is not defined by procedures or formalities; instead, it is what lessons are taught and the personal connections made.

This is Mrs. Marx's final year at Appleton East, and to say she has had an impact is an underestimation. Every student who has taken her class has been impacted or taught a lesson. As an example, there are journals students write in each week where they can have a personal conversation about anything, whether it be mental health, college, relationships, or anything. Marx not only reads but responds to every one of her students.

Along with journals, Mrs. Marx hosted "circle time" where students would go around and talk about a topic. Some days it could be as small as "How was your weekend?" Other times it could be about something as deep as "What is something someone has said which has stuck with you?" or "What is your experience with mental health?" Marx's class is the only opportunity many students have had in the education system to open up about something as taboo as mental health, and it should be praised.

What also may be seen as taboo, drug usage has been brought up in class many times. It is not just the standard PSA about using drugs either, she uses real-life examples from both current events and even former students.

Current and former students rave about their experiences with her.

"I've had the pleasure of having Mrs. Marx as my Senior Communications teacher this year. Over the course of the school year, she has supported me and other students in ways I'll forever be thankful for. She truly cares for all of her students and will fight for them no matter what. A teacher with that much dedication is rare and her legacy at East will remain for many years. She has the biggest heart and the purest soul. East without her will not be the same; she truly made a difference."

"I've never heard Mrs. Marx say no to anyone. There has never been a time when she hasn't given an arm and leg to someone in need. She comes to every home softball game to support me and I couldn't be more thankful for all she does. She has changed my perspective of life and I can't thank her more for everything she has done for me."

"The impact that Mrs. Marx has had on my life is certainly an influential one. This last year of school has genuinely been one of my best single-handedly because of her class, every Monday I look forward to school just so I can be in her class and thankfully it is my last class of the day. I have been driven to continue to be at school and do well, not only that, but she has also brought community and connection. There are so many peers I thought I would've never interacted with, peers that I connected with on an emotional level, that I now interact with daily. Learning community, connection, humanity, all together in one classroom."

"In a school where I feel a disconnect from many teachers and administrators towards their students, Mrs. Marx has been one of many teachers shining a light at the end of the tunnel. Even though I'm only one of her students, that hasn't stopped me from feeling cared for. She would do the same thing she does for her kids for any kid in her classroom."

"Her love will stop at nothing to make people happy."

Mrs. Marx's impact may not be chiseled into the wall, but it is one which will last a lifetime in her students. As People may not remember the legend of the purple stairs, but they will never forget the one who loved the purple classroom.

*-Fletcher Meyer*

## Once a Patriot, Always a Patriot: Farewell to Faculty

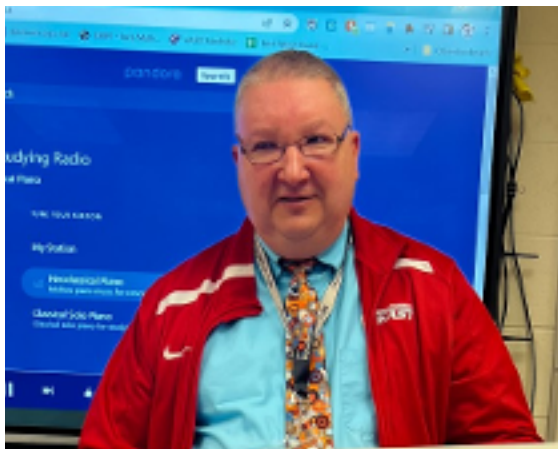
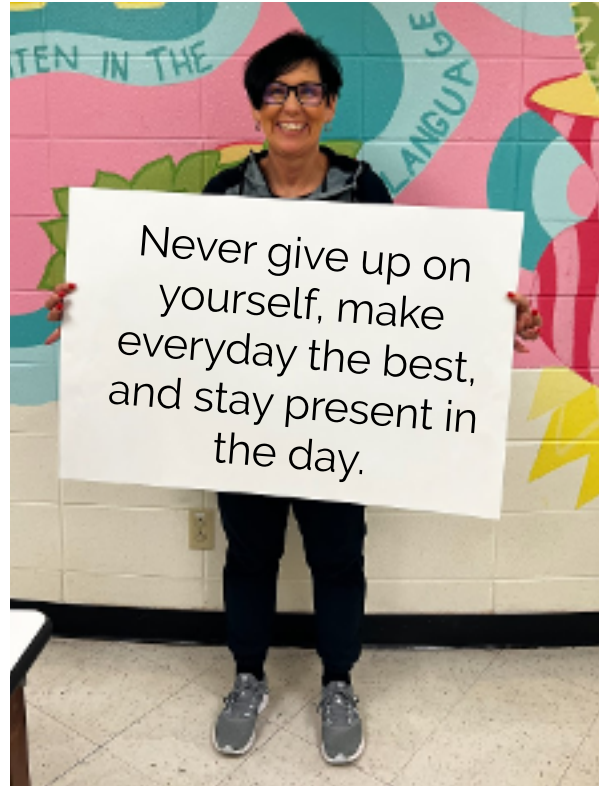
**Mrs. Marx** has been a teacher for 32-and-a-half years. She started teaching in 1989 and has spent 27 years at East. She taught ELA, but is well known as the Senior Communications teacher. Her best advice for other teachers is to not give in to the extra demands put on teachers. "Focus on the kids and getting to know them, you will always be reminded of why you became a teacher in the first place." Her plans after retiring include looking for a part-time job that "makes me feel like I am helping others," finding time to read her mountains of books, volunteering, attending her son's extracurricular events and visiting her oldest son at college. Her best memories from East are the "good ole days" and the friendships she has made with colleagues and students. Something that students do not know about her is that in elementary school she loved the hot lunch cooks and wanted to be one.





## Once a Patriot, Always a Patriot

**Mrs. Radue** has been a teacher for 30 years and has taught at East for 12. She taught algebra, geometry, algebra 2, algebra WIN and pre-calculus. Her best advice for other teachers is to have balance between school and life; take care of yourself first. "Always get to know your students and let them know you care about them and also reach out to your colleagues." Her best advice for students is to never give up on yourself, make everyday the best, and stay present in the day. Her plans after retiring are to travel with her husband, be a grandma, and participate in activities like golf, tennis, pickleball, snowshoeing and sledding. She is excited for the time she will have. Her best memories from East are the goofy moments in her classroom, all her wonderful stories and being vulnerable with her students and having their support during hard times.



Everything you do (or don't do) matters to everyone!" You need to do everything to the best of your ability, and the next time you have to do the same thing, do it better than the previous.

**Mr. Languenhizen** has been a teacher for 33-and-half years, he has been teaching at East for 23 years. He taught mathematics. His best advice for other teachers is to have friendly relationships with students, not friend relationships with them. His best advice for students is that "Everything you do (or don't do) matters to everyone!" He says to do everything to the best of your ability, and the next time you have to do the same thing, do it better than the previous. His plans after retiring are to volunteer as a math tutor or math coach so he can help students discover their inner mathematician. He also plans to work on his family genealogy; he currently has 110,000 leaves in his family tree that he has traced back to 1400s Holland. One of his favorite memories from East is when the Patriot Players put on the musical *CATS*! He says the cast was very talented, and the techies did a great job with the set. Something students may not know about him is that when he was in high school he saved someone's life in his neighborhood by waking them up and carrying them out of their burning home.

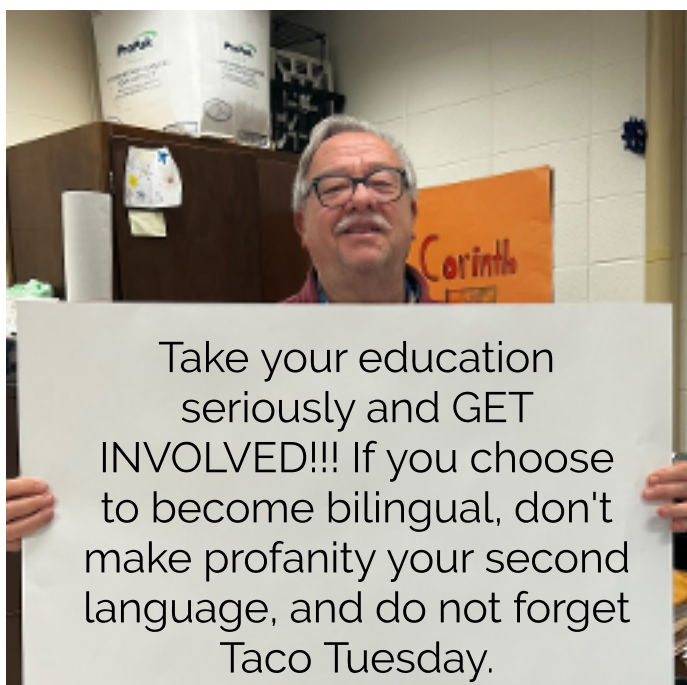




**Mr. Lokken** has been a teacher for 22 years, and 16 of those years were spent at East. He was an EL teacher who taught English. His best advice for other teachers is to be themselves. His best advice for students is to dream big, believe in themselves, and change the world as they see fit. His plans after he retires is to pester his former colleagues at East with his new adventures. His favorite memories from East are ones that make him laugh when retold. Something students may not know about him is that he was elected as the 1980 Homecoming King for the Scranton Miners.

**Mr. Reichardt** taught special education, EBD and physical education for 32 years. The best advice he could give to other teachers is to be in charge of their classroom and get their masters degree as well as "sometimes you just need to 'smile and nod.'" His best advice for students is to remember that your behavior and reputation follow you. He plans to spend time with family, travel, and golf. His best memories from East are the great staff, memories of kids' events and experiences, and Men's Club. Something his students may not know about him is that he played minor league ball for the Seattle Mariners.

**Mrs. Londo** taught for 42 years, 25 at East. Her students always came first, but she found time for her best friend on staff. She believes students should explore different career paths in high school and find the right fit for their own future. She has many fond memories of East, including pulling all-nighters to decorate for Homecoming: "We then sat around and had fun conversations until the sun came up." All four of her children attended East, and two asked her to clear their detentions. "I had to remind them I am not mom at East; I am Mrs. Londo." In retirement, she'll be a mom and grandma, teach college classes, and volunteer.



**Mr. Erickson** has been a teacher for 29 years, 10 of those years were at East and 17 in juvenile detention. He was a social studies teacher focused on civics and world history. His best advice to other teachers is to not give up on any students: "One day you will break through and that student will THRIVE !!!" His plans after retiring are to travel, sub at East, and get involved in local politics. His best memories from East include the Words Hurt/Matter events, pep rallies, and "that look on a student's face when you make a connection." Something students may not know about him is that he is a proud 1976 East graduate, the ninth graduating class from East.

*-Faculty Farewells written by Freddie McVey*

### **Gemini: May 21- June 20**

You're in a place where you must get your affairs in order. You've been putting things off, but it will be revealed to you coming up that you cannot do this much longer.

### **Cancer: June 21- July 22**

Humans are naturally scared of change, but you're ready for it. You're ready to shed your past and move on. You're destined for bigger and brighter things.

### **Leo: July 23- August 23**

You've felt a burst of energy and creativity coming on, which you'll need soon. A great excitement is coming towards you. You're on a roll now, so the only thing you must do is keep that momentum going.

### **Virgo: August 23- September 22**

Other people are having a positive impact on your life right now. You've been able to move beyond your comfort zone and have become more inspired to take risks. You have nothing to fear when you try new things.

### **Libra: September 23- October 22**

Now may be the time for some inner reflection. Your life has been chaotic over the past few months, and you should to give yourself the time to look over it all. Remember that history repeats itself unless patterns are recognized.

### **Scorpio: October 23- November 21**

You've been feeling stagnant for a while, and now is the time to get yourself back on track. Changing your approaches to things can be a good way to keep your life interesting, and you may end up solving a few problems you didn't see before.

### **Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21**

You'll be facing some upcoming challenges soon. Keep your head on straight and weather the storm. All things eventually end, including unfortunate situations.

### **Capricorn: December 22-January 19**

Commitment can be a difficult thing to do, but now is the time to do so. Whether that be a new relationship, and expensive purchase, or moving a project along, throw caution to the wind and just do it.

### **Aquarius: January 20-February 18**

You're at a place where you can finally take time to yourself and rest. Chaos has followed you through the past, but you're in a place where you can finally relax and heal.

### **Pisces: February 19-March 20**

You've accomplished a great feat, and you should be proud of yourself. Confidence is a good thing, and you've gained much of it through the challenges you've faced. Keep moving with pride.

### **Aries: March 21- April 19**

Your time to make a mark on the world is approaching. Just keep in mind that you can be remembered for both good and bad things. Be cautious.

### **Taurus: April 20-May 20**

Now is the perfect time to put more effort into developing your relationships with others. You may not be a social butterfly, but those who care about you will stick by you through thick and thin. Never take those people for granted.

# Horoscopes

-Lily Altmann



## Robotics at its End...For Now

The end of the 2023 Robotics season can be a heartbreaking time for many. Seniors who have experienced their final year of high school Robotics and Freshmen have barely gotten a taste. This year the bot, Tobor 26, placed fourth at the Lake Superior Regional in Duluth, MN, and fifth place at the Wisconsin Regional in Milwaukee, WI. This was a proud moment for the entire team and well there was a lot of disappointment in the crowd of Team 93 at not getting our ticket punched to go to the Championship in Houston, TX. Many members of the team still got to experience the championship from a volunteer perspective. With such a large team, they play a huge role in helping others. Their Gracious Professionalism has won awards.



Jack Cappeart, senior on the team and lead of the Fabrication functional group says he will miss the build season and the people on the team. He learned communication skills from the past four years on the team and will remember the team doing karaoke late at night. Mr. Eckrose, drive team coach and a mentor for the team, says he is proud of what every student has accomplished. He can recount many times that he caught kids working on robotics instead of class work during his class.

The end of the season leaves lots of kids with lots to do over the summer. Many students will volunteer for the Tesla Summer Camp; others will help with First Lego League. Next year's student leaders will spend the summer planning the pre-season so new students can get the best out of the team. We hope next year can go as well as it did this year, and with the students dedicated to the team, it will.

*-Freddie McVey*

## East Football Looks Back and Ahead

The freshmen football team finished an amazing 8-1, including a win over the Papermakers, East's first gridiron victory over Kimberly in more than 20 years. Our freshmen Patriots were conference champions. They were an absolute powerhouse this year and definitely will be a problem for the FVA for years to come. Congratulations on one heck of a season, freshmen.

Appleton East fought for every inch. The varsity football team crushed the Terrors of Appleton West in the annual Anchor rivalry game. Junior slotback Anthony Burdett scored a career-high four touchdowns to lead the Patriots and bring the anchor back where it belongs.

Several senior football players will continue their football career at the next level. Kicker/WR Bryan Bedolla will play football at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh under coach Peter Jennings. QB Chase Nelson committed to the Redhawks of Ripon College. DB Taye Derrico accepted a full-ride scholarship to the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

After leaving high school, I want to qualify for Collegiate DECA International Conference all 4 years. I hope to own my own business with my best friend and to become more popular than businesses like Under Armour or PUMA.

*- Parker Davis*

*-Parker Davis*

# Math-lete Victories Add Up!

Appleton East Math Team had a successful season this year. There were twenty-one Appleton East students participated in math team activities this year. As a school, East finished in third place for the Fox Valley Math League (FVML), a league of 18 member schools around Northeast Wisconsin that competes in five meets and one JV meet each year. Also, Appleton East this year placed first in the annual UW Oshkosh Mathematics Problem Solving Competition. Way to go!

Math team was led by seniors Clara Shober and Melia Wendt, who came in 6th and 14th out of 97 in the FVML senior division. Their participation, along with the other seniors, Caleb Stein, Henry Mahnke, Sameer Chawla (13th), and Andy Neitzke-Pizzarro, was appreciated and the rest of the team wishes them well with their college plans. Next year, Sawyer Kocourek and Katherine Cooke, who came in 10th and 11th out of 178 in the sophomore division, will take over team leadership.

Math team is always looking for new recruits. It is a rather low-commitment activity. Each year, there are five Monday nights, one per month, when the math team travels to a nearby school to compete in Fox Valley Math League. There is also a JV meet in December for ninth-grade, tenth-grade, and middle school only. When the schools are far enough to require a bus, the math team stops at Culver's for dinner and team bonding.

There are six Tuesdays each year on which a Wisconsin Math League (WML) contest is taken, usually during flex, in Mr. Palma's room. Math team also competes in two tests called the AMC, in November, and the MAA, in December. These are national tests. Finally, there is the famed UW Oshkosh Problem Solving Competition, a fun event that takes place at the end of April each year, for seventh through tenth graders. In this competition, there is a team and individual event along with an opportunity for various fun math activities in the afternoon. Participants in math team can compete in as many or as few activities as desired.



Those interested in joining math team next year should talk to Mr. Palma, Katherine Cooke, or Sawyer Kocourek. They should also join the Math Team Remind, whose code is @aemathteam. Everyone looks forward to an awesome season next year as well.

*-Clara Shober*



## Help Wanted - Summer Jobs for Students!

Looking to make some extra money this summer? Lucky for you, there are plenty of places in the area that are hiring, and many of them are paying \$10-15 per hour or more. That means you could easily make upwards of \$2,000 in one summer! If you're lost and need some help starting your search, these are just some of the many businesses looking for some extra help from teenagers this summer:

- The YMCA - <https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/>
  - There are many opportunities for employment at the YMCA, some of which include summer sports camp staff, Camp Nan-A-Bo-Sho staff, lifeguards and Kids Corner staff.
- City of Appleton - <https://appletonparkandrec.org/>
  - The city is hiring lifeguards, concession staff and other pool positions at Erb and Mead pools, as well as referees and umpires for spring and summer sports.
- Retail
  - There are too many retail stores to list, but some of the more popular ones include Target, Home Depot, Festival Foods, Scheels, and even Lamer's Dairy.
- Food service
  - Many of your favorite fast food places such as McDonald's, Tom's, JD's, Starbucks, Chipotle, Jersey Mike's and more are often hiring. In addition, many sit-down restaurants in the area are looking for some extra help.
- Timber Rattlers - <https://www.milb.com/wisconsin/ballpark/employment-opportunities>
  - There are countless opportunities for teenagers looking for a job at the Timber Rattlers stadium, including concession workers, kitchen staff, grounds crew and parking crew.
- Bay Beach - <https://greenbaywi.gov/447/Seasonal-Employment>
  - Bay Beach is currently hiring teens over 14 as Seasonal Facility Attendants. If you happen to be over 18, they are also looking for ride operators.

These are only a few local opportunities - there are likely many more in the area. Keep an eye out for help wanted posters and hiring signs at all your favorite businesses. And keep in mind - a summer job offers more than a paycheck. There may be perks such as discounts at your favorite store or restaurant, more time out in the sun, or free access to sporting events. Additionally, many places in the area are currently short-staffed, so working a summer job also helps out the community.

-Mats Ridlehoover

# Forensics has a Big WIN at State

Forensics might be subject that most don't understand. You may ask, "What is forensics?" The answer to your question is simple. Reading off a story or giving an informative speech is what forensics is about. However, it's not just reading some paper. No, it's much more than that. It's the way you tell the story or present the speech.

You may know that Appleton East's forensics team had won first place at state in division 1. However, they've accomplished much more than that. A rough journey, but a forever-lasting ending. They've succeeded in many competitions this year, taking the overall score or winning in individual categories. But, they've also learned things along the way. Teamwork, support, and mistakes are the few things that have gotten them where they are today. Without a learning process, nothing would have fallen into place. With a fantastic coach, leadership from seniors, and a team full of joy, they stand here stronger than ever.

You may be thinking, 'What if I am interested in joining the team next season? What do I do?' The all-famous Mr. Miller shares, "The only requirement to join forensics is availability. All of our tournaments are on Saturdays (mostly in February and March) If you would like to join and are free most Saturdays, we would love to have you along."

East's coach is an award winner himself. "Winning the Hintz Award was a very emotional experience. Many people that I respect and look up to voted for me, and that is an amazing feeling. But my work is far from over. Appleton East has such a great history of Forensics excellence. I have always felt immense pressure to keep that tradition alive. Now that I have been named state coach of the year, the pressure is amplified. But it's positive pressure. It pushes me to work hard, and that's the only way to accomplish lofty goals." Being recognized as a fantastic coach is very motivating for him; however, he does state that he feels a tremendous amount of pressure in a positive light. To work hard and to know you're being recognized for that work ethic is the best feeling and support ever.

The seniors that are a part of this wonderful team have carried this team to victory. However, they've taught the underclassmen everything they need to know. Like a parent to a child. Most of the underclassmen have bonded with the seniors, and to see them go is quite sad. However, they promise to carry on. A legacy that shall never be forgotten, the seniors have done a lot for this team, and thanks to them the team wouldn't have been as strong as it is today, as they were mentors to themselves and to the underclassmen, especially to the new members of the team. Those leaders are Makenna Carver, Austin Demerath, Micheal Hahn, Kate Heller, Aleah Her, Lilli Sanders, and Shelby Watson.

Aleah Her participated in many categories, and being a senior, it may seem that this could be complicated. However, she was able to get through it all. Being a leader, a multi-category participant, and a soon-leaving senior, she's done everything she can while still living her life. "Well balancing out my three categories was actually really easy personally, my solo serious had the most time. I'm pretty sure I only practiced twice for my poetry and group was only when we were all able to so we never had the whole group to practice together, so I'd say the balance was actually really good so it was back-to-back slots for my categories and the fourth one didn't need any practice since it was Extemp reading. As for how it lined up with school and life, I'm always at school so I was able to practice in-between theater or robotics and it worked out really well. I think my favorite category to compete in would have to be my solo serious.

"There is something that's so redeeming about doing well on your own power plus the people are so welcoming and sweet you always leave feeling more inspired. I think the hardest part of this year was getting into practice because of how many people we gained this year. I swear the practice slots were all filled up weeks in advance," said Her.

Forensics can be filled with fun and a new family to call your own. "My favorite part about my forensics in high school was building connections with people that had the same love for performing that I did. I appreciated the opportunity to practice and improve my acting skills with people who also had that same passion." Senior Austin Demerath states. "Any underclassmen that are interested in forensics or curious about what it is, I encourage you to stop by Mr. Miller's room. He is a fantastic coach that makes the club fun and easy to understand for new members. If you have any interest in becoming better at public speaking and/or acting, I recommend that you give this club a try. It was one of the most valuable parts of my high school experience, and I know that it can be yours too!"

I know that some of you may be thinking, "What can I learn from forensics?" or "I'm not going to benefit from this." Michael Hahn shares his experience in forensics and what he's gained from being a part of it. "The greatest impact forensics has had on me is making me more confident in speaking to groups. That skill has affected me when presenting in school as well as in my workplace. Being able to talk attention is an important ability when explaining concepts and helping others. There are no downsides to joining



forensics. You learn to be more confident in your speaking, grow with a group of people, and find something to dedicate yourself to. It is a great activity, and I recommend it to anybody not sure what they want to do in high school. The skillset you cultivate in forensics is widely applicable to many jobs and scenarios in your life after graduating."

This season was filled with many accomplishments and successes by the team. They've worked hard, persevered through the rough times, and are now family. At times we forget that mistakes are okay, and there are people to support us through it all. We don't have to be alone. So, thank you to the seniors and the coaches that helped this team to victory. We wish the seniors well in their future and a fantastic beginning.

-Jo Buck and Cynthia Vang

The **Patriots Pay It Forward Program** began in 2017 as a way to provide funding for projects or events that otherwise would be difficult to fit into the school budget, such as fees for events for visits from authors, artists, or musicians, in addition to projects that directly improve the school. Past recipients of the grant have used it for everything from club resources, such as books to organization systems for our school clothes closet to initiatives that foster connection in our school, like a budget for the lifesaver mints found in the LMC. Have an idea? Any students, staff members, or parents are welcome to apply next year. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to make East a better place! *The 2023 Patriot Pasta Party raised \$2000 for the Pay It Forward Program.*

-Melia Wendt



The **East marching band** will perform in two upcoming Appleton parades. You don't want to miss out on Monday, May 29 for the Memorial Day Parade. Beginning at 9:00a.m., the parade will kick off at the corner of College Ave and Appleton St. The parade will head East towards Meade on College Ave. Come out to support the parade and see the East band. The 72nd Flag Day Parade is Saturday, June 10. This parade is a tradition and honors the "Old Glory." The parade begins at the intersection of Oneida st. and Wisonsin Ave. at 2:00p.m.

For the four years seniors put into the band at East making music, they have made a difference. The **senior band concert** featured the Symphonic Band with a mixture of many juniors and some seniors. Also, the main highlight of the night was the Honors band filled with many seniors and juniors. Conducted by Mrs. Lafleur, our Patriot band had quite the night. With tears streaming down many seniors' faces, the end of the concert was a piece by Julie Giroux called "One Life Beautiful." With a collection of moving symphonies and booming crescendos, this piece named the "senior piece" was performed with a slideshow of our graduating seniors. The slides showcased the cutest baby photos and senior photos of each senior in the band. Parents of each child were beyond proud to see their senior perform in the East auditorium one last time. The whole night ended with such a beautiful goodbye. Thank you to Mrs. Lafleur for building such a wonderful group of musicians to the dedicated seniors for their years in music. May your post-high school plans involve music in some way or remain a memory to be forever remembered.

-Heather Miller