



Educational Horizons Charter School
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PTO Meeting Minutes – December 13th, 2022 6:30 pm

Welcome –

Alicia Savela (VP of PTO) welcomed all parents gave out dress done passes.

Morning mile continues to be a success. Reminding parents that drop off is at 8am no earlier and children should not be left if an adult volunteer is not present at the time of drop off.

Participation days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Morning Mile is an opportunity for students (with parent participation strongly encouraged) to get some physical activity before classes begin. Volunteers are needed and interested parents can contact PTO President, Megan Naugle. As a reminder, Country Day employees are not allowed to take EHCS kids that arrive early for morning mile.

Please continue to participate in box tops and Amazon smiles. This can be used as volunteer hours and proceeds go to the PTO fund.

Review of minutes- Gerardo Capote and Tanesha Wilson- Minutes were emailed with November news and are available for review online. Additionally, a copy will be kept in the school's office.

Focus – Mrs. Cheryl Turner

Social and emotional learner (SEL). Mrs. Turner reviewed definition: SEL helps children grow and develop positive relationships. It incorporates knowledge, skills, and attitude that helps us throughout live. The 5 key components are:

- **Self-awareness:** “Students learn to understand their own strengths and weaknesses, as well as see their behavior’s influence on other people. An example of this in practice would be coaching and simulation sessions where students would recognize how certain actions may affect others so that they can learn how to perceive their own feelings as well as what other people may be feeling” (artinaction.org).
- **Self-Management:** “Students learn to regulate their own emotions and behaviors, which includes processes like stress and time management, motivation, and academic/personal goal setting, all extremely important for when children grow and need to manage their own schedules and business. Students can learn about these types of behaviors from older, more experienced students. By pairing students together in a mentor-mentee relationship, the mentee will learn about essential academic skills and building self-esteem and confidence, while the mentor will share skills they’ve learned from

experience and guide the mentee through common issues like imposter syndrome and insecurity” (artinaction.org).

- **Social awareness:** “Students learn to understand social behavioral norms, recognize other people’s emotions, and empathize with people of all different backgrounds and cultures. An example of an activity strengthening this skill would be introduction and inclusion activities that involve participants sharing their favorite hobbies, fun facts about themselves, etc.” (artinaction.org)
- **Relationship skills:** “Students learn how to foster healthy relationships and clear communication with other individuals and in groups. This can be practiced by participating in a variety of activities, such as team sports, games, and group projects. Important skills like active listening, team building, and conflict resolution are used here, which are essential inside and outside the classroom” (artinaction.org)
- **Responsible decision making:** “Students learn how to make their own independent choices, whether it be about personal or academic, when it comes to behavior and speech. By taking into consideration social norms and differences, potential consequences, and safety concerns, students will be able to make respectful and well thought out decisions. A way to actively practice responsible decision-making is to solve qualitative problems in a variety of ways to understand different methods and ways of thinking” (artinaction.org).

Students are taught SEL skills in class and SEL interventions are incorporated in their learning. The goal is to model positive relationships to help children develop positive self-awareness and inspire, and engage them.

SEL is adapted by EHCS and practiced through Conscious discipline. Conscious Discipline was created by Becky Bailey. Conscious Discipline teaches adults how to create an environment of safety and togetherness. Helps adults and children to manage their thoughts and feelings. EHCS and C. Day has been using it for about 5-6years. Teachers look at the behavior of the kids and try to find out why they do the things they do. Involves a lot of talking with the kids to find out the root causes of the behaviors.

Classroom use “I love you rituals” which helps to build resilience. An example of a book used in the class is **Shubert Rants and Raves**. (Shubert, a lightning bug, forgets his permission slip on field trip day. He rants and raves in efforts to avoid the consequences of his forgetfulness. When Shubert tries to avoid the consequences of his actions, Mrs. Bookbinder helps him discover how to take responsibility for his behavior and learn from his mistakes).

ECHCS has also invested into **Social Studies weekly** (Wellbeing) and added Tina Reyes a Licensed Mental Health Counselor to the staff. She gives lessons using SEL techniques to the class. She also has small groups and personal session as needed. Grace and Courtesy in the Montessori classroom. We treat the children to with respect and we teach them to respect themselves as well as others.

Ms. Hays reviewed some things teachers and kids do to promote conscious discipline:

- Morning greeting
- Kindergarteners have a safe space to help them calm down if they need it
- Use of calming sticks are given to kids and involves deep breathing exercises and stretching.
- Each class has the “peace rose book and the peace rose” they have a lesson on the peace rose and then they have a rose/talking stick that gives them each get a turn on expressing their feeling.
- How full is your bucket? This book in each classroom. It kids to think about how other people are handle things and how much you are adding to their bucket.
- 3rd and 4th grade have a wellness check every morning
- 1st and 2nd grade talk about the different characteristics of peacefulness: The use their fingers and hands to talk about the characters: Citizenship, caring, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, and fairness
- Feeling chart is also used to help kids express how they are feeling
- Calming strategies reviewed: Pretzel, balloon, Drain, and S.T.A.R
- 5th and 6th grade: daily morning walk. Allows them to talk to each other. 1 kid gets to take down the flag (citizenship) and fold them. 1 kid also does the morning announcement (responsibility), They also do a multiple literacy and group work so that kids can get to know each other’s. They also so a Thanksgiving thankful tree.

Parents allowed to ask questions on SEL and how they can incorporate/carry over this type of discipline at home with the kids.

Treasurer’s Report –

1. **Account Balance** - \$7009.81. \$380. 86 from T-shirts, \$240 on yearbook so far, and 306.85 from coins.
2. **Box Tops and Amazon Smile-** Parents are encouraged to continue using Box Tops and Amazon Smile to allow the school to benefit. Adding Educational Horizons to an Amazon account comes at no additional cost to families. Parents can even ask family and friends to as Educational Horizons to their accounts. In Amazon Smile, Educational Horizons can be found under Satellite Beach. There are also electronic versions of Box Tops that can be accessed virtually. If parents are interested in learning more about these passive income sources for the school, they can connect with any member of the PTO Board.

Vice President’s Report –

- **Morning mile-** Megan Naugle Tuesday and Thursday (volunteers needed) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e44a8a82dafacf8-morning>
- **December-Giving project** will be sharing Center. Pickup on Friday at 1:10pm and deliver to Daily Bread afterwards
- \$250 profit made from Art **to Remember** proceeds will go to the PTO balance.
- **Year book** \$20 if ordered now and \$25 if wait until after the
- **School T-Shirts** are ordered: Cost for shirts: \$12 for kids and \$18 for adults. T-Shirts can only be worn on P.E days and should not be used as uniform replacement.

- **Message board arrived.** Will need volunteers to help with installation and make a covering roof for the board. Plans to have this done over winter breaks.
- **Alarmtronics** ordered. 2 speakers will go over the two eating areas. This will help with the school security and will tie into the classroom speaker system.

Principal's Report

- **Winter Break** will be Dec 22nd – January 4th
- **Luncheon** for teachers hosted by room 7 on January 4th
- **State Testing** will be on January 10th and 11th
- **Science Fair** on January 12th for grades 4-6. Judges are needed from 9am to 12pm. Judges should have a background in science, engineering, math or computer. Interested patients please contact Mrs. Turner (principal) or Arlene at the front desk.
- **Onsite visits.** There will be a site visit from BPS on January 17th. School is preparing for that visit. NIPSA will be visiting Country Day on January 31st. Clean up project for school grounds will be done prior to this visit. Volunteers needed
- **Literacy week** at Barnes and Nobles: Fundraiser K-6 Wednesday 21st of January 5pm to 7pm. Vouchers will be given out. Please attend and invite your friends and family members. Small percentages of all purchases with vouches will go to the school's PTO fund.
- **Field trip:** Kennedy Space center field trip was a success. Kids enjoyed themselves. One parent loved it so much they gave a donation and paid for most of the fees for next year.

Teacher's Report: Ms. Hays, moved to the beginning of the meeting

Concerns and questions: None raised at this time

Next Meeting: January 10th 2023

Respectfully Submitted,
Tanesha Wilson