

Estacada Junior High
COST CENTER NEWS
October 15, 2008

I cannot believe how this year has gotten off to such a fast start. It seems like just yesterday that we started the 2008-2009 school year. Not only is the year quickly beginning, but also we are off to a great start at EJHS. Here is some information I think all of you should know:

- Our attendance is staying steady at where we were at the end of last school year. We anticipated losing more than 30 students from the beginning of last year to this year. We are only down 11 students!!
- Over 75% of our parents attended “back to school night” and attended their children’s classes. Surveys that they turned in shared that they enjoyed walking in their children’s shoes for the evening.
- We just finished our annual fundraiser, and we are counting the money! Our hope is that we will be able to fund some more after-school activities and buy some track uniforms.
- We currently have several after-school activities in progress including: Homework club, robotics, Girls Inc., student council, girls volleyball, science bowl, environmental club, and guitar club. More activities are planned for the next two trimesters.
- Our first book fair is next week, Oct. 23-27. We are hoping that all of you will stop by and buy some Christmas gifts.
- We are holding one dance a month for our students as a reward for positive behavior. Our first dance had over 200 in attendance----the most in four years. Our fall dance will be next Friday, Oct. 24.
- A new “snack shack” has opened in the EJHS gym. We thank all the great volunteers who helped us prepare for opening it this school year.
- Throughout the school year, EJHS will present special “enrichment days” for our students. F.A.S.T. days are designed for our students to have enrichment classes and for some students to be retaught and/or finish work they need to complete. We will be holding one F.A.S.T. day this trimester and two in trimesters two and three. We are also excited to have an “ARTS” day in December where our students participate in cultural arts enrichment activities throughout the day. Literacy day will be held in the Spring and our students will enjoy special reading and writing activities. As we communicate the dates to all of you, please feel free to stop by or volunteer for any of these days. They are great for our students, and we could use the extra help to make them even better.
- In an effort to improve communication with our stakeholders, we will hold a “Principal’s Chat” on a monthly basis this year. It will be a “mini” town hall style meeting where we can clarify questions, address concerns, and share good news. Our Parent Club meeting will immediately follow the “Principal’s Chats.”
- We are in the beginning stages of offering foreign language courses (Rosetta Stone) online for our students. We are beginning with only two students so we can remove any glitches from the system. Soon we will be able to offer additional students the option of learning a language online.
- Two teachers are being trained as “new teacher mentors.”
- Two math teachers presented at the Oregon Math Conference this last week. They shared how schools can have successful “Family Math Nights.” They have also been selected to present at the National Math Conference in Reno next month.
- Our school is beginning the process of implementing a system-wide program called “Positive Behavior Support” (PBS). This program will help us reduce the number of discipline referrals, improve school climate, and assist teachers with classroom management ideas. A committee of teachers, parents, and classified staff was formed to support the program at EJHS.
- Our School Improvement Focus this year will be to improve classroom instruction, implement that Positive behavior support, and continue our philosophy of “doing whatever it takes” to ensure all student achieve at high levels.

As you can see, Estacada Junior High is a busy place for students. If you are interested in anything we are doing, or want to visit/volunteer, please give us a call at 503-630-8516.