

# ELLICOTTVILLE

DISTRICT • NEWSLETTER

Volume 54, Issue 3

## ECS BOYS SOCCER 2023

*What an amazing experience!*



The ECS Boys Soccer team made history this fall by becoming the first team in the program to make it to the State Final 4 where they lost in the State Semi-Final game to eventual NYS Class D State Co-Champion Poland by the score of 2-1. It was a tale of two halves as the Eagles got out to a slow start and gave up 2 goals in the first 10 minutes of play, but then rallied in the second half to make it interesting off a William Benatovich header. Unfortunately, the Eagles ended up running out of time.

Along the way to that historical game, the ECS Eagles started the season by winning the Allegany-Limestone Gator Cup, finished second in the league, defeated North

Collins in the Section 6 Championship game by the score of 6-0, and then took down #1 State Ranked Fillmore in the Regional game by the score of 3 - 0. After losing to Fillmore in the Regional game the past two seasons, these gentlemen had some "Unfinished Business" to tend to as they met up with Fillmore for the third straight year. These young men represented ECS with pride on and off the field in that Regional game and throughout the season.

In season and post season accolades were aplenty for this team and it started with Sam Edwards being awarded the MVP of the Gator Cup. In the post season, Sam was also named Co-MVP of the League, a First Team League All-

Star, and an All-WNY Small School All-Star. Owen Doherty and Ben Edwards were also First Team League All-Stars. William Benatovich, Aiden Harrington, Evan Bauer, EJ Doherty, and Maddox Johnson were named to the Second Team League All-Star and Kyle Robinson and Cameron Mendell were placed on the League Honorable Mention Team. Ben Edwards was awarded the Section 6 Outstanding Character Award and

Cameron Mendell represented Ellicottville for Sportsmanship at the State Semi-Final game.

The Final 4 Team consisted of seven seniors; Sam Edwards, Evan Bauer, EJ Doherty, Aiden Harrington, Emmett Jacobson-Coolidge, Aaron LoGiudice, and William Benatovich, six juniors: Owen Doherty, Kyle Robinson, Ben Edwards, Maddox Johnson, Toby Coburn, Merek Peters, two sophomores; Cameron Mendell and Jackson Kruszynski, and seven freshmen; Tosh Klein, Teddy Edwards, Coleman Carls, Jaxson LaCroix, Timmy Dechane, Reed Nazareth and Kaiser Joesel.

The Team would like to thank all the people that made our trip to Middletown for the State Championship weekend so memorable.

- Coach Finn



## A Message from our Superintendent

# The Holidays at ECS



The Holiday season at ECS is truly special. Every year I'm amazed at how the students, staff and community come together to make the holiday season a special time for everyone. At the top of this list is Project Christmas, a program that has been a tradition at ECS for many, many years. Each year I am in awe of this program and how it ensures that as many people as possible have a special holiday season filled with cheer. There is no one-person that makes sure this event takes place; it is a true community effort and a perfect example of what takes place when a community works together for the good of all.

Changes in the weather are upon us, signs of the holiday season are being put on display in the community, bright lights on houses and trees are

all around, festive songs are being played on the radio (XM) stations, and holiday movies are on TV. Changes are also taking place at the school and we will see several exciting events to spread holiday cheer.

Students in the elementary are anxiously anticipating Family Fun Night, including a visit by Santa himself! (...and I've heard directly from Santa that he is looking forward to seeing all the great students at ECS!) Personally, I'm looking forward to one of my favorite events of the entire school year; the Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner. This dinner is sponsored by Student Council and includes musical performances by students of all ages. You can also be certain that students in grades 2-12 are busy practicing and eagerly preparing for the holiday concerts.

During this time, one thing is truly evident at ECS, while we may all have different traditions for celebrating the holidays, we know how to come together in the true spirit of the season to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to be filled with happiness and joy!

As we head towards the holidays and the holiday break, may you all find peace, joy and happiness. In closing, my holiday wish for each and every one of you and your families is have a very safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Robert Miller, Superintendent

## ECS SUPPORTS MILITARY FAMILIES!



Colonel Brad Frank and Mrs. Krista Frank, on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, recently presented Ellicottville Central School with Patriotic Employer certificates. These certificates were presented for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force. **ECS would like to thank Colonel Frank and all active and retired members of the United States Armed Forces for their service.**

## Which Witch is Which?







## SECOND GRADERS LEARN ABOUT OTHER CULTURES FROM IN-HOUSE FIELD TRIP

Second grade students have been hard at work learning about the world around them. Students began the year learning about each continent by focusing on its geographic location, important landmarks, climate, and animals that live in each area. When studying the culture and practices in Asia, students were treated to an in-house field trip as they tasted

Chinese Foods from a local restaurant. Students enjoyed this immersive learning experience and were excited to try new foods and even read their fortunes!



Madison Potter, Sklyar Schroeder, Aaron LoGiudice, and Ben Hogenmiller (not pictured) are the winners of a recent haiku poetry competition. Congrats to them all!

## PROJECT CHRISTMAS

The Ellicottville Central School Project Christmas committee would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the Ellicottville Community for their support of Project Christmas over the past decades.

Project Christmas works to provide Ellicottville Central School District families with a means to obtain food and gifts for their children. This year the program will help 40+ families.

Monetary donations to assist this service in our community may be sent to:

**(Checks should be made out to Project Christmas)**

**Ellicottville Central School - Project Christmas**

**c/o Nurse Karin Hager  
5873 Route 219**

**Ellicottville, New York 14731**

Questions may also be directed to Nurse Hager @ 716-699-2318 (ext. 1604) or email: [khager@ecsny.org](mailto:khager@ecsny.org)

*Thank you for your anticipated continued support. May you and your families have a very safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season!*







# PreK Stem

A new adventure has begun at ECS this year with two full day PreK classes! Twice a week both Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Schwartz's classes have been working with Mrs. Reed, our elementary computer teacher, on STEM lessons in our new Learning Lab located downstairs. STEM stands for: science, technology, engineering and math. Our PreK students have been learning new ways to use their thinking caps using animated books online, building wonderful creations with a variety of fun manipulatives and working together in small groups. Books such as: My 5 Senses, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Creepy Carrots, Room on the Broom, Go Away Big Green Monster and many others have helped to guide some fun and creative ways of learning. After the Christmas holidays, PreK will begin a new adventure and go to Mrs. Reed's classroom to learn how to use desktop computers! What an exciting few weeks it has been, and we are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning!





Dear Parent or Guardian:

As part of our goal to ensure that our students receive the best instruction, we are adding a new assessment and reporting system this year called aimswebPlus.

aimswebPlus provides data that help us adjust the level and intensity of instruction to the needs of each student. The aimswebPlus reading and math assessments are used for two main purposes:

- 1) Universal Screening, to identify students likely to struggle so that these students can receive extra instruction in a timely manner; and
- 2) Progress Monitoring, to track the progress of students receiving extra instruction and ensure that they are on schedule to meet their year-end reading and math goals.

#### **Who will be tested?**

Each fall, winter, and spring, all students will take the aimswebPlus tests. For students identified as needing additional instruction, we will monitor their progress frequently, testing at least once a month and as often as once a week. If a student is not showing sufficient progress, we can then adjust classroom instruction.

#### **How much time will all this testing take?**

This sounds like a lot of testing time, but these tests are very brief—most take only 1 to 3 minutes to complete. The tests can be this brief because, unlike tests that measure in detail how a student performs in a variety of skill areas, aimswebPlus assesses the basic reading or math skills that are good indicators of overall performance.

#### **What kind of information does the test provide?**

Each aimswebPlus test results in a single score, usually the number of correct responses within a brief time limit. This score can be compared to a national average or to the average performance for the local school or district, and can indicate the likelihood of passing the end-of-year state test. aimswebPlus tests are like an eye chart exam: If you miss more than a certain number of letters, you likely have vision problems. To determine whether various corrections work, you return to the eye chart until you find the right lenses. aimswebPlus screening and progress monitoring measures are similar—simple but powerful indicators of risk that are sensitive to small improvements.

#### **If my child is identified as “at risk” and receives extra instruction, does that mean that he or she will be assigned to Special Education?**

No, not necessarily. We want to get students extra help early, before qualifying for special services—and especially before they have a chance to fail. However, if progress monitoring shows that a student is not improving as expected, despite changes to instruction, these findings can suggest that further evaluation could be helpful and may result in qualification for Special Education.

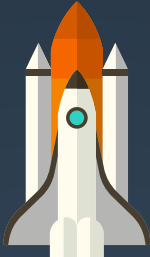
#### **What do I need to do to prepare my child for testing?**

No special preparation for aimswebPlus testing is required, other than preparing for school as on any other day. The testing takes a short amount of time and will not be a big event for your child.

#### **How can I get additional information on how aimswebPlus is being used by the school?**

If you would like additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact your child’s teacher or the school principal.

# 3...2...1... BLAST OFF



First graders were able to blast off to another planet when they recently visited the Challenger Space Center at St. Bonaventure University. They also learned about the properties of light by making a sundial and noticing shadows. After putting on their lab coats, the students became scientists in the learning lab. It was a fun day for all!



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to introduce your intervention team in the elementary school: Mrs. Katie Mendell, Principal, Mr. Joe Prior, School Psychologist, Mr. Dan LaCroix, Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Krista Frank, Math and Reading Intervention 4-6, Mrs. Laurie Caldwell, Math Intervention 1-3; and myself, Marie Davis, Reading Intervention 1-3. As a team, we look out for any needs among the students and provide support academically, socially, and/or emotionally. This program is called Response to Intervention (RtI).

The RtI team works to address students' academic needs in the elementary building. We assess students in grades 1-6 for math and reading three times per year: in September, January, and May. The assessments are referred to as benchmarks. We are checking to see if students' reading and math skills are at grade level. If a student needs additional support to boost their skills, we offer a math and/or reading service.

We may pull students out for lessons or push in to assist students in their classrooms. We also provide progress monitoring to students who are working toward math and/or reading goals in order to track their growth. If/When a student is working at grade level, we discontinue service and continue to monitor for any further need. If a need crops up, services begin again. We continue this process throughout the year, providing help when necessary.

This fall we began using a program called *Aimsweb Plus* in order to collect and organize data. Please see the separate article in this newsletter (page 5) on *Aimsweb Plus* for more information.

If a student needs social and/or emotional support, Mrs. Mendell, Mr. LaCroix, and Mr. Prior determine the best course of action. The goal is to help students be successful in their classes and have a great experience at school.

You may hear your children talking about us—now you know who we are and what we do. We are here to assist you too! If you have any questions about our intervention program, please feel free to reach out to us. You can ask to be directed to any of us when you call the main office at 716-699-2318 (ext. 1600).

Sincerely,  
Dr. Marie Davis

## INTERVENTION TEAM





# SAVE THE DATE!

# CABOCES CTE OPEN HOUSE

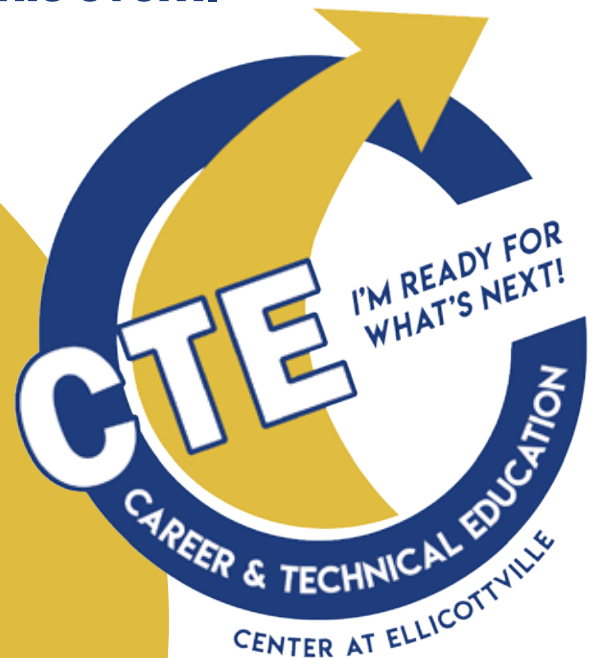
## JAN. 25TH 12-6PM

The CABOCES Career and Technical Education Center in Ellicottville is hosting an open house event on Thursday, January 25th from 12:00 to 6:00 pm. We cordially invite students, families, and school staff of current or prospective students to attend this event.

### OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Tour our building and wander our halls to meet LOCAL Unions, Trade Schools, and Colleges with opportunities aligned with our programs
- ✓ Take out Spaghetti Dinner - Prepared by our Culinary Program Students & Chef Martinelli
- ✓ Special Guest Speakers:
  - Meet Tim Coleman, trade leader from local 669 Sprinkler Fitters who will take you on a tour through the world of Local Unions.
  - Get some insider knowledge from the pros at County of Catt. IDA, Olean Business Development, and JCC Workforce Development.
- ✓ Fund Raising for SkillsUSA, FFA & NTHS
- ✓ Student Showcases & Program Tours available all evening

**COME SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER!**



CA BOCES  
CTE Center at Ellicottville  
5550 NY-242  
Ellicottville, NY 14731



CABOCES.org



## An Afternoon at Nannen Arboretum

Students from Mrs. Donoghue's, Mrs. Gesing's and Mr. Przybyla's classrooms took a break from their busy schedule to spend part of an autumn afternoon at the Nannen Arboretum. Mr. Steve Ward and Mrs. Nan Miller served as our guides during this excursion. While there, the students learned about various kinds of trees such as the European beech, bur oak and many other native and non-native varieties. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Ward actively engaged the students throughout the walk as information was collected about each tree's height, shape and leaf structure. As our trip drew to a close, the students enjoyed some sweet apple cider and cookies as they worked with our guides to assemble a book about the trees we learned so much about during our visit.





# PHYSICS SAVES HALLOWEEN



On Halloween, Mrs. Steger's physics students brainstormed and planned for apparatuses that would keep a pumpkin safe when dropped from varying heights. The physics students (Katie Bless, Ben Edwards, Tea Fuller, Mikey Kerns, and Morgan Krotz) had to overcome the forces acting on the pumpkin, including weight, friction, and air resistance, in order to keep it intact the entire time. The students then constructed their devices and dropped them from both the back of a truck and off of the school roof. In great success, all pumpkins survived with just a small crack!







## Girls Varsity Soccer

### CCAA East League Champions

The Girls' Varsity soccer team had a very successful regular season. They were League Champions with an overall record of 12-3-1. The lone league loss was to Randolph in overtime. Winning the league is quite an accomplishment as it is made up of three Class B schools, two Class C schools, and only two Class D schools. We scored 55 goals this year and only allowed 8, which is pretty impressive. We started our season with a loss to Olean. This game was a great starting point to show us what we needed to work on moving forward. Our last regular season game was also against Olean, we avenged our first game loss by defeating the Class A school 2-0! This shows the hard work and dedication that this team put into our season. We had great

leadership from our seniors: Brooke Butler, Audrey Hurlburt, Keelin Finn, Madison Potter, Cameron Kaleta, and Layla Kerns. These six girls have been playing soccer at ECS since 7th grade, they have been positive role models for our underclassmen, and they will be missed next season. The rest of our team includes Juniors; Jayden Doult, Addison John, Katie Bless, and Courtney Marsh. Sophomores; Drew Ficek, Teaghan Finn, Bianca Bush, Harper Klein, Makayla Potter, Delaney Myers, and Olivia Tighe. We were fortunate to have eight 9th graders join us to extend their soccer season, they are Ady Andrews, Julianna O'Connell, Ava Fuller, Eliza Murray, Malie Curtis, Yanieliz Velazquez-Garcia, Ainsley Edwards, and Ava Weber. Our season ended sooner than we had hoped/planned when we lost to North Collins in

the Sectional Final game by a score of 1-0. It was a tough loss, but this team should hold their head high because they had an amazing season. These girls play with a lot of heart in every game and the bond that they have with each other will last forever. Many girls received post-season honors for their accomplishments this year.

CCAA East League MVP: Brooke Butler

#### 1st Team All-Star:

Brooke Butler  
Audrey Hurlburt  
Addison John  
Cameron Kaleta

#### 2nd Team All-Star:

Keelin Finn  
Courtney Marsh  
Drew Ficek

– Coach Eddy

#### Honorable Mention:

Layla Kerns  
Jayden Doult  
Teaghan Finn

#### Sportsmanship

Award:  
Katie Bless

## Girls Modified Soccer

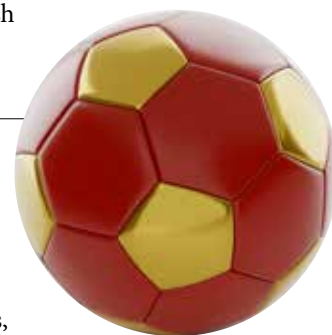
Our girls modified soccer team had a successful season, finishing the year with a record of 8-2-1. With many 9th graders returning from last year's team, they were joined by just as many 7th graders; many playing for the very first time. After a slow start, the girls really came together as a team and won their final 4 games.

This team consisted of nine 9th graders (Ady Andrews, Malie Curtis, Ainsley Edwards, Ava Fuller, Jailah John, Eliza Murray, Julianna O'Connell, Yanieliz Velazquez-Garcia, and Ava Weber), two 8th graders (Alison Antholzner and Juleana Lyon), and ten 7th graders (Kaegan Bauer, Marjorie Brown, Gracie Griffith, Cayda Kruszynski,

RaeAnn Meyer, Lillian Pearl, Taylor Perks, Whitney Powers, Camerie Riley, and Ella Weber).

Great Season Ladies!!!

– Coach LaCroix





## Boys Modified Soccer

The Modified Boy's soccer team had a successful 2023 season. Our Modified Boys finished with a record of 10-2. The only two losses of the season came early in the year to Randolph and Falconer/Cassadaga Valley, both of which we were able to defeat the second time we played them. Great season Eagles! A big thank you to all of the players, parents, and everyone who supported us throughout the season. The Modified Boys Soccer team was a mix of Ellicottville and Franklinville student-athletes this season. The players are listed below:

Timothy Dechane, Kaiser Joesel, Jaxson LaCroix, Reed Nazareth, George Dick, Jacob Henning, Landon Jankowiak, Rian Johnson, Daniel Kruszynski, Grayson McGonnell, Jonathan Peterson, Nigel Poulin, Colton Schumacher, Cooper Sciara, Dakota Tidd, Jackson Tomsick, Gabriel DeChane, Marshall DeChane, Crew Koleta, Carsten Kosinski, Kullen McGonnell, and Nicholas Wedvik

– Coach Gelen



## FE Titans Varsity Football

The Titans had a winning season, finishing with an overall record of 7-2. The Titans were led by Captains – Hunter Smith, Noah Shenk, and Isaac Towne. The Titans finished second in the Class D league with a 4-1 record with wins over Catt/LV, Wilson, Randolph, and Gowanda/Pine Valley. The Titans had non-league wins over Silver Creek/Forestville, JFK, and Salamanca. In the play-offs, the Titans were defeated by Wilson in the Class D semi-finals by a score of 20-21. The Titans offense produced a 1,000-yard rusher in Hunter Smith. Smith finished the season with 1,021 yards on 99 carries with 10 touchdowns.

The Titans would like to thank it's graduating Seniors: Dakota Miller, Beau

Bielecki, Jacob Dahlke, Noah Shenk, Trent Borden, Devin Herman, Owen Chudy, Hunter Smith, Christopher Calarco, Ben Payne, Isaiah Ploetz, Hayden Callahan, Zach Fetterman. Your dedication and hard work was greatly appreciated, and you will be missed.

The remaining varsity team consisted of: Ethan Allen, Caden Bish, Bretton Blecha, Gannon Callahan, Owen Doherty, Mark Felser, Zack Gibas, Ryan Metzger, Collin Mooney, Ryan Norton, Christopher Polino, Ari Riling, Billy Slavinski, Carter Smith, Matthew Spittler, Calin Terwilliger, and Isaac Towne.

– Coach Marsh

## JV Football Titans

The 2023 JV Football Titans finished the season with a 2-5 record. This year's team came in to summer camp with not a lot of experienced players on the JV level. Competition for starting spots was wide open and there was a lot of learning that needed to be done. The boys handled this well and even some juggling of positions as coaches tried to find the right fit for each player and best combination to have a competitive team. Our record does not indicate how far the boys came from the beginning of the season to the end of the season and the effort they put in to become better players. Sometimes you can't measure a team by it's wins and losses. You need to look at the character building and effort given on the field. By our last game these boys learned

how to bring 110% effort each and every play and to be good sportsmen even when things don't always go your way. This will only lead to their successes we hope for them in the future. Team members were: Dakari Adams, Rylan Benjamin, Mason Blecha, Grady Byroads, Damien Cole, Kristopher Curtis, Caleb DeGolier-Hurley, Reiley Freer, Parker Gebauer, Landon Giles, Maxx Goss, Tristan Hennard, Sean Howard, Gunner Jochen, Parker John, Landon Learn, Brenden MacWilliams, Jacoby Neureuther, Dominic Polino, Eli Shenk, Blake Smith, Lucas Swanson, Brady Tatlow, Dominic Tirado, Blake Smith, Raiddan Wilson, and Hunter Woodarek.

– Coach Myers

## Modified FE Football Titans

The 2023 Modified FE Titan season came to an end on October 19th. All the players worked on improving as a team and individually. The coaches would like to thank the players for their dedication and hard work this season.

This year, 8th grade team members included: Tucker Bish, Zachary Brennan, Evan Cudney, Nakota Doberstein, Charlie Gorecki, Paul Hurlburt, Carson Learn, Coleman Milks, Carson Mendell, Sawyer Miller, Joseph Minervino, Grayson Neal, Ausdynn Purdy,

Payton Quinn, Matthew Ruzcek, Blake Simons, Braeden Vosburg and Gavin Wing. Good Luck to these players as they move up to the JV level. The 7th grade team members included: Jaxon Blendingier, Ayce Caswell, Brody Erlandson, Sam Gorecki, Logan Goss, Ricky Howard, Landon Jensen, AJ Myers, Deegan Newark, Candon Oakes, Calvin Pearl, Mario Polino, Quintyn Ruibal, Oliver Shenk and Jackson Vosseler. We look forward to them coming back next year!

–Coach Benjamin

**ELLCOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**5873 Route 219**  
**Ellicottville, NY 14731**  
**[www.ellicottvillecentral.com](http://www.ellicottvillecentral.com)**

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Mrs. Kristen Pearl - *Vice President*  
Mrs. Shana Chudy  
Mr. William Murphy  
Mr. Karl Northrup  
Mrs. Jenna O'Connell  
Mr. Robert Van Wicklin

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Mr. Robert Miller  
*Superintendent*  
Mr. Karl Gesing  
*Assistant Principal K-12*  
Mrs. Kathryn Mendell  
*Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum*  
Mr. Erich Ploetz  
*6-12 Principal*

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SUCCESS**



**SURPASSING  
EXPECTATIONS**



## ECS SKI PROGRAM 2024

*Ski Club will begin on Thursday, January 4, 2024.*

*If you have not done so already, you can request the link to purchase passes by sending an email to [ecsski@ecsny.org](mailto:ecsski@ecsny.org) and include your child's name and grade level.*

*Thursday lesson dates are as follows:*

*January: 4, 11, 18, 25*

*February: 1, 8, 15, 29*

*March 7: Extra Lessons/  
Make-Up Session*

**Think snow!**

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Saturday, December 23, 2023 –  
Monday, January 1, 2024**  
WINTER RECESS – NO SCHOOL

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024**  
SCHOOL RESUMES

**Monday, January 15, 2024**  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

**Friday, January 26, 2024**  
RATING DAY  
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS



## ECS WALK PROGRAM

Ellicottville Central School will host a Walk Program for community members beginning Tuesday, January 2, 2024, thru Tuesday, April 30, 2024. The building will be open Monday – Thursday from 6-9 pm (when school is in session). Community members are asked to check-in at the High School back parking lot entrance each time they walk.



**ECS Fitness Center · Open to the Public · 4-7 PM**  
**Tuesday, January 2 – Tuesday, April 30, 2024**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (when school is in session)**  
\*You MUST sign in each time you use the Fitness Center.\*