

July 17, 2017



Dear First-Year ECA Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the first installment of the ECA Welcome Newsbrief. The ECA Admin staff has returned from our summer break, and we are busily preparing for our upcoming school year! I will be writing letters throughout the remainder of the summer to provide information, answer questions, and otherwise keep in touch with you prior to the start of the school year.

In addition to all the things you'll be doing this summer--hopefully things like relax, vacation, work a summer job, be with friends and family--this summer is also one in which you're preparing for a big transition—switching schools to come to EMU's campus for a major head start on college.

Our faculty and staff are very skilled at working with students from all levels of initial skill (I'm talking about both academic and “soft skills”) to enable them to be successful in college—but I would like to encourage **every incoming student** to use a little bit of summer's time to give yourself a boost before school starts.

Research shows that reading proficiency is a significant component of college readiness—and is often under-emphasized in high school, at least to the degree required in college. ***Commit to reading a minimum of 30 minutes per day this summer to build your reading skills and stamina.*** In addition, our English department is recommending three specific texts that can also boost students' and family members' understanding of the “ECA Way:”

Mindset: A New Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck.

Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well by D. Stone & S. Heen

Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us by Daniel Pink

Summer is also a good time to brush up on basic math skills. If you have forgotten your multiplication tables, or are rusty on basic facts and operations, ***practice daily***. Our math teachers recommend these websites to give you some structure to your practice:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/arithmetic>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/algebra-home/pre-algebra>

A little extra attention to building your academic muscles this summer will go a long way to helping you prepare for the start of the school year!

This summer, our office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm, with our lunch hour from 12-1pm, and at other times by appointment. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view the ECA website, and for our calendar. Stay tuned for the next post about upcoming first-semester events for first-year students!

There are a few dates that I would like to share with you so that you can get them on your calendar as soon as possible. This is not a complete list, but is as comprehensive a fall schedule as is available so far!

| Calendar Updates | |
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| Tuesday, Aug. 1 | New Student Orientation: 8am – 1pm “Traditional” ECA enrollees 8am – 3:30pm ECA 9 th Grade Academy enrollees Check in, 8 – 8:30am Parents/gdns attend with students 8:30 – 9:00am (then students only) Cookout lunch 12 – 1pm 9 th Grade Academy Students ONLY—ELA Assessments 1 – 3:30pm |
| Tuesday, Aug. 22 | ECA Parent Involvement Hosts a New Parent/Guardian Social, 6-7:30pm King Hall Multicultural Lounge |
| Thursday, Aug. 24 | 9 th Grade Academy Students ONLY—Challenge Day, 9 – 4pm |
| Wednesday, Aug. 30 | “Traditional” New Students ONLY—Challenge Day, either 8:30 – 12 or 12:30 – 4pm depending on CORE Advisor |
| Tuesday, Sept. 5 | ECA Starts! Half day for ECA classes, schedule as follows: 9:00 – 9:20 All-School Welcome in McKenny Ballroom 9:30-10:00 1st 10:10-10:40 2nd 10:50-11:20 3rd 11:30-12:00 4th |
| Wednesday, Sept. 6 | First day of EMU classes First full day of ECA classes |
| Thursday, Sept. 14 | Parent Night, 6-8:30pm in McKenny Ballroom |
| Wednesday, Sept. 20 | Half Day for ECA Classes, schedule as follows: 9:00-9:40 1st 9:50-10:30 2nd 10:40-11:20 3rd 11:30-12:10 4 th *NOTE: Academy schedule may be slightly different from the above |
| Friday, Oct. 6 | Teacher Work Day—No ECA Classes |
| Wednesday, Oct. 11 | Soft Skills Review Day—No ECA Classes; CLICK Activities & Academy Adventure Day 9-12 (mandatory for 1st Year students), Noon Dismissal |
| Thursday, Oct. 12 & Friday, Oct. 13 | Student-Parent Conferences—No ECA Classes OR CLICK Activities; Academy Lab Day for 9 th grade ONLY; Conferences individually scheduled with CORE Advisors |
| Wednesday, Oct. 25 | Half Day for ECA Classes, schedule as follows: 9:00-9:40 1st 9:50-10:30 2nd 10:40-11:20 3rd 11:30-12:10 4 th *NOTE: Academy schedule may be slightly different from the above |
| November 3 | First Year Fall Field Trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts |
| Mon., Nov. 20 & Tues., Nov. 21 | Soft Skill Credentialing Days; CLICK Activities 9-12 (mandatory for 1st Year students), Noon Dismissal |
| Nov. 22-26 | THANKSGIVING BREAK (No EMU or ECA classes) |
| Wed., Dec. 13 & Thurs., Dec. 14 | ECA Classes—Final Exams Wed., Dec. 13—1st period, 9-11am; 2nd period, 12-2pm Thurs., Dec. 14—3rd period, 9-11am; 4th period, 12-2pm |
| Friday, Dec. 15 | ECA Last Day Online CLICK activities & First year CLICK Celebration Luncheon (parents/guardians invited—SAVE THE DATE!) 11:30am-1pm |

Event details are updated on our online calendar, which you can find on our website: <http://www.earlycollegealliance.info>. Click on the “Calendar” link at the top. (Click [HERE](#) to link directly to the calendar).

Finally, I would like to invite you to reach out to me with any questions you have as you/your student head into this new adventure at the ECA. I hope to be able to address some specific questions in future newsbriefs.

I look forward to hearing from some of you this summer as we prepare for our newest group of ECA First Years!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen L. Fischer".

Ellen L. Fischer, PhD
Principal, ECA