



# Essex High School

A Spirit of Excellence

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Damean Barfield, Principal  
Michael Larson, Assistant Principal  
Jennifer Peters, Dean of Students

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at Essex High School, the pride and joy of Tappahannock. The administrative team along with many teachers and staff have been diligently working this summer, to prepare for our Essex Trojans. We want this to be a great year as we chase excellence! We are hoping this newsletter will provide you with the essential information that you need during this busy but exciting time. We have done the following:

1. Updated our Essex High School Website - we have provided additional links which will provide you with lots of information. <http://ehs.essex.k12.va.us/> You will be able to access our School Quality Profile through the Parent/Student tab on the Essex High School website and through the Virginia Department of Education website. Be sure to take a look at the Administrative's team WHY!
2. Welcomed five (5) new members to our learning community: Ms. Andrea Sinclair, and Ms. Shanequa Holden, English teachers; Mr. George Page, Chemistry and Anatomy. Ms. Holly Beazley, Biology and Jesse Page, History.
3. Principal's Teas- I will be conducting these chat sessions throughout the year, and all of them are listed in the newsletter. Each Principal's Tea will give you an opportunity to enjoy a cup of tea, ask me questions, and learn more about EHS. Each session will be focused on a certain topic.
4. An intentional focus on cultivating a school culture that strongly promotes academic excellence. I look forward to meeting you and our new students.

Educationally yours,

Damean Barfield  
[dbarfield@essex.k12.va.us](mailto:dbarfield@essex.k12.va.us)

### **8th Grade Orientation**

- August 3, 2022
- 6 -7:30 pm
- Chromebook Pick-up
- Schedule Pick-up
- Building Tour

### **8th Grade Teachers**

Currently Vacant, Science 8  
Mr. Demetric Leeper, Math 8  
Ms. van den Ende, English 8  
Ms. Demi Fulcher, Digital Applications  
Ms. Vanessa Burns, PE 8

- We will start promptly at 6pm in the E.H.S. Auditorium

### **Junior and Senior Student Drivers**

- Must be a junior or senior.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Must complete an application for a parking permit with parent/guardian signature.
- Must pay the \$5 parking fee.
- Must have a current valid vehicle registration.
- Please submit all items at one time.
- See Mrs. Gillis with questions or email her at [mgillis@essex.k12.va.us](mailto:mgillis@essex.k12.va.us)
- REMEMBER the posted speed limit is 10 MPH
- Attending school regularly and on time each day is required.

Applications will be accepted beginning August 9, 2022.

### **School Safety**

The safety and security of our students and staff is and always will be a top priority. For your planning purposes, the only point of entrance after the late bell is the front doors. All other exterior doors will be locked throughout the day. Please be prepared to state your name and purpose for entrance into the school and, if requested, show a photo ID. Upon entrance, each visitor is to report immediately to the main office, to obtain a visitor's sticker by signing into our computerized system. Visits by students from other schools are not permitted. Lastly, each student will be required to successfully pass through our metal detectors as another preventative measure. Please have a conversation with your student about not bringing items that are prohibited, per the **Code of Student Conduct**.

A Crisis Plan has been developed for the entire school should an unforeseeable disaster occur. Our school staff will be trained and we will practice with students what to do in the event of an emergency. We will be certain to communicate our drills.

### **Important Student Picture Dates:**

- August 30 and 31, 2022                      Senior Picture Day from 8:30 - 3:30 pm
- September 9, 2022                              Underclassman Picture Day

### **Fee Collection Procedures and Dates**

- Grades 9 - 12 only
- August 9, 2022 from 4-6 pm.
- Please use the Commons Entrance
- Cash or Check payable to **Essex High School**
- See Mrs. Gillis in the Commons. [mjillis@essex.k12.va.us](mailto:mjillis@essex.k12.va.us)

### **PTSO Membership**

The Essex High School **Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO)** will set up a station on August 9, 2022 for membership sign-up. Parents and students are encouraged to join the PTSO and play an active role in supporting the school.

### **Athletics at Essex**

August marks the start of another school year. It also marks the beginning of fall sports at EHS. We are super excited to see the following fall sports in action: **Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Golf and Volleyball**. Any student interested in participating in a VHSL activity must have a completed athletic physical form on file. The physical must be dated after May 1, 2022. Please be advised that per the VHSL guidelines, student athletes must have passed 3 out of 4 courses the previous year, to be eligible. At EHS we have increased the academic eligibility required to participate in athletics. Effective August 1, 2022, student-athletes must have a 2.0 GPA. See Coach Jones, Athletic Director, with any questions. [tjones@essex.k12.va.us](mailto:tjones@essex.k12.va.us)

### **EHS Trojan Marching Band**

**EHS Trojan Marching Band** is bringing the energy to Tappahannock! Catch the new and improved Marching Trojans perform selections that will be sure to get you groovin' at our home football games and during local parades this Fall! They'll bring the pep, you bring the cheers! Ms. Ficklin, Band Director [lficklin@essex.k12.va.us](mailto:lficklin@essex.k12.va.us)

## **Transportation**

If you ride the school bus, that's an excellent way to avoid traffic jams on 17 or coming into town. Buses will arrive and depart each day from our bus ramp, which is directly in front of the building. Each afternoon, please be sure to listen to the afternoon announcements, to identify which "wave" your bus is on. Students are not dismissed until their bus wave is called. Each morning, please plan to arrive at your bus stop at least 5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time.

JROTC and CBGS buses will depart from the school by the Commons/Stadium Parking lot doors. Upon returning back to EHS, students will be dropped off in the front of the building.

## **NEW CELL PHONE POLICY**

On June 12, 2022, our School Board adopted a new cell phone policy for EHS. For your convenience the following firm expectations are in place:

- The use of electronic devices and cellular phones during the instructional day is prohibited.
- All devices must be turned off, stowed away and not visible during scheduled class time, instructional time and in the hallway.
- The power on devices must be turned off prior to entering school.
- Cell phones and electronic devices may be used when students are attending non-instructional after school events/activities as long as it does not create a problem or distraction.

## **Principal's Teas 2022-2023**

- ❖ **September 2, 2021 - What does instruction look like at EHS?**
- ❖ **October 7, 2021- PSAT, SAT, College and Post-Secondary Plans**
  - ❖ **November 18, 2021 - School Librarian...What can they do?**
    - ❖ **December or January - School Safety**
- ❖ **March 2022 - Everything you need to know about the NCAA Clearinghouse**

### **Compulsory Attendance**

- Chronic Absenteeism Rate is an indicator used towards our calculations for state accreditation.
- When a student accumulates five (5 ) unexcused absences, the parent will be contacted and letters will be sent home to resolve the student's nonattendance.
- When a student accumulates six (6) unexcused absences, an attendance meeting will be scheduled with parent(s)/guardian(s). A truancy notification will be provided and/or an attendance plan will be developed.
- When a student accumulates (7) or more unexcused absences, a complaint may be filed against the student and/or parents through Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. At this time, a judge may review your case and determine if other applicable measures are needed to get students to comply with the law and attend school regularly.
- The Virginia Compulsory Attendance Law requires students under the age of 18 to attend school.

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/prevention/attendance-truancy/index.shtml>

Excellence, all the time!