Winter 2017/18

engage is a district publication of the Erlanger-Elsmere Schools
From the SUPERINTENDENT

Saving our State:
The collective impact of finding a solution through professional collaboration, mutual respect and compassion

A proposed draft pension bill was released from our Governor’s Office on October 27. We certainly appreciate the Governor and the Legislature trying to resolve this issue. Realizing we all need to be part of the solution, several groups across the state have come together to collaborate and offer an alternate “shared responsibility” proposal.

This is a difficult circumstance, but also a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved to model a professional, collaborative process for our children and work together to do what is best for our students, our public workers, and our entire state.

Why? Because education and public services are not costs, they are investments. They are investments in our future business leaders, police officers, fire fighters, teachers, doctors, nurses, and elected officials.

If educating our state’s students were only about teaching content, nearly everyone would be teachers. Most people do not realize that Kentucky ranks No. 1 in the nation for the number of children who have had a parent incarcerated and No. 1 for the number of children in kinship care. Kentucky is No. 2 in the nation for the number of children ages 0-6 who are homeless. Additionally, the number of children impacted by adults who overdose and are addicted to opioids, especially in Northern Kentucky, is astounding. Children with these and other adverse childhood experiences walk through the doors of every school district in Kentucky each and every day.

Teachers, principals, instructional assistants, counselors, nurses, food service workers, bus drivers, and many others do a whole lot more than just show up and work each day. We love the children entrusted to our care and provide them with counseling, medical care, dental services, and nutritious meals, in addition to quality instruction. We know that education is the key to success, and we work to build grit and resilience and do all we can to nurture hopes and dreams. But the very best educational environment takes the very best people to make it successful. People who are committed; people who are willing to make sacrifices; people who know they are impacting the future of our students in ways they may never know.

At least one million dollars a year is what the proposed pension bill would cost our school district.

Questions every Kentuckian should be asking

WHO IS PAYING THE PRICE?
- What services will our students and citizens go without due to the proposed pension bill? What will a school day for our students look like as a result?
- How much will this proposed bill cost local school districts and local communities?
- What will our schools and communities do when we are unable to fill teaching positions, principal positions, instructional assistant positions, finance director positions, maintenance positions, transportation positions, and many others?
- Why does Kentucky give away more tax breaks than its yearly revenue?

WHO BENEFITS?
- Who would manage the 401k plans being proposed? Who would profit from these plans?
- Would this pave the way for dubious for-profit charter schools to move into our state and tempt our best educators, who would be facing salary/pension cuts, to leave public schools?
- What will the future of our state look like five years from now, 10 years, 20?

School districts are currently funded at the same level they were in 2008; therefore, most districts are operating leanly. Under the Governor’s proposed pension plan all school districts will be forced to pay a whole lot more. Our students will be the ones who will make this unshared sacrifice and here’s why:

In most school districts, 80 percent or more of the school budget is personnel. There is not much left to cut other than programs for students. The decision for all districts is how many essential personnel and programs can we keep and which ones will we be forced to cut? Should we increase class sizes when we can’t find teachers to fill positions? Should we cut full-day kindergarten since our state only funds us for half-day? Should we cut after-school programs that our parents depend upon to go to work? Should we cut preschool, dual credit programs, athletics, band, chorus, counselors, food services, family resource centers, school nurses, food services, instructional assistants for our special needs students, special education resources, support to our parochial school partners, school resource officers, and other safety measures? Which of these is not important? What would our students and parents say?

SO, WHAT CAN WE DO?

Kentucky is a wonderful state with many great leaders. We can respectfully work together to develop a shared solution that acknowledges the need for change, accepts the pension system as a shared responsibility, and minimizes the risk to our students and thousands of teachers, staff members, and other public workers.

Our students, our communities, and the citizens of our Commonwealth are worth every ounce of our effort; and our children are watching, listening, and learning from all we say and do. We can all be transparent and collaborative to find a solution that is a deferential shared responsibility. We all can choose to emulate the mutual respect and leadership we would want our students to follow.
Whatever it takes

State assessments provide opportunity to examine achievement gaps

The Kentucky Department of Education recently released state assessment results for 2016–2017. Due to changes in state and federal law, the Kentucky Department of Education is not reporting any overall school, district or state score; individual component scores; or associated accountability labels. This year, rather than focus on accountability, our school district will evaluate the data, dig deep, and ask tough questions about levels of achievement and whether achievement gaps are closing. Both areas will figure prominently in the new accountability system.

Our district has become extremely innovative in how we provide high-quality, personalized instruction and services to students based on their individual needs. What the Erlanger-Elsmere School District does today to help our students succeed in school and in life is quite different from the traditional education many of us experienced.

In order to equip our students to become college and career ready and achieve their hopes and dreams, our school district provides many unique services, programs, and resources to our students and families. We offer numerous accelerated opportunities for learning at all levels, and if students are experiencing barriers to their learning, we find resources and build partnerships to assist them. We have augmented services for children in their earliest, most formative years, long before a student enters kindergarten.

The Erlanger-Elsmere School District strives to do whatever it takes to help our students achieve success. We are very proud to serve our students, families, and communities.

EXPANDING our mission

Increasing enrollment means more students to serve

Over the past few years, the Erlanger-Elsmere School District has experienced remarkable growth. From the beginning of the 2013–2014 school year to the start of 2017–2018, the district has grown by almost 300 students. That’s a 12.6% increase in enrollment.

The growth is particularly notable at Lloyd, which had 120 more students this past August than it did at the start of the 2013–2014 school year, growing by over 23%. Arnett Elementary has experienced a similar uptick, with more than 50 students — an increase of nearly 22%.

“We are pleased to have more students to serve, and honored that so many parents — an increase of nearly 22%.

Our “whole-child” approach – Wrap-around services provide families with before- and after-school care, nutritious meals, and essential support through Family Resource and Youth Service centers.

Our academic excellence – The district is making continuous academic progress at all of its schools, as evidenced by improvements on state assessments.

Our extracurricular opportunities – Students are engaged on many levels beyond the classroom according to their interests and talents with very few – if any – associated fees.

Our focus on early learning – We offer a variety of programs to provide the necessary support during a child’s most formative years and take great pride in our convenient, innovative, and collaborative early learning opportunities.

Why has enrollment grown at the district’s schools? Contributing factors may include:

Our mission – We work hard to embrace the individual needs of our students and treat them how we would want our own children to be treated.

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More students, more space

The increasing enrollment in Erlanger-Elsmere Schools is building a strong future… in more ways than one. Construction of a 15,000-square-foot three-story wing off the back of Howell Elementary is in full swing. The addition will add a variety of new learning spaces to help accommodate the growth Howell has seen in the past five years, and will move classes out of mobile units and the school building’s basement.

Our detailed assessment information may be found in the district’s Report Card Summary online at: www.erlanger.kyschools.us/Content2/146
Leadership Scholars program making an impact at each of the district’s schools

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools recently had the delightful opportunity to celebrate nearly 100 graduates. But these remarkable new alumni weren’t high school seniors. They’re parents of students in Erlanger-Elsmere Schools who have successfully completed the Leadership Scholars Parent Academy.

Leadership Scholars is a Cincinnati-based nonprofit, founded on the belief that every child deserves a quality education, regardless of socioeconomic background. The primary way Leadership Scholars achieves this is through its Parent Academy – an innovative course that blends college readiness and a success mindset. The comprehensive eight-week program is designed to empower parents, or any significant adult in a child’s life, with proven strategies and tools to support strong academic, social, and emotional development, with the ultimate goal of helping children attend and graduate college.

Collaboration among students, parents, principals, teachers, and schools is key to the program’s success – so are the efforts to make all facets of the program as easy and productive as possible. Not only is the program offered to families completely free of charge, but organizers go out of their way to remove barriers to participation. At Erlanger-Elsmere Schools, this includes a free family dinner, childcare, and even sessions in Spanish.

“While this groundbreaking program has been offered at nearly two dozen schools across Greater Cincinnati, this fall marked the first time it has been implemented throughout an entire district. The program’s leadership will look closely at the data and consider this initiative a pilot program for the entire region.”

“This has been a big undertaking, and we’re so pleased so many parents participated in this first endeavor,” said Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, superintendent of Erlanger-Elsmere Schools. “As we see things that are going on in the world right now, it’s really important that parents feel they are a part of the schools and engaged in their children’s education.”
Proven results-driven approach

The Leadership Scholars Parent Academy uses one of the most well-researched parent-involvement programs in the country, the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), as a fundamental part of the program’s content foundation. More than 1.5 million children of PIQE parents have significantly higher rates of high-school graduation and college attendance, and lower dropout rates. Leadership Scholars further enhances this approach by integrating its tested “success mindset” tools designed to improve students’ social and emotional well-being, and their ability to focus.

According to many teachers and principals who have adopted the program, including Miles Elementary Principal Mr. Josh Jackson, it is proving to be a powerful combination that builds relationships in the home, at school, and in the community.

“We have received excellent feedback from our families,” Mr. Jackson said. “So much so that we have parents recruiting other parents to attend due to how beneficial it has been.”

College readiness + success mindset

A winning combination

A hallmark of the Parent Academy – and one of the things that makes it unique – is its careful blend of academic and emotional themes. The program content falls into two areas:

**COLLEGE READINESS**
Practices centered on academic success, including such topics as:
- Importance of grades
- Learning styles and how to study
- How and why to ask for help
- How to prepare for standardized tests
- College admissions and financial aid
- Securing financial aid/scholarship money
- Parent/teacher meetings

**SUCCESS MINDSET**
Behavioral strategies integral to navigating emotions and building relationships, organized as:
- **Mindfulness** – Understanding how habits/experiences impact brain development, focus, and learning
- **Grit** – Cultivating a belief that perseverance is proven to show results
- **Positive Outlook** – Developing resilience through a positive mindset; practicing gratitude and optimism
- **Social Intelligence** – Cultivating successful connections with others through empathy, kindness, communication, and value

There’s more than one way to Pre-K

Your child’s experiences before kindergarten are important to ensure they grow into confident, happy and independent adults.

Find the options that are best for you at MyPre-K.com.
Longtime Erlanger resident, educator joins the Pre-K team

Donna Schulte is comfortable in Erlanger... the current resident and retired educator has lived in the city since birth. So when the district was looking for a preschool consultant, she was the perfect person for the job.

Not only is Ms. Schulte a lifelong Erlanger resident, she has devoted her life’s work to students in Northern Kentucky. Ms. Schulte worked in the Kenton County School District for 13 years as a special education teacher and technology department consultant. She then transitioned to Campbell County Schools, where she served as an elementary school principal for eight years before spending six years as Director of Special Education, Preschool, and Transportation for Ft. Thomas Schools. She retired a few years ago after 27 total years of service.

Though Ms. Schulte has lots of hobbies (technology, scrapbooking, cake decorating, and catering, to name a few) and enjoys spending time with her family, she just couldn’t stay away from education. She came on board as a preschool consultant for Erlanger-Elsmere Schools last spring, and is working with preschool staff in the district and at private childcare partners to ensure quality, consistency, and continuous improvement for all of the community’s preschool children. These efforts will help level the playing field and better prepare the district’s children for kindergarten. Ms. Schulte has been a most welcome addition to the Pre-K team, and the feeling is mutual.

“I love working with the variety of centers and enjoy spending time with the staff and students,” she said.

Preschool and kindergarten registration will take place in March 2018. Stay tuned for additional details after the new year!

CCAP CHANGES:
what you need to know

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps families obtain access to quality childcare that allows parents to work, attend education and training programs, and/or participate in the Kentucky Temporary Assistance Program. CCAP provides financial assistance to eligible parents/guardians for childcare costs on a sliding fee basis. In an effort to promote parental responsibility, low-income families and parents with an income above a certain threshold may be assessed co-payments to contribute to the cost of care.

In September, the Child Care Council of Kentucky began the process of transitioning CCAP back to the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and along with that transition comes new processes and benefits.

Another change to CCAP is the Benefind online portal, which provides Kentucky families access to public assistance benefits and information online. This includes discovery of eligible services, seamless account management, and coordinated benefit application. Benefind allows for management of a number of public assistance programs in addition to CCAP, such as Medicaid, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and KTAP (Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program).

Given that 93% of CCAP consumers receive at least one other type of public assistance, the portal will allow families to have easier, increased access to their benefits with a single point of entry. The improved productivity from utilizing the online portal is expected to allow for more efficient customer service, fraud reduction, cost savings, and improved error rates.

Expanded benefits now include:

1. Homeless families have **90 DAYS TO SUBMIT** verifying information with the CCAP application
2. **TEEN MOMS** who are in school or training can **KEEP CCAP** for up to 3 months during a break in their education or training
3. Parents or guardians **OUT OF WORK** can **KEEP CCAP** for 3 months but must be actively looking for work
4. Parents or guardians who **LOST THEIR JOB**, had their hours reduced, or stopped attending training or education classes may **KEEP CCAP** for 3 months to allow them to look for work, resume work, or attend a training or education program
5. Parents or guardians may **CONTINUE CCAP** for 3 months **DURING MATERNITY OR OTHER MEDICAL LEAVE**
6. **CO-PAYS ARE SET** when the CCAP application is approved and cannot be changed during the 12 months of eligibility

**ACCESS BENEFIND**

at benefind.ky.gov.
Let us “Remind” you!

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools’ Early Childhood programs have a new, simple way for you stay informed and up to date by receiving voluntary smartphone or email reminders for upcoming events, programs, and activities for families of children ages 6 and younger.

This reminder is available to anyone in Erlanger, Elsmere, and the surrounding area.

**TO JOIN,** visit www.remind.com or download the Remind app from your preferred app store and enter the information below when prompted:

**Class Name:** E3C – Early Childhood Local Events  
**Account Code:** g6b38K  
Or simply text the message g6b38k to 81010.

*Join Remind and stay in the loop!*

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**Erlanger-Elsmere Schools Early Learning Center**  
**Space currently available in nationally-accredited program**

The Early Learning Center at Erlanger-Elsmere Schools is eager to greet your child! The center currently has availability in the following classrooms:

- 2-year-old classroom  
- Pre-K classroom

The Erlanger-Elsmere Early Learning Center accepts state funding (CCAP) and charges no additional fees above the state co-pay. Breakfast, lunch, and snack are provided daily. The program is a 5-STAR nationally accredited program available year-round, 7:00 am – 6:00 pm.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:*

Shaun Cutchin, Director, 859.261.2181, scutchin@childreninc.org

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**Join us for Toddler School!**  
**Providing children an early start to school success**

Toddler School is a free program offered by Erlanger-Elsmere Schools for parents of children ages 12 months to 3 years designed to help develop language, motor, social, and listening skills through parental engagement activities.

**Ages:** 12 months – 3 years  
**When:** Fridays, 9:00–10:00 am  
**New 10-week session beginning January 2018!**  
**Where:** Arnett Elementary School

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:*

Darlene Hope, 859.342.2427  
darlene.hope@erlanger.kyschools.us

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**Reaching our youngest students**

**Kenton County Library’s Baby Fair**

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools’ Early Childhood Community Collaborative (EC3) representative, Mrs. Amy Cooley, was on hand as the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library hosted its first-ever Baby Fair. The event, geared toward families of children under the age of 2, featured mini classes on child care and enrichment topics, provided access to organizations offering new parent resources, and was a lot of fun!

Mrs. Cooley shared information with parents of the district’s future students about the importance of early learning, and the programs and support available through Erlanger-Elsmere Schools.

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**SHARKS... at school!**

Not many elementary students have the opportunity to get up close and personal with sharks at their school, but that’s exactly what happened when the WAVE Foundation’s Shark Smart program recently came to all of the district’s elementary schools.

Shark Smart works to educate students about sharks and debunk common misconceptions. Through a live shark encounter with the Shark Cart, students were excited, engaged, and educated about the wonders of aquatic life and the importance of conservation.

The Shark Cart is the only mobile shark touch tank in North America. Students were fortunate to experience it thanks to a generous grant from the Charles H. Dater Foundation, facilitated by Mrs. Theresa Goedde of the Kenton County Library.
For Evan Molitor, it was never a question. He was going to be involved.

Evan comes from a family that participates. His father, Steve, has been a fixture in the district for many years, dedicating untold hours coaching football, baseball, and basketball. His mother, Kelly, is a devoted, dependable participant in school parent groups. His older brother, Hayden, did it all: athletics, academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

It’s no wonder Evan is following in their footsteps. “It’s just something I’ve always done,” Evan said. “Having our entire family be so involved, it was never a doubt for me: we’re going to give the best effort we can in our community. I feel an obligation to help out.”

One major way Evan is proud to be involved this year is as student representative to the Board of Education, an honor bestowed upon the president of Lloyd’s senior class.

“One major way Evan is proud to be involved this year is as student representative to the Board of Education, an honor bestowed upon the president of Lloyd’s senior class. “I’ve been invested in this district for so long,” Evan said. “This seems like a place I can make an impact and be involved in what’s going on in the community.”

Beyond that significant role, Evan is active in Student Council and played a big part in pulling off Lloyd’s Homecoming festivities. As a member of the National Honor Society, he’s gearing up to “adopt” families for the holiday season. As if that’s not enough, Evan also plays baseball and basketball.

But Evan realizes his primary responsibility at Lloyd is making the most of his education. He participates in the School-Based Scholars program, which allows him to take NKU classes for college credit without leaving his school. Those, combined with his AP coursework, will set him well on his way to his sophomore year in college – all before he leaves high school.

While he knows his future is bright and his options are plentiful, Evan hasn’t hammered out all the details of where his path may lead. He is interested in pursuing a career in pharmacy and knows there are great options in the region. He’s keeping his eyes open and is confident he’ll figure it out.

One thing’s for sure: wherever he ends up, he’ll be active, involved, and making the most of his experiences. Evan Molitor is always doing something!
What could be better?
Grandparents come along to school

Each of the district’s elementary schools recently welcomed some of its students’ favorite people: their grandparents! Hundreds of grandparents descended on Arnett, Howell, Lindeman, and Miles to enjoy a meal together, participate in fun activities, pose for pictures, and have an overall great time. Grandparents relished spending time with their grandchildren. And students were proud and eager to show their grandparents their schools.

There’s no relationship that can quite measure up to the one between a grandparent and grandchild, and each school was pleased to recognize the important roles grandparents play in our students’ lives.

Are you a grandparent providing care for your grandchild?

Things sure have changed since your own children were little. The “Grandparents as Parents” Resource Guide includes useful information, helpful tips, and relevant resources that can help you now and down the road. Download the guide on the school district’s website, or talk to someone at your grandchild’s school about getting a copy. You’ll be glad you did!

Dinner’s ready!

Erlanger-Elsmere School District is pleased to continue offering a hot evening meal in each of the district’s cafeterias. Supper is served at every school on every school day, Monday–Friday, 3:00–3:30 pm. Any student is welcome, and the meal is offered free of charge.

Working together “collectively”

This bench represents more than just a place to sit. It’s a symbol of hard work and collaboration!

Miles Elementary and Lloyd High School students, parents, and teachers worked together last spring to collect plastic caps and lids to highlight the importance of caring for the environment and recycling. The motivated group collected 760 pounds of plastic, which was used to make two benches through the GreenTree Plastics’ ABC Promise Program: a 6-foot blue bench for Miles and a 4-foot gray bench for Lloyd. The benches were in place when students returned for the new school year.

ABC Promise is a cap and lid collection and recycling program designed by and for school children as a unique, hands-on learning experience. For a children’s organization to qualify for participation, it must pledge that students will be involved in every step of the process: collecting, sorting, and weighing the collected materials. Furthermore, the pledge requires that children feel ownership of the finished product. The bench is to be placed where the children want it to be placed so they can show others and be proud of what they have accomplished.

“Knowing that an estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic waste enter the oceans from land each year, it is good to know that you have helped eliminate some of that waste,” said Mrs. Barbara Taylor of Miles and Mrs. Melissa Stolz of Lloyd, who worked together to coordinate the project and serve as student mentors.

“We want to thank the communities of Erlanger and Elsmere for your support and partnership with Miles Elementary and Lloyd High School.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit greentreeplastics.com.
An attitude of gratitude in the season of giving

The kindness and generosity shown to the children of Erlanger-Elsmere Schools is often so abundant it is difficult to measure, particularly during this season of giving. It is, perhaps, equally challenging to quantify the impact this heartfelt consideration has on the lives of our students and their families. How fortunate the children of Erlanger and Elsmere are to grow up in a community that cares.

Civic Organizations

The American Legion adopts district families for the holidays each year and hosts a Christmas party for elementary school students. The Erlanger Lions Club’s impact is evident in such projects as coordinating food drives and distributing it to needy families in the district during the holidays, conducting free eye screenings, assisting families with the purchase of eye glasses, and sponsoring numerous other projects like Tichenor’s CrossFit program. The Kenton County Rotary Club purchases dictionaries for all third grade students, sponsors district families with Christmas gifts, supports Interact Club at Tichenor and Lloyd, and provides winter accessories through the “Scarf It Up” program. The Ralph Fulton Ladies Auxiliary donates money for holiday gifts each year.

Local Churches

7 Hills Church spruces things up through its Heart the City initiative, and provides school supplies and teacher goody bags to start the school year. During the holidays, they donate Thanksgiving meals and adopt students for Christmas. For an hour every Saturday, Christ’s Chapel takes over Howell Elementary. Adopt-a-Block, now in its seventh year, provides activities, food, and prizes to everyone in attendance, free of charge.

In addition to school supplies, Erlanger Baptist provided a generous donation for Lindeman Elementary to purchase an online program to help with language and math. Erlanger Christian Church adopts students for the holidays each year, opens its doors each week to offer the Whiz Kids tutoring and mentoring program, and kicks off the school year with a donation of school supplies. St. Henry Church donates a large number of holiday gifts to district students each year, and also provides school supplies.

Police / Fire / Government Departments

For more than 20 years, Erlanger and Elsmere Police have treated kids to “Shop with a Cop,” a fun-filled day of shopping, food, treats, and a movie. Police and Fire Departments from both cities join forces for an annual softball game to raise funds for the school district’s Family Resource Centers.

The Erlanger/Elsmere Fraternal Order of Police provides significant financial support to each of the district’s schools. The Elsmere Fire Department adopts several families each year.

The Erlanger City Administration donates gift cards each year during the holiday season.
Generous Students

Lloyd’s National Honor Society and the school’s Journalism Staff “adopt” students in need for the holidays each year, while Student Council uses the proceeds from Homecoming to purchase and wrap several hundred gifts for younger students.

Members of Lloyd High School’s Senior Class buy and wrap gifts for children in need, then present them at a party – a Lloyd tradition since the early 1970s.

“Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person’s life.”
– Jackie Chan

Bicycles abound!

Riding a bicycle is a quintessential childhood experience. A number of our district’s students who otherwise may not have had that opportunity were elated and surprised last year by generous bicycle donations during the holiday season.

At Tichenor and Lloyd, 40 students received bikes through a true community effort. The Erlanger Lions Club and the Union Masons donated money to purchase bicycles. NKY Bridges donated 82 helmets, and the City of Erlanger provided bike locks. The bikes were assembled by Lloyd’s boys basketball team, coaches, school staff, and community volunteers. What’s more, each student who received a bike also received gift cards donated from Cinderella’s Closet, Jonna’s Community Project Fund, and their Fairy Godmothers.

In addition, for the past five years, a remarkably giving local couple (one of whom is a Lloyd graduate) has coordinated “Santabikes,” collecting money from friends, family, and local businesses to purchase bicycles for selected elementary school students. Last year alone, more than 80 students received a bike due to their significant efforts.

Thank you for supporting our students!

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools would not be able to provide children and families vital goods and services without the generous support of our community. For more information or to make a donation, please contact:

Lloyd Memorial High School
Maryann Moore, 859.342.5480

Tichenor Middle School
Karen Hughes, 859.342.2426

Miles Elementary
Lauren Parker, 859.342.5201

Arnett, Lindeman, and Howell Elementary
Tracy Molley, 859.342.2351

We are extremely grateful for the bountiful support that provides our students with the supplies they need in the classroom, the necessities they lack at home, and those delightful extras that make life so special.

Each and every donation makes a difference. We apologize if we have unintentionally omitted any of our valued supporters.

Area Businesses

Neighborhood restaurants, including Colonial Cottage and Skyline Chili, provide regular lunches, meals, and gift cards.

Mazak Company and Viox & Viox adopt students for the holidays each year.

Gary Williams Martial Arts collects and donates backpacks and school supplies.
MUSIC
to our ears

Whether or not a child is the next American Idol, their learning is bound to be enriched by music education. Countless research studies have shown that children who are exposed to this universally enjoyable subject benefit in ways beyond singing on key. Music helps develop language and reasoning skills; aids in memorization and coordination; and can improve engagement, discipline, and self-confidence.

For all these reasons and more, Erlanger-Elsmere Schools is proud to offer music education and enrichment for our students at all levels.

Elementary principles of music

Music education starts early for the students of Erlanger-Elsmere Schools. And the bar is high, even in elementary school.

Matching pitches vocally while reading rhythms and musical notes are common practice in the district’s elementary-level music classes, and students study composers and their works – from Igor Stravinsky and his Firebird Suite to Aaron Copland’s celebrated Appalachian Spring. Upper elementary students experiment with recorders and instruments, while lower elementary students focus on creating and performance. All of these activities create a solid foundation in the principles of music that students may build upon in middle and high school.

In addition to classroom instruction, elementary students have opportunities to participate in music enrichment after school hours. After-school choir programs at Arnett and Howell allow the schools’ music teacher, Ms. Michele Vansickle, to fine-tune the students’ sound and gives them a chance to sing songs that may be a bit more challenging. Most of all, it cultivates an appreciation of music at a young age.

“I have had small children tell me that they don’t like the music I have for them,” Ms. Vansickle said. “I explain that my responsibility is to expose students to a wide variety of music and musical knowledge with the hope that a few things will inspire them to look further into those things. I tell them I am here to allow them to perform and express themselves through music.”

Students find a voice

Students who enjoy vocal performance find plenty of opportunities at Tichenor and Lloyd. Under the direction of Mr. Matt Taylor, who is in his fourth year as the schools’ chorus teacher, students at Tichenor are able to participate in choir according to grade level, and Lloyd students may choose Concert Choir, Show Choir, or Chamber Ensemble.

Beyond the classroom, choir students participate in a number of community activities – nearly 20 throughout the past school year. Our student choirs have charmed audiences at events ranging from the City of Erlanger’s Heritage Day and Christmas Tree Lighting to the Community Choral Festival, at local churches, and at their own pops dinner concert. The Concert Choir has performed at the Kentucky Music Educators Association’s State Performance Assessment for the last two years, most recently earning a Proficient rating! Choir members also perform individually at local events and celebrations, and sing the National Anthem at local sporting events. Two students recently auditioned for America’s Got Talent.

This is an impressive resume for a group that only had nine students enrolled when Mr. Taylor took the reins. Today, 53 students are enrolled in the high school choir, enjoying all the benefits membership in such a group can offer.

“I believe choir gives an opportunity to enrich a student’s education and nourish their soul,” Mr. Taylor said. “I love to see the joy that comes to each student as they play an active role in creating music. I use choir to teach a lot of life lessons. My main goal is that we become better people because of our time together in class… After all, you cannot have a ‘choir’ by yourself. By very definition, we need each other to be successful.”

An instrumental part of student learning

Students interested in playing a musical instrument find a fulfilling creative outlet in Tichenor’s and Lloyd’s bands. Middle School band is a good introduction to playing a musical instrument and allows preparation for participation in Concert Band, Jazz Band, or Marching Band at Lloyd.

The Concert Band is an ensemble of woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments, performing arrangements of orchestral compositions, light music, and popular tunes. Marching Band is very similar, except its performances occur while standing and marching. Jazz Band is a smaller, less formal ensemble that focuses on jazz music.

Each band program’s goal is to provide every student with the highest quality music education through superior instruction and unique opportunities. Perhaps most importantly, it provides students with a lifelong skill and hobby.

MARCHING BAND celebrates phenomenal season

The Lloyd Memorial High School Marching Band had much to celebrate as the season concluded: the band placed in the top eight at the regional quarterfinals, qualifying for the state semifinals in Elizabethtown.

This achievement caps off a truly successful season, as the band took First Place in Class AA and swept the caption awards at four of its five regular-season competitions.

Way to go, Marching Juggernauts!
For Melissa and Jason Stolz, living and working in the Erlanger-Elsmere community sets their life in perfect harmony.

Jason grew up in Elsmere and attended Howell Elementary, Tichenor Middle, and Lloyd High School. After graduating in 1996, he served in the U.S. Air Force before returning in 2010 to teach in Boone County Schools. In 2014, Jason returned to his alma mater to fill the role of district music director, overseeing the middle and high school bands and serving as the Kentucky Music Educator Association’s District 6 Marching Band Chair. It is a fitting role, as he credits his early dream of becoming a music teacher to his exposure to the arts as a Marching Juggernaut.

“Coming home to be the band director at Lloyd and Tichenor has been such an honor,” Jason said. “I am so thankful that I can give back to the community that gave me so much through music.”

His wife, Melissa, also an Air Force veteran and a former Boone County School District teacher, now also works in Erlanger-Elsmere Schools: teaching integrated science, sponsoring the freshman class, and directing the Student Energy Team at Lloyd.

“We are proud of our athletes!

The Juggernaut football team was thrilled to open the post-season playoffs with a home game – something the team has done only twice in the last 13 years. A 43-6 first-round win over Green County capped off an impressive 7-3 regular season that ended with Lloyd as 2017 District Champions and ranked #7 in Northern Kentucky in the TriState Football poll. The Juggernauts’ season ended after the second round of the state tournament, when they lost to Monroe County, 35-20.

We are so proud of Lloyd senior cross country runner Ellie Robinson, who qualified to represent the Juggernauts in Lexington for the second year in a row. Ellie capped off an impressive high school career with a time of 23:16.20 in the KHSAA Class 1A State Cross Country Meet.

Rounding out the Stolz family’s harmonious relationship with Erlanger-Elsmere Schools are Jason and Melissa’s four children. Their son Lennon is a freshman at Lloyd who plays football, runs track, and plays trumpet. Paul is a sixth grader at Tichenor who plays football for the Erlanger Lions and also plays the French horn. Daughter Carrie is a second grader at Arnett, and their youngest daughter, Reagan, will begin kindergarten at Miles Elementary next fall.

Melissa and Jason recognize that the education their children have received at Erlanger-Elsmere Schools has been exceptional, and they are proud to play a part in such a district.

“You know it is a very special place when the entire district – from bus drivers and therapists, instructional coaches and guidance counselors to the many educators who have cared for each of our children – collaborates to support their unique learning needs,” Melissa said. “We would like to say how appreciative we are for the role each person has played in making this the very best home to have chosen for our family.”

We’re pleased to call you Juggernauts!

Lloyd Memorial High School welcomed many of its graduates home as guests gathered for the Alumni Association’s annual All-Class Reunion.

At the event, the crowd was entertained and inspired by iconic Bengals running back and guest speaker Ickey Woods (who even recreated the Ickey Shuffle!). Three members were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame for their community service and Juggernaut spirit: Arlene Dawson Palmer ‘58, Polly Lusk Page ‘69, and C. Ed Massey, ’85, pictured here with Jeff Niceley, president of the Alumni Association.

Polly Lusk Page has been a champion for children, dedicating her career to education and creating impactful programs that change the odds for children and youth in Northern Kentucky. Ed Massey is an accomplished attorney, longtime member of the Boone County Board of Education, and frequent speaker on relevant education topics in the region and across the country. Arlene Dawson Palmer’s commitment to her class is beyond reproach: she has been very faithful in keeping her class members connected and informed of Lloyd events.

We are pleased to call you Juggernauts!
Both Erlanger and Elsmere have recently welcomed new city administrators to lead general oversight of day-to-day operations.

Matthew Kremer was named Erlanger’s city administrator in September, 11 years after he began his career there. Mr. Kremer came to the City of Erlanger in April 2006 as a police officer, rising through the ranks to become police sergeant in November 2013. He remained in this role until being named city administrator.

Mr. Kremer brings 19 years of military experience to his new position, including 15 years in various leadership roles. He also served two tours in Iraq. As a major in the U.S. Army Reserves, he serves as executive battalion officer over 576 men and controls a budget of over $100 million.

“The thing I enjoy most about Erlanger is the people,” Mr. Kremer said. “They are very supportive. I believe I will be a positive influence to ensure the city continues to be successful and provide the best services to the citizens. I’m very proud of Erlanger and the kind of service that we are able to provide.”

Mr. Kremer is a resident of Ft. Thomas and is married with three children.

Matthew Dowling joined the City of Elsmere as city administrator in March 2017. He has devoted his entire career to public administration, previously serving as administrator for the City of Union, the City of Covington, and Sanitation District No. 1. Mr. Dowling is responsible for all general operations and functions of the City of Elsmere.

Mr. Dowling graduated from the University of Kentucky, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science-Public Administration, and then completed his graduate studies at Michigan State University. He has devoted much of his personal time to the Northern Kentucky community, serving on the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky, volunteering with Campbell County Boys & Girls Club, and participating in the Ft. Thomas Lions Club. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, horse racing, and spending time with family and friends.

Mr. Dowling and his wife live in Ft. Thomas.

### Upcoming events in Erlanger and ELSMERE

#### ERLANGER

**Visit the holiday train display!**
The City of Erlanger and the Cincinnati Northern Model Railroad Club are pleased to present a holiday train display at the Erlanger City Building, 505 Commonwealth Avenue.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8**
1:00–9:00 PM

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**
10:00 AM–6:00 PM

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**
12:00–4:00 PM

The display will feature model trains, a virtual reality ride, sound systems in several locomotives, and Erlanger Historical Society’s city railroad history.

**Don’t miss Santa Claus! Friday, December 8, from 6:00–7:00 pm**
Kenton County Library’s Stories & Crafts will be offered Saturday from 2:00–4:00 pm and Sunday from 2:00–3:00 pm.

Erlanger is excited to offer this holiday program free for the community, celebrating the city’s rich railroad history.

#### ELSMERE

**Christmas Party at Elsmere Senior Center**
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 4:00–6:00 PM**
Come join us for carriage rides and gifts from Santa!

Registration is required; the deadline is November 24, 2017. The photo receiving the most likes wins.

Don't miss Santa Claus! Friday, December 8, from 6:00–7:00 pm
Kenton County Library’s Stories & Crafts will be offered Saturday from 2:00–4:00 pm and Sunday from 2:00–3:00 pm.

Erlanger is excited to offer this holiday program free for the community, celebrating the city’s rich railroad history.

**Jimmie’s Rollerdome Skating Party**
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 5:00–7:00 PM**
115 Main Street
Join us for a fun night of free skating! All events are free for Elsmere residents and guests.

**Light Up the Park!**
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 5:00–7:00 PM**
Across from Elsmere City Building
Come for cookies, hot cocoa, and Santa as Elsmere lights up its new park for the holidays.

**Christmas Lights Contest!**
Does your house really shine during the holidays? Enter it in the City of Erlanger’s Christmas Lights Contest in three easy steps:

1. DECORATE your home/business with Christmas lights.
2. TAKE A PHOTO of your home/business decorated with Christmas lights and email it to joe.christofield@cityoferlanger.com no later than December 14, 2017, and include your name, phone number, and full address (must be an Erlanger resident/business).
3. VOTE and tell all your friends to vote on the City’s Facebook page (facebook.com/erlangerkygov) from December 15–21, 2017. The photo receiving the most likes wins.

It’s that easy!
Winners (1 residential, 1 business) will be announced December 22, 2017, and recognized during the January 2, 2018, City Council Meeting. Happy decorating and good luck!

**Come work in our schools!**
Our school district is actively seeking employees who are highly motivated, professional, and dedicated, and who want to make a positive difference in the lives of our students.

**BUS DRIVERS • FOOD SERVICE STAFF • SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

Please apply online through our district website at www.erlanger.kyschools.us. If you have questions about applying, please contact the Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education at 859.727.2009.

In addition, the 21st Century after-school program at Tichenor Middle School run by the Boys & Girls Clubs is seeking a part-time Program Assistant to support ongoing growth. Approximately 20 hours per week. To apply or obtain additional information, contact kdisibio@bgcgc.org or call 859.628.5966.
our vision

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools will provide essential opportunities for all students to reach their greatest potential.

our mission

It is the mission of the Erlanger-Elsmere Schools to embrace and attend to the individual needs of our students, regardless of the obstacles.

we like to hear from you!

Central Office .............. 859.727.2009
Lloyd Memorial High School .... 859.727.1555
Tichenor Middle School ........ 859.727.2255
Arnett Elementary ............ 859.727.1488
Howell Elementary .......... 859.727.1108
Lindeman Elementary ......... 859.727.1188
Miles Elementary ............ 859.727.2231
Bartlett Educational Center .... 859.342.2460
Erlanger-Elsmere Preschool .... 859.342.2427
or 859.727.2009

board of education

Tom Luken, Board Chair
Jeffrey Miller • Robin Cooper • Sarah Shackelford • John Christiansen

The Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Central Office, 500 Graves Avenue, Erlanger.

central office administrators

Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, Superintendent • Chad Molley, Asst. Superintendent
Laura Hellmann, Dir. of Special Education • Shawn Neace, Dir. of Pupil Personnel
Laura Deters, Chief Information Officer • Linda Holmes, Finance Director
Matt Engel, Supervisor of Instruction • Darlene Hope, Preschool Director