



Winter Edition 2021-2022  
December - February

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School Hours:

Students should arrive to school by 8:40am but not before 8:35am.

Breakfast students may enter door 12 at 8:30am

First bell rings at 8:40am

School begins at 8:50am

**Calendar:**

Dec. 16

Be Festive Day

Dec 17

Pajama/stuffed animal Day  
SOAR celebration  
Coffee with Mrs. Ness

Dec 20 – 31

NO SCHOOL Winter Break

Jan 3 – 7

PTO restock the classrooms

Jan 7

5<sup>th</sup> grade DARE graduation

Jan 17

NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 24-28

Kindness Challenge Week

# Elm Creek News

Greetings Elm Creek families,

Elm Creek staff and students continue to do great work! After winter break, we will be participating in The Great Kindness Challenge. This is a great community event for the students to participate in and celebrate the joy in being kind.

In February we have Parent/Teacher Conferences. We look forward to seeing all Elm Creek families attend.

Our partnership with Eastman Nature Center continues with curriculum supported and fun filled field trips.

Your child's report card will be available electronically on ParentVue on December 15th. We will not be sending a printed copy home. If you do not have a ParentVue account, please contact the school office.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season!



The lost & found is overflowing with lots of sweatshirts, coats, hats and gloves. Please encourage your student to check the lost and found if you are missing items. Parents are welcome to come in and check the lost and found during regular office hours 7:30 - 4:00pm.

**Unclaimed items will be donated on December 17th at 3:30pm.**

**COVID update:** As we navigate into 2022, we will continue to wear face masks and distance when able, along with other layers of mitigation. We appreciate your ongoing support and efforts to keep Elm Creek a safe learning environment for our students. If you have COVID related questions, please contact Staci Jones at 763-425-0577 / [jones@district279.org](mailto:jones@district279.org).

Nurse Marta says THANK YOU for the clothing donations. It is very much appreciated!

Jan 24

PTO General Meeting

Jan 31

NO SCHOOL – Workshop Day

Feb 16

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Feb 18

PTO Family Paint Nite

Feb 21NO SCHOOL – Conference  
Release DayFeb 22 & 24

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Feb 28 – Mar 4

Mexico Project Supply Drive

We will teach and  
support all our  
students to SOAR:

Strive to do your best

Own your Actions

Act Respectfully

Ready to Learn



## Recess/Winter

Winter weather has arrived! ALL students will go outside each day for recess unless the temperature, or wind chill, is below zero, or it is raining. Please have your child dress appropriately with the knowledge that they will be going out to recess daily.

Please contact Kelly Deines, our School Social Worker, if you need resources for winter outerwear. You can reach her by calling the school office at 763-425-0577 or email [deinesk@district279.org](mailto:deinesk@district279.org).

### PBIS Corner: Teaching Expectations

At Elm Creek Elementary, we will support positive behavior in a consistent manner to create a safe and effective school environment in order to maximize student achievement and social-emotional competence of ALL students.

We will teach and support all our students to SOAR:

Strive to do your best

Own your Actions

Act Respectfully

Ready to Learn

Behavior and expectations, like all skills, need to be explicitly taught, modeled, and practiced. At the beginning of each year, students are introduced to our Elm Creek SOAR matrix, which includes the expectations in different locations throughout our school building. Teachers use this matrix to teach students what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like to be in different areas of our school. In addition, teachers and students then work together to create their own classroom matrices. These expectations are retaught and practiced at different points throughout the year.

Here is our matrix:

	~ SOAR Like an Eagle ~			
	Strive to do YOUR Best	Own Your Actions	Act Respectfully	Ready to Learn
Classroom	Take pride in your work	Follow directions Be honest	Treat others with kindness Keep personal space	Do my job Stay focused Work cooperatively
Hallway	Go directly to your destination	Keep the hallway clean	Use Voice Level 0	Line Basics
Recess	Follow playground rules	Play safely Follow directions of adult supervisors Take care of equipment	Get along with others Be a problem solver	Return equipment when you are done Line up quickly when you hear the whistle
Bathroom	Follow bathroom expectations	Wait your turn Leave the bathroom clean	Use Voice Level 0 or 1 Keep to yourself and respect privacy Keep lights on	Go, Flush, Wash, Leave
Cafeteria	Eat lunch using manners	Get everything you need before sitting down Keep table and area clean Put silverware, garbage, and trays in proper place	Use Voice Level 2 Listen to supervisors Raise your hand for help from an adult	Listen and respond to adults Stay seated and eat your food



### Do you want your child's picture to be in the yearbook?

If you selected Data Privacy and/or No Photo Release when completing the back-to-school registration process, your child will not be included in the yearbook. If you would like to change your mind and reverse the Data Privacy and/or Photo Release, log into ParentVue and make the change in the registration tab. If you need assistance contact Staci in the office.

You might be wondering how you can support PBIS at home...here are some great ideas!

- 1) Have a family meeting to identify the positive social behaviors that happen in your home and to identify some social behaviors that may need improvement. For example, "in our home we do a great job of making our beds in the morning, but we could get better about putting dirty dishes in the dishwasher."
- 2) Work together to create a family matrix that can be used at home. Identify the expectations that your family considers valuable. Include all voices at the table because research shows that when children are given an opportunity to help make rules and expectations at home, they are more likely to keep them.
- 3) Take time to review the matrix and discuss what expectations are being met and what work or changes need to be done.

Here is an example of a family matrix:

PBS Home Matrix							
	Getting up in the morning	Getting to school	Clean-up time	Time to relax	Homework time	Mealtimes	Getting ready for bed
<b>H</b> HELP OUT	Make Your bed Clothes in hamper	Have your back pack, lunch, notes, keys	Do your chores	Clean up after yourself Play quietly	Put your things in your backpack when finished	Set the table Put dishes away	Brush your teeth Dirty clothes away
<b>O</b> OWN YOUR BEHAVIOR	Get up on time Get cleaned up and dressed on time	Be ready to leave on time	Clean up after yourself	Ask before you borrow Ask to change stations	Complete your homework on time Do your best!	Use kind words and "I statements" Recognize mistakes and apologize	Get to bed on time!
<b>M</b> MANNERS COUNT	Try a morning SMILE! Thank your parents for helping	"Thanks for the ride" "Have a nice day"	Ask politely for help	Respect others things Offer to share	Ask for help respectfully "Thanks for the help"	Please and thank you Use your napkin	End the day with nice words and thoughts
<b>E</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Y</b>

Here is a link to a home matrix template. Please make a copy first!  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lyE9\\_UilGtxQyVFSu-GtXOYG1eeCbNuQ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106543788770171207482&rtfpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lyE9_UilGtxQyVFSu-GtXOYG1eeCbNuQ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106543788770171207482&rtfpof=true&sd=true)

Have fun!  
The PBIS Team