EARLY COLLEGE ALLIANCE ECA @EMU EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Summer 2017

Early College Alliance

Eagle News

A Word from... Dr. Fischer

Greetings from the ECA offices! I hope that summer has been enjoyable for you all so far. I have taken the opportunity for some time away--camping, playing with my kids, and relaxing with family and friends. Our family has a new addition: a puppy (actually, more like an adolescent dog, but she acts like a puppy)! So that has been exciting, too :) But we in the Main Office are back to work, busily getting ready for the coming school year.

Please note that this newsletter is the only one that will come to your mailboxes this year. Be vigilant for weekly ECA Listserve updates that will be sent electronically to the email addresses we have on file for you. These forms of communication are THE way that information is shared, and it is absolutely vital that students and parents/guardians keep themselves aware. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to ask.

On this very topic: included in this mailing is a letter with instructions for completing the Registration Gateway process for this year. Parents/guardians **MUST** update the student's record each year, making sure to provide the most current email addresses, telephone numbers, mailing addresses, and emergency information through the electronic system. Please be sure to complete this process by the deadline of **AUGUST 18**. If you have any trouble with this process, contact Ms. Jackson at 734-487-4290.

We are very excited about all of the opportunities that this new school year will bring, and look forward to seeing you (students and at least one parent/guardian) at our Back to School Kickoff on **Monday, August 28** at 6:30pm in the Student Center Ballroom.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Ellen L. Fischer, PhD

Registration Gateway ~ Online Registration UPDATE

As you know, the ECA program participates in a fully online system of registration, and we need your help! We are asking **all returning families** to update certain pieces of information via the new registration system. This online system streamlines communication and reduces the amount of paperwork we put in front of you.

All returning students will receive a unique need username and password (included in this mailing). Parents should follow the simple instructions to update your families demographics and other information.

This should take approximately 15 minutes of your time, and MUST be completed by August 18, 2017.

Please contact Mrs. Jackson in our main office if you have any questions: 734-487-4290 or jackson@earlycollegealliance.info.

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Common ECA Definitions

The Early College Alliance is a unique educational program, and as such, we have some unique vocabulary terms that we use to talk about our program. Here is a reminder of key definitions that will most likely apply to you (or your student):

Completing Students: *Students who plan to finish the ECA program in a given calendar year; students are referred to by their completion term and year (ie. "a Fall 2017 Completer).*

Educational Development Plan (EDP): *This document lays out a course of study over a student's entire career at the ECA, beginning with the first semester in ECA courses. CORE Advisors and students regularly refer to this document to track progress toward both the ECA Program Completion Requirements and the EMU General Education Requirements. Students are expected to become experts at both short- and long-term planning utilizing this document.*

Fifth (or +1) Year*: Many ECA students plan to attend our program for an additional year. The regulating authorities (State and Federal governments) do not penalize districts for students who attend a fifth year of high school as long as these students will earn 60 college credits at the end of that extra year. This is why some of our students do participate in commencement activities before they actually are eligible to receive their diplomas.* ***Please note that each district makes its own determination about whether fifth-year students may participate in commencement prior to earning their diplomas.***

Good Standing: *Students with Good Standing status have an overall* ***term OR cumulative*** *GPA of 2.0 in EMU classes AND are expected to complete the ECA program within one year of their district's commencement activities. These students may participate in their district's commencement activities even if they will not be earning their diploma at that time.* ***Please note that each district makes its own determination about whether fifth-year students may participate in commencement prior to earning their diplomas.***

Returning Students: *Students who are no longer "new students;" typically, these students are in their 2nd and 3rd years of the ECA program.*

Testers: *Those students who will be taking the Michigan Merit Exam (SAT, Work Keys, and M-STEP tests). These students are named "11th Graders" in Powerschool, whether or not they would have actually been in 11th grade. Students should be Testers in the year PRIOR to their last year at ECA. PLEASE NOTE: MOST NEW STUDENTS WILL NOT BE TESTERS, EVEN IF THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN IN 11TH GRADE. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CORE ADVISOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS.*

New ECA Class

We are very excited to offer a high school level Engineering Technology course this year, to run both fall and winter terms during the 2017-2018 school year. Students who are a good fit for this course are those interested in exploring Engineering as a major (and career), who enjoy hands-on learning, and who are "traditional" first-year enrollees (10th/11th grade for 17-18 school year) or Retuning students with an "ECA" schedule type. The course is the first in a pilot program designed to provide a bridge from the ECA high school courses directly into Eastern Michigan University's Engineering programs. If you (or your student) are interested in this course, please go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffCEyjKnujHPdGxcadZUb2eTyH9vZuCwxXpYQht-jnlpASqA/viewform to read more about the course and to express your interest (please email Ms. Jackson at jackson@earlycollegelliance.info for a direct link to this form). There are limited seats available, and Dr. Fischer, in consultation with CORE Advisors, will make the official selection of students for this course.

Sticker (Book) Pick-up — (for Fall EMU Classes ONLY!!)

Students with an EMU class: the EMU sticker pick-up dates for text books will be September 5-8 in King Hall's Multi-cultural (MC) Lounge. Stickers will not be available before this time frame. The process for picking up books for Fall classes is as follows:

Step 1: Come to the MC Lounge in King Hall (across from 221 King) on any of the following days/times:

Tuesday, September 5 ~ 10am - 3pm
Wednesday, September 6 ~ 10am - 3pm
Thursday, September 7 ~ 10am - 3pm
Friday, September 8 ~ 10am - 3pm

Volunteers will be staffing the sticker pick-up during those times ONLY. They will give you a Fall '17 sticker for your ID that will allow you to pick up your books at the **Student Center Bookstore** (Ned's is CLOSED).

Step 2: Go to the **Student Center Bookstore** for your books. The **Student Center Bookstore** will not issue any books to ECA students unless the student can show an ID card with the current semester's sticker.

For WCC Books: See Mr. Cooper to obtain your sticker and specific information regarding acquiring your text books.

ECA Tutoring

*The Early College Alliance provides **free** tutoring to all ECA students Monday-Friday from 3:30-5pm in 122 King Hall. We will keep a log that tracks student participation/attendance in tutoring. CORE Advisors can access this information as well, and can share this with parents, as requested.*

Fall 2017 Parking Passes

Hang tags sales for commuter, residence hall and apartment students begin Monday August 1, 2017. Hang Tags may be ordered and purchased online at http://www.emich.edu/parking.

Starting August 1, 2017, hang tags may be purchased in person at the Parking Department located in the Public Safety Building at 1200 Oakwood between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30pm.

Commuter hang tags must be displayed on the rear view mirror by September 11, 2017. Any vehicle that is parked in a designated lot on or after September 11, 2017 without a valid hangtag, on the rear view mirror will be ticketed.

Cost for the fall semester parking pass (valid from September through December 2017) is $155* and can be paid at that time or the cost can be added to your EMU student account. Students are responsible for paying for the cost of the parking pass.

* Price subject to change

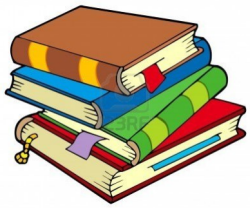
PARENTS: *Want to Lend a Helping Hand to the ECA? We are about to begin the new school year and there are several things we need help with! Take your pick—we couldn't do this without you!*

Memorial Garden

The ECA Memorial Garden needs your help! Please sign up here: https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/409044ca8ac2fabfd0-memorial or email Ms. Jackson to help water and care for the garden throughout the summer months. There is a lot of construction in the grounds outside our building, and none of the sprinkler systems are working. Therefore, the health of the garden is entirely up to Mother Nature and us--and there is **NO ONE** signed up to water during the entire month of August. Please sign up to help, and scroll way down for dates throughout August. Students, feel free to assist with this. ☺ Thank you!

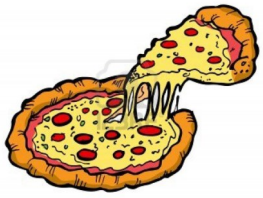
EMU Book (Sticker) Pickup Volunteers

Attention Parents!! Come help at the Fall sticker pickup for EMU books, going on from **September 5-8.** It is an easy job checking off names as students pick up stickers to receive their books. Please sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ca4af2aa31-fall4 or contact Ms. Jackson at jackson@earlycollegealliance.info or 734.487.4290 if you can help out. Thank you! ☺



Pizza Thursday Volunteers Needed

We are recruiting parent volunteers to help with Pizza Thursdays. It is a fun, easy job! Help hand out pizza slices and beverages during lunch on Thursdays. If you can lend just one hour of your time, we would really appreciate your assistance. We have a sign-up sheet online at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ca4af2aa31-pizza6 or contact Ms. Jackson at jackson@earlycollegealliance.info or 734.487.4290. Thank you!



Lunch Room Help Needed

We are hoping to make our "Lunch Room" in King 122 more suitable for our staff and students, and we are reaching out to our community in case folks have things to donate to this cause. **Items on our list include**: Full-sized refrigerator, hand-dishwashing set-up (dish soap, drainer, towels, scrubbers), napkin holder/dispenser, organizer trays/boxes. If you are a good room organizer, we'd love help getting this all set up in time for the school year, too. Please email Mrs. Jackson if you'd like to help with any of this: jackson@earlycollegealliance.info. Thank you!

Counselor's Corner

I hope that you are enjoying your summer!

Just a few reminders for Completers.....

- You can start applying to colleges/universities. Remember you are applying as a freshmen.
- You only need a letter of recommendation (LOR) if you are applying via Common App or if an admission representative request a LOR; however, you will need 2-3 LOR when applying for scholarships.
- You should submit a Brag Sheet to your recommender, when requesting a LOR.
- If you sent me a copy of your Brag Sheet, you will also need to send me a request via Common App.
- Please refer to your College Planning Booklet monthly to make sure you are on track.
- If you were not satisfied with your SAT scores, you should be registering for the October 7th test. You must register by September 8th. www.collegeboard.org
- Remember the SAT and ACT are both college entrance exams. www.actstudent.org
- When you are registering for the SAT or ACT, make sure you list the colleges/universities that you would like to receive your scores.
- If you are undecided about your intended major, please schedule an appointment with an EMU Career Coach: www.emich.edu/uacdc/students/

CEEB Code: 233841

Don't forget about ECA's Peer Mentoring Program!! As you are enjoying your summer and thinking about the upcoming school year, please consider becoming a Mentor (Returning students only) or a Mentee. We have a great group of Returning Students who are eager to mentor other students — to give advice and friendship particularly to newer students who could benefit from talking to someone who has "been there." You could benefit from having a mentor if you:

- have questions about anything ECA-related (ECA classes, EMU classes, credentialing, majors, balancing aspects of life as an ECA student, anything "soft skills" related, etc.).
- are curious about how the program works as you move through
- want the perspective of someone who has gone through similar experiences
- could use a listening ear--someone who "gets" the ECA program, but from a student (and not adult) perspective.

The way that you connect with a mentor is by letting you CORE advisor or any other ECA staff member know.

If you are returning student and would like to become a Mentor, please email Ms. Squirewell at squirewell@earlycollegealliance.info.

Back to School Kickoff Reminder!

Monday, August 28, 2017

6:30pm - 8pm

EMU Student Center Ballroom. Please plan to attend as this event is **MANDATORY** for all returning students *and parent(s)*!

PLEASE NOTE: Students who DO NOT attend the Back to School Kickoff will NOT be cleared for a Fall '17 sticker for books!

ECA Calendar Updates*

*Calendar subject to change

August 22	ECA Parent Involvement Hosts a New Parent/Guardian Social 6-7:30 MC Lounge in King Hall
August 28	Back to School Kickoff - Student Center Ballroom 6:30-8pm (**MANDATORY** for ALL returning students & parent/guardian)
September 5	New ECA Student First Day Welcome –1/2 Day (Begin in McKenny Ballroom)
September 5-8	Fall Book (Sticker) Pick-up, 10pm-3pm, MC Lounge (for EMU Classes Only)
September 6	First Day of ECA and EMU Classes
September 14	New Parent Orientation - McKenny Ballroom, 6pm (**Mandatory** for new students & parent/guardian)
September 20	Half Day for ECA Classes - 12:10 Dismissal (Academy will be Afternoon Adventure Day)
October 6	Teacher Work Day — No ECA Classes; ONLINE CLICK Activity Due
October 4-18	Red Card Week — Red Cards for EMU Classes only Due 10/18!
October 10	ECA Alumni Celebration - Student Center Ballroom, time TBD
October 11	Soft Skill Review Day — No ECA Classes; CLICK Activities 9-12 (Mandatory for 1st year students), Noon dismissal Academy will be Afternoon Adventure Day
October 12 & 13	Student/Parent Conferences — No ECA Classes OR CLICK Activities; Academy Lab Days for 9th grade ONLY: Conferences individually scheduled with CORE Advisor
October 25	Half Day for ECA Classes - 12:10 Dismissal (Academy will be Afternoon Adventure Day)
October 27	Harvest Hangout—King Hall's MC Lounge 3:30-5pm
November 3	ECA First Year Field Trip - Detroit Institute of Arts
November 5	EMU Community United Mural Painting Day
November 20-21	Soft Skill Credential Days; CLICK Activities 9-12 (Mandatory for 1st year students), Noon dismissal
November 22-26	Thanksgiving Recess - No School Students & Staff, ECA Offices Closed
December 13 & 14	ECA Classes - Final Exams Dec. 13 (1st Period: 9-11am, 2nd Period: 12-2pm), Dec. 15 (3rd Period: 9-11am, 4th Period: 12-2pm)
December 15	First year CLICK Celebration Luncheon 11:30-1 (Parents/guardians invited — SAVE THE DATE!); Online CLICK activities; ECA Last Day
December 20	EMU Last Day
December 20 - Jan. 2	Winter Break - No School Students & Staff, ECA Offices Closed

ECA Contact List

Faculty Member	Role	Office Phone	Office	Email
Ms. Aden	Math Instructor, CORE Advisor	734.487.4291	226A King Hall	aden@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Benya	Science Instructor, CORE Advisor	734.487.8154	225A King Hall	benya@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Bishop	Social Studies Instructor, CORE Advisor	734.487.3125	226 King Hall	bishop@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Brink	Teacher Consultant & CORE Advisor	734.487.8039	325 King Hall	brink@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Burki	Econ & Math Instructor & CORE Advisor	734.487.2299	323 King Hall	burki@earlycollegealliance.info
Mr. Cooper	Assistant Director - Operations	734.487.4290	221A King Hall	cooper@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Cramer	Science Instructor, CORE Advisor	734.487.1080	327 King Hall	cramer@earlycollegealliance.info
Dr. Fischer	Principal	734.487.8650	220 King Hall	fischer@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Jackson	Sr. Administrative Assistant	734.487.4290	221 King Hall	jackson@earlycollegealliance.info
Mr. Meadow	Science Instructor	734.487.0441	324 King Hall	meadow@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Peet	English Instructor, CORE Advisor	734.487.7540	326 King Hall	peet@earlycollegealliance.info
Mr. Shapiro	English Instructor, CORE Advisor	734.487.8578	326A King Hall	shapiro@earlycollegealliance.info
Mr. Smith	Technology & Student Information Specialist	734.487.2134	223 King Hall	smith@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Spindt	Math Instructor	734.487.0441	324 King Hall	spindt@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Squirewell	School Counselor	734.487.3127	322 King Hall	squirewell@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Uikey	Science Lab Coordinator & CORE Advisor	734.487.3120	226 King Hall	uikey@earlycollegealliance.info
Ms. Wilson	Math Instructor, CORE Advisor	734.487.8622	225 King Hall	wilson@earlycollegealliance.info