



**Estacada Junior High**  
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## **News from Estacada Junior High School**

Our students are fantastic.....and our exceptional staff is working hard to support students as they maximize their potential! We are anticipating strong test scores this year, particularly in writing. We are grateful for the teachers in the elementary schools who are preparing students well for the challenges of junior high.

As a junior high school, EJHS is a bridge between elementary and high school. Do you remember how hard life was in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades? Knowing this, our staff challenges students through academics and nurtures students through athletics, community service, and many leadership opportunities. We're also continually updating our curriculum and programs so that we help students deal with their real life concerns: for example, dealing with bullying, using the Internet safely, coping with tough times economically, and surviving family changes. It's harder than ever to be a teen!

EJHS is proud to be a part of the district's Positive Behavior Support initiative. This work has increased our recognition of students who do the "right things" everyday. As a result, our school culture is changing and we are seeing reductions in serious disciplinary incidents.

School demands on students continue to increase with the federal and state focus on testing outcomes. For those who need additional skills in reading, writing, and mathematics, we've implemented intervention classes. These classes are smaller than typical, and teachers provide three areas of focus: skill development, test strategies, and pre-teaching concepts that will come up in other classes. Besides building up students' confidence and skills, this work is critical in preparing students for high school. Soon, high school students will be required to pass state assessments to earn their diplomas.

Building relationships with community groups creates many opportunities for our students and maximizes our financial resources. Project SEED and Estacada's Arts and Theater groups are working with us to create a "facelift" for the front of our school. Students have identified this as a goal, and have already raised \$600 toward the project. We are busy applying for grants and getting community feedback on our ideas. Also on a weekly basis, students support the Estacada Food Bank by sorting food and doing any job that is assigned.

We are also very proud of our partnership with Todos Juntos, an organization which provides services to youth and families, and employs local community members. Working together, we have brought additional staff to EJHS including an assistant in our English Language Learners class and a Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coordination. Todos Juntos has also sponsored Lego Robotics, Boys and Girls Clubs, Dance Club, eight weeks of the Strengthening Families program, and a two hour after school homework club! Recreation opportunities after school and during the summer continue along with support of the Estacada Diversion Program, mentoring and community-service oversight.

Special events in this school year have included a community Thanks-for-Giving dinner, Family Math and Social Studies Nights, collecting funds for earthquake relief in Haiti, and for Pennies for Patients, Pentagames, many transition activities for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and a TAG field trip to Seattle. We also hosted the county Battle of the Books for all grade levels and are very proud of our EHS team who took 1<sup>st</sup> place in state competition.

Together with students, parents, and community members, our staff is committed to exceptional performance. Thank you for supporting us in this journey!