

# PAW PRINTS



## A Note From the Principal

October 24, 2022

### Dates to Remember

10/22	XC state in Knoxville
10/25	Conferences 3:15-6:15
10/27	Conferences 3:15-6:15
10/28	No school-PD day
10/29	HC Showcase @ MV
11/8	In-service Day No School
11/9	Progress Reports
11/10	BETA meetings (RA)
11/11	Veteran's Day Program @ 9:00
11/14-18	Book Fair (Library)
11/17	EHS here for 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
11/20-22	BETA convention
11/21-25	No School
12/8	BETA Meeting
12/16	end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 6 weeks 11:15 dismissal
1/4	Return to school

We have had a fast start to the year!! Our students and staff have been working very hard! Our teachers continue to hold our students to an extremely high level of expectation. Being newly appointed as Principal, I wanted to take a minute to let you know a little bit about me: I have been in education for 17 years. I am married to Emily and we have two daughters, Madeline and Charlotte. I taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade history here before moving to West View Middle to serve as their Assistant Principal. I am excited to return to East Ridge! I believe it is the best school in the county and together, we will work to make it the best school in the State!

Speaking of "new" faces here at The Ridge this year, we have a School Safety Officer named Adam Watson. He has been in law enforcement for over eight years. He served as a School Resource Officer in Jefferson County before coming to his current position. He and his wife, Lauren, are happy to be part of the East Ridge family. Officer Watson, Miss Jefferson and I, along with our entire staff are dedicated to keeping our campus safe and free from any danger. Always feel free to contact any of us with safety concerns.

This year's ROAST ON THE RIDGE was held on October 20. I would like to thank all those who attended or supported us in any way. It was a huge success for our school and our community. Big thanks to the efforts of the coordinator, Ms. Hannah Clark, and to our amazing PTO for making the event such an awesome success! We were able to raise some much-needed funds for our school. I would also like to thank Alex Martin, owner of Big Al's Bent Creek Barbeque, for smoking all the meat for us! It was DELICIOUS!

Our Beta students have finished their school-level competitions and are now preparing for the STATE competitions in Nashville on November 20-22. Good luck, Beta Bears! Thank you for all your hard work! Special thank you to our teacher sponsors as well.

Our fall sports teams have had very successful seasons! The varsity volleyball team finished FIRST in both the regular season and SECOND in the tournament! The JV volleyball team finished FOURTH in the regular season and FIRST in the tournament! Great job, ladies and Coach Shelton! The Cross-Country team, under the direction of head coach, Ashley Wilder, has been extremely successful as well. Ben Carrier, Austin Resendiz and Kara Hotel qualified to run in the STATE meet! Finally, the Football Bears showed great improvement all season!!! Thanks to head coach, JJ Sims and assistant football coaches: Cavette Cooks, Josh Collins, Kevin Bryan, and Robert Griffin! Basketball tryouts have just ended, and we wish those student-athletes and coaches a great season!

As always, please feel free to contact us in the office if you have any questions or concerns.

Let's achieve excellence together!!

*Nick Darnell*

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## **Cross Country** By Matthew Bailey (8)

This year's cross country team gave everything they had on everything they did. No one lacked effort. Now even if no one placed 1<sup>st</sup>, we still had two boys place in the top 10, which in the bigger picture is amazing. As well, we had many keep pressing even if they weren't the best at the sport, but the team may not have crushed the competition. When all is said and done, everyone's a winner in the end.

A special thanks to all the students who participated, as well as Coach Darnell and Coach Wilder.

## **First Dance at East Ridge Middle School 2022** By Silas Lamb (7)

The dance was fun for all with a Hawaiian theme. There was nice décor (flowers and other Hawaiian things). The dance was held in the gym. It was really hot to simulate the Hawaiian temperatures, or that's what I thought.

Now time for some student interviews. Jacob Zavaleta said, "It was fun but a little boring." I agree with that statement. It had some ups and downs. Sophia Griffith said, "It was a good time." Emma Wolfe said, "The dance was fun and we should do it again".

To tie it in, everybody that went from my knowledge had a great time.

## **Newspaper Staff** By Wesley Frazier (7)

### **6th grade**

Reagan Waddell

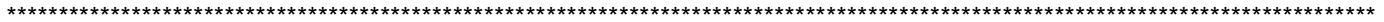
### **7th grade**

Thomas Drinnon  
Wesley Frazier  
Luke Reuschel  
Emerson Meek  
Silas Lamb

### **8th grade**

Katie Justice  
Matthew Bailey  
Samantha Gorghis

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## **How To Be A Better Student By Emerson Meek (7)**

Have you ever thought, “Wow, that kid is a great student!”? Well, think no more! Well, still think, but here are 5 ways you can be a better student. Incorporating one or more of these will give you a sense of accomplishment, well, we hope; many students practice many of these ways to be a better student, but if you want the help, here it is!

First, there is a crucial one; you should try to pay attention. I understand it’s early, but you should attempt this. One of the main reasons is because teachers don’t want to repeat themselves, because you only have 150 days to get through the curriculum, and TN Ready are even more of a struggle for teachers than they are for us. I understand that you’re thinking about lunch, but it’s still going to be there for your indulgence.

Second, do the work. As a procrastinator myself( writing this article in 3 days before it’s due) it’s hard to do homework when you have things to do, but in your free time, try to study or complete your homework. Manage your time wisely. I have zero points in time management, but do as I say, not as I do.

Third, this is one that is more directed at how to be a meritorious person, not a better student , but it still applies. You need to be kind to people. You don’t know the events or things everyone is going through, and you need to be able to help people in need. These can cause friendships and acquaintanceships and a feeling that you helped someone. This feeling is difficult to describe, and the only real way to know the feeling, is to experience the feeling.

Fourth, you need to think before you speak, and ask genuine questions. If you already know the answer, there is no need to ask. If you want to tell a long elaborate story about how your cat jumps on a trampoline, wait, and “entertain” your friends with it, and actually learn about elevation in a different way.

Lastly, you need to get involved. It may seem like a chore of itself at first, but ultimately it will pay off. A good way to do this is to join clubs at any chance you get. If you’re surrounded by tasks, you might need to look at the schedules to see the ones you can actually do. Maybe you’ll like these clubs. Another great example of how to get involved is to volunteer. Volunteering turns you into a superhuman who can do anything! I’m just joking of course, but it does help others and you in the process, growing you as a person, and maybe getting you a scholarship.

In the end, all of these things will make you a better person, a better student, and give you better chances at success. I understand though, you want to enjoy your childhood while still in the adolescent state, but you can combine the two, and when you do, you will gain more respect. Thank me later.

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## Erms Football

By Samantha Gorghis (8)

### Players and Jersey #

Caden Archer 35  
Jon Baldy 56  
Jake Barnes 12  
Eric Baskette 26  
Riley Boruff 81  
Nehemiah Brooks 31  
Tatem Cain 24  
Jaydon Castellanos 31  
Cody Collier 53  
Jordan Collins 20  
Keagan Covington 42  
Brody D'Bras 18  
Jordan Denton 61  
Ethan Doubleday 78  
Alex Lopez 05  
Liam Ewing 14  
Kaiden Fox 50  
Alex Galvan 33  
Martin Galvan 75  
Tamara Gilliam 25  
Mason Helton 32  
Peyton Holt 04  
Jeremy Howerton 10  
Kaden Howerton 80  
William Hunter 11  
Lucas Johns 08  
Durango Johnson 83  
Kyland King 21  
Alexander Lopez 73  
Brent Lunceford 51  
Caiden Lynn 85  
Dylan Maltba 82  
Cayson Moore 30  
Brayden Munsey 54  
Andrew Parsons 40  
Rayden Seal 65

### Games

Brayden Smith 09  
Brett Smith 03  
Jarod (Zae) Smith 01  
Bryson Walker 16  
Brody Woods 23  
Tucker Wyatt 22  
Harrison Hopkins 72  
Eijah Williams 71  
Cael Cobb 63  
Gregory Tippett 84

Meadowview (Win)  
Rutledge (Lose)  
Maury (Lose)  
Jefferson (Lose)  
White Pine (Win)  
Lincoln Heights (Lose)  
West View (Lose)  
Rush Strong (Win)

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## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade News** **By Kaite Justice (8)**

Currently in the 8th grade, numerous students, especially those who play sports, are excited for 8th Grade Night. Several volleyball players have decorated their lockers in honor of the special night. Many football players are also excited. 8th Grade Night is very special to these students because it is their time to shine. This night is dedicated to the students' last year at East Ridge and it is very sentimental to them. Other students are excited to come and cheer them on! Good luck players!

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## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade News** **By Thomas Drinnon (7)**

Classrooms throughout the 7th Grade are bubbling with excitement as the 9 weeks come to an end. There are many things happening! In ELA, the units are changing from Unit 1, Generations, to Unit 2, "A Starry Home". This unit will be focusing on should we search the universe for unknown planets and peoples and would we even find anything. This unit will also happen to focus on argumentative writing. Students Kara Hotel and Kensey Helton state, "I love ELA! Writing is SO fun!"

In Math, we have now switched from Module 1 to Module 2. We will now be focusing on integers and how to calculate negative and positive numbers. Student Mckinley Bullington says, "Math is my favorite subject! It's awesome!" I'm going to end this with a joke. What do you call a number that can't keep still... A Roamin' Numeral!

In Social Studies, we will continue to learn about Islamic civilizations and The Ottoman Empire, but we will also start on Medieval Europe and The Feudal System. There will be even more projects! Student Jack Blair says, "Social Studies is definitely a favorite, I love learning about different militaries and wars!"

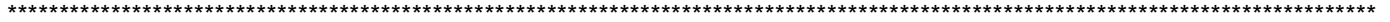
In Science, we will start our unit on animal and plant cellular systems. We will also be doing several different animal and plant cell projects to go along with this unit. You should really Cell-ebrate science! Student Lucy Anthony states, "I love science, I feel it is really important and loving doing the different labs."

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## **6<sup>th</sup>-Grade News** **By Reagan Waddell (6)**

The year is just now starting and we are already learning so much. In science, we are learning about symbiotic relationships and ecosystems. In ELA, we are in the unit about childhood and have read many wonderful passages. The social studies classroom is all about Mesopotamia and ancient civilizations. Ratios and unit rates are what is going on inside math class. We cannot forget about our wonderful related arts teacher and how much we love their classes too. This is all the news in 6th grade at the beginning of the year.

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## New Faces on The Ridge

By Luke Reuschel (7)

Have you noticed new faces and new teachers on the Ridge this year? We have eleven new staff members who have joined our work force this year! I am Luke Reuschel and I have been asked to introduce you to some of them. First, we may recognize some of the staff members as new to us but they are not new to East Ridge Middle School, ERMS. Many of the new staff have old memories of East Ridge themselves, making this recent employment a trip down memory lane for many and a brand new experience for others.

Ms. Addison Jones states that this is not her first go around with East Ridge, “It is so exciting to be an East Ridge Bear again. I went to middle school here in 2012-2014.” Also, many new staff this year have had extra-curricular experiences with East Ridge. Such as Mr. Jordan Potter, who says that, “I love East Ridge. I have coached basketball and track at East Ridge for 11 years. I am now excited to have a teaching position at East Ridge.”

However, many new staff are having completely new experiences with East Ridge such as Mrs. Krysta Gass who is teaching at East Ridge for the first year in the sixth grade. She remarks, “This is my 3rd year teaching, and my first year at ERMS. At home, my little family includes my wonderful husband, Eli, and our mischievous kitten, Nugget. We do not have any litters of our own yet, but our niece, Braelyn, and my kiddos at school suffice perfectly. I love being outside, being with my family, and being creative”.

I asked the new staff to briefly introduce themselves to give the school a little background on all of the new faces this year. Many of you have seen Officer Watson in the hallway but have not had a chance to talk and get to know him. However, I am bringing that opportunity to you. So, here’s a little bit about Officer Watson. “My wife Lauren and I live in Whitesburg with our two cats, Tom and Daisy” His hobbies include playing guitar, fishing, and HAM radio”. Mr. Jordan Potter, who is a new teacher in the seventh grade this year teaching social studies, takes a brief moment to introduce himself, “This is my 11th year teaching, 1st year at East Ridge. I am married to my wife, Sara. We have two boys, Wyatt (4) and Maddox (1). I enjoy spending time with my family and working out.”

Ms. Kelsi Gibson in the 8th grade has many hobbies as well. She states, “I love to read, watch movies, swim, and collect vinyl. I love Fleetwood Mac, days by the pool, and squids.” Ms. Gibson worked at West View and Claiborne High School during her student teaching before coming to ERMS. Mr. Mark Seal says, “Hunting, Fishing, camping. My wife and I have 6 kids. I like Nascar Racing and traveling.” Last but not least, Ms. Jones introduces herself by saying, “I have 3 goldendoodles named Marley, Scout, and Violet. I like taking them on walks and playing frisbee with them.”

Many of you probably already know that working at East Ridge was not the new staffs’ first job. This is why I asked the question: Where did you work before East Ridge? How was your experience at that job? Ms Gass, only working a little ways from East Ridge says, “Before coming to East Ridge, I worked at Meadowview Middle School for the past two years. Meadowview is a great school with such a caring staff and administration. The students at Meadowview are very diverse with lots of different needs, which made teaching there interesting every single day. I owe it to my former students at Meadowview, actually, for teaching me to be a better teacher who supports students with a wide variety of needs.” This quote shows that not all of the new staff worked in a different county before working at East Ridge. However, Officer Watson says he worked a little farther away before coming to East Ridge, “I worked for the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office as an SRO.

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I love working in the schools. I believe being an SRO is the best job in law enforcement.” Mrs. Kelley, whose job was probably the most remote, says “Before coming to ERMS, I was a 6th grade science teacher in Knox County Schools. I loved my job but the long commute was not ideal.”

The new staff this year are working very hard to make sure you are being educated and protected to the fullest. But do you ever wonder what they would do if they had a day to themselves? Well, I asked all of them the same question: If you could do anything for a day, what would you do and who would you spend it with? Some of the responses may surprise you. Ms. Kelsi Gibson, an obvious friend for any of you Fleetwood MAC fans out there, says she would, “love to hang out with Stevie Nicks from Fleetwood Mac.” Mrs. Kelley would like to take her vacation to a more sunny side by saying she would, “Take my family on a vacation to a tropical island.” Yes, please. Can I go? Next we have Mr. Potter, who says, “If I could do anything for a day, I would spend the day at Disney World with my family.” That would be a magical experience, wouldn't it? Next, we have Ms. Jones, Mrs. Kelley and her must be taking buddy trip together because she says, “I would go to the beach with my friends.” Finally we have Mr. Mark Seal who says he would, “Travel. I love seeing new places.”

Another question I asked the new staff this year was this: What motivates you to work hard? I asked this question not just for the sake of the article, but to give the student body more ways to be motivated. The impending piles of homework balanced with after school activities can make the life of a student extremely stressful. This is why I asked the question to give students a way to stay motivated under stressful circumstances and not give up. Mrs. Gass introduces us with a way that she is motivated by her students saying, “What motivates me to work so hard is seeing students who struggle with reading and ELA to have “aha” moments and become confident readers and learners right before my eyes because of the things we are doing in class. Or, when I have students want to learn more because of the topics we address in class.” Many of you students may not know it, but teachers can find themselves in some pretty stressful situations, between making lesson plans, to making copies and attending meetings, all the while trying to keep our short attention spans entertained. Asking this question is a real eye-opener into the life of the new staff this year. Jordan Potter states that he, “ enjoys building relationships with students and helping them to reach their potential. I like to see the progress students make from the beginning of the year until the end.” Mr. Mark Seal bases his answer off his experience with education as well as religion by saying, “I work hard because I know the true value of a good education. I have often said other than my relationship with Jesus, my education has made the most difference in my life than anything else ever.

Lastly, and maybe the most important question asked, new staff members were asked to weigh in on the question, “If there was a battle between Thor and the Incredible Hulk, who would win?” Interestingly enough, there was not a clear winner. While Ms. Gibson says the Incredible Hulk, Mr. Potter believes the only correct answer is Thor. Mrs. Kelley may have had the best answer by saying, “Thor has more to draw on whereas Hulk only has his strength. I think in life, the more diverse your "tool belt" is, the better off you will be.”

New faces, new teachers bring new opportunities and new experiences for us as students. As you can see, there are so many things to learn about our new staff. Take time to say hello and get to know our new staff. Who knows? You may just make a new friend!.