

# JC McKenna Middle School School Newsletter

April 2019

Families of JC McKenna,

Happy Spring (finally)! I hope that everyone was able to enjoy Spring Break and had a chance to relax and unwind a bit. The long winter has been wearing and we are looking forward to more time outside, track season beginning and more hours of sunlight.

Forward testing continues throughout the month of April. Please help your student be prepared by getting plenty of rest, eating breakfast and reminding them to put forth their best effort. Students should continue to bring headphones for the testing.

April 2 ELA

April 8/9 Social Studies (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)

April 10/11 Science (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)

April 12 Science (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)

April 16/17 Math

April 25/26 Math

Thank you to everyone for dropping students off on First or Second Street and avoiding the staff parking lot. We appreciate it!

I found a Facebook group that I feel is extremely beneficial to families that allow their child(ren) to have social media accounts. Although the best thing for our kids is to keep them off of social media altogether, this isn't the easiest in today's society. Therefore; we need to educate ourselves as our kids are savvy. Kids make mistakes (adults do too) on social media and we have to help guide them to make better choices. If you are on Facebook, I would recommend you adding the group **Parenting and Technology**. They don't post often so you won't be overwhelmed, but the information that is posted is helpful and informative.

Referendum update... Thank you again for vote yes!

The staff of JC McKenna have been busy meeting with staff from Bray Architects the past few months. The design is coming together extremely well and we are all excited about the progress and looking forward to the new building. Soon the staff will be discussing furniture needs and picking out décor. We continue to discuss plans for the end of this school year and the start of next year in regards to where classrooms will be located. We haven't been able to make any final decisions yet as we are waiting for the structural engineers to share the next steps. Our goal is to keep all students on campus next year with the exception of our Physical Education classes which will be held at Theodore Robinson Intermediate School, TRIS. We will provide busing as needed for all students.

As part of the staffing portion of the referendum, we were able to add a full time ELA position for next school year. This will allow for all seventh and eighth grade students to have ELA every day for a full block. Spanish will now be during the specials block and students will begin taking Spanish in sixth grade and continue through eighth grade. Mrs. Hoffman will be teaching Spanish to all three grade levels. Mrs. Fanta will join Mrs. Demrow teaching eighth grade ELA. The seventh grade ELA position will be filled as soon as possible with the new hire joining Mrs. Yoerger. Thank you to the school board for voting yes to this important position and thank you again to the community for voting yes for the referendum.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or fun stories that are too good not to share. We appreciate you sending your child(ren) to school each day and we also appreciate your support.

Mrs. Joanie Dobbs

## Important Dates

**April 1..... Students return**  
**April 19.....7th gr. TOGA Day**  
**April 22.....Prof Devel Day**  
**(NO SCHOOL)**



## Contacting JC McKenna Middle School

### Main Office Hours

7:15am-3:45pm

### Telephone Extensions:

Principal, Mrs. Dobbs.....882-3302

Attendance Voicemail ...882-3301

School Guidance Counselor:

Mrs. Holm.....882-3304

School Social Worker:

Mr. Mike Czerwonka....882- 3346

307 S. First Street

Evansville, WI 53536

**Fax:** 608-882-5744

**Website:** [jcm.ecsdnet.org](http://jcm.ecsdnet.org)

### Nondiscrimination Statement

The Evansville Community School District prohibits harassment or discrimination against any pupil in any program or activity on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual

## Attention Parents and Students

**Please bring headphones to school  
for the Forward Exam on April 2!**

If students don't have headphones, they will  
be provided during testing

### Mission Statement

“Educating and engaging the whole  
student”

To create a stimulating, caring and  
socially responsible environment that  
encourages students  
to reach their individual potential

## **MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATIONS IN 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HEALTH CLASSES:**

Your child will be involved in a mental health presentation regarding depression and suicide during the month of April. Mrs. Hannibal, the school psychologist, will be teaching about the signs and symptoms of depression (focused in 7<sup>th</sup> grade) and the warning signs of suicide (focused in 8<sup>th</sup> grade). Both topics will be interwoven to some degree in both grades, since they are so interdependent. Information will be shared, resources discussed and an opportunity for a private conversation will be offered at the end of the presentation.

The focus of the program (Signs of Suicide) is around educating our youth about recognizing the signs of mental health. **ACT – Acknowledge** that your friend has a problem at it's serious, **Care** – showing them that you care and want to help and **Telling** a trusted adult of your concerns. Depression looks different in pre-teens and teens than it does in adulthood. Signs for you to look for as a parent are:

**Sadness or hopelessness**

**Irritability, anger, or hostility**

**Tearfulness or frequent crying**

**Withdrawal from friends and family**

**Loss of interest in activities**

**Poor school performance**

**Changes in eating and sleeping habits**

**Warning signs of suicide may look like:**

- **Talking about suicide**
- **Making statements about feeling hopeless, helpless, or worthless**
- **Significantly worsening mood over days**
- **Preoccupation with death**
- **Taking unnecessary risks or exhibiting self-destructive behavior**
- **Out of character behavior – behavior that appears odd or vastly different for your child**
- **A loss of interest in the things one cares about**
- **Visiting or calling people one cares about to say goodbye**
- **Making arrangements; setting one's affairs in order**

**Giving prized possessions away**

We greatly appreciate the ability to spend time talking about mental health and what signs/symptoms to look for with our middle school youth. If you ever have concerns or questions about these topics or your child specifically, please feel free to contact one of the pupil services staff members (Meaghan Hannibal/school psychologist at 608-882-3361; Jennifer Holm/school counselor at 608-882-3304 or Mike Czerwonka/school social worker at 608-882-3346.)

## A note from pupil services...

Peers play a central role students' lives, especially in middle school. Relationships change. Conflicts happen. Mistakes are made. Students are growing more independent, but still need adult guidance to navigate their complex relationships online and in person. See some tips below on helping your student with social media and peer pressure.

### Q & A A perfect image online

**Q** My eighth grader is new to social media. When she sees classmates' posts, she thinks they have perfect lives. Help!

**A** Suggest that your daughter compare scrolling through social media posts to watching a movie trailer. The trailer doesn't tell the whole story—it just shows scenes that will attract viewers' interest. On social media, children (and adults!) tend to share happy moments, not ones that are boring or embarrassing.

If your daughter feels jealous of a classmate's vacation pictures, for instance, have her think back to a trip she took, perhaps when you went camping last summer. Ask which moments from the trip she would and would not want made public.

Also, set limits on your child's social media use. Maybe she can check her accounts once after she finishes homework and then log off for the evening. Kids need time away from social media to experience real life—not the lives their friends are "creating" online. 👍



### Ways to handle peer pressure

Peer pressure can be positive when friends motivate your middle grader to read a good book or work out. But when he's pressured to do things that *aren't* good for him, he needs to be able to resist. Share these strategies.

**Listen to instincts.** If your tween is pressured to do something he knows isn't right (shoplifting, bullying), suggest that he ask himself, "Would I want my parents to know?" or "Is this safe (legal, kind)?" If the answer is no, he should listen to his instincts.



**Practice responses.** Together, brainstorm ways to say no, such as, "No thanks, I'm not into that" or "I don't want to get kicked off the swim team." Also, help your child think of ways to get out of uncomfortable or unsafe situations like being pressured to try alcohol. Agree on a phrase he will use in a call or text to you if he needs a way

out. Example: "Can you put my clothes in the dryer?" That's your cue to pick him up right away. 👍



# 6th Grade News

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

**Mr. Tom Bethke** 882-3328

Math

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**Mrs. Renae Smith** 882-3322

Reading/Language Arts

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**Mr. Greg Vossekuil** 882-3329

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**Mr. Trent Schmick** 882-3335

Art

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**Ms. Erica Mitten** -3314

Special Education

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- Parents, please continue to check over your child's assignment notebook even if the signature requirement has been lifted. This helps everyone stay informed about what is being assigned for homework as well as any upcoming tests or projects.
- Please ask your son/daughter how they are doing with their supplies, especially when it comes to pencils. Many students seem to be all out of their own.
- We encourage students to keep the habit of daily reading strong during Spring break.
- Our remaining Forward Exams for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts will be April 2. Math will be April 16/17 and 25/26, with make-up testing spread throughout. Please make certain your child gets enough rest and has a good breakfast prior to each day's testing.

## Homework Help!

- 6th Grade Success Club meets every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 pm. This club is staffed by 6th grade teachers. Students with late work will be asked to attend by Wednesday. Contact your child's Team Time teacher if you have any questions. We take pride in providing many opportunities for students to complete work or even skill work.

## Science

Science Olympiad is still going strong! Some teams are really showing off their science knowledge! We just finished a quick unit about how to measure volume and now will be moving into studying chemical and physical changes. This will include several labs where students will be using chemicals properly. At the end of this unit and as part of their test, students will be required to teach their parents about the unit. Parents will also be evaluating their student! A very different way to show off a student's knowledge than using the old paper and pencil. Just a reminder

that due to track starting, I am not available after school. If a student needs to make up a lab, a test or needs extra help this must be done during their lunch period, Foundations time or during their study hall. I am reachable by email as well. As always, thank you for helping your student become a better science student!

$$V = L \times W \times H$$

## Social Studies

In Social Studies we have been focusing on the history of the geography of the United States. Students are now experts about the British Colonies, the American Revolution, and the creation and functioning of our government. But what about the geopolitics of North America? In other words, how did 13 states become 50 states? We will answer that question and consider the complications and the legacy of the territorial struggle for North America during the 19th century.

ges in  
re!





## Language Arts

Students have just finished their second bend in our Social Issues Books Clubs and are reading book after book! They have had lots of options to choose from including choices that address stereotypes related to poverty, religion, age, and race to name just a few. Reading literature has been shown to increase people's ability to empathize with others, a necessary

component for connecting with, respecting, and being kind toward one another. Our sixth-grade readers have been learning how to analyze how power, perspective and conflict affect characters and their relationships. We hope their study of social issues through literature has given them new insights into others' experiences.

After break and completion of Forward testing, students will begin a writing unit where they will be comparing and contrasting themes from

literature. A final project will be writing children's books. Students have the option to purchase a blank hardcover BARE book for \$3.00 which they can use for this project. (Other students will have tag board and white paper to use.) These make wonderful Mother's and/or Father's Day gifts! We will be collecting the money after break through the end of April. In early June, students will share their stories with second grades at Levi-Leonard, another Evansville tradition.

## Math



### Regular math

classes are beginning Chapter 8 of BIG IDEAS. Chapter 8 is the study of surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids. Students will be using formulas to find surface area and volume. Ask your child if they have done any math extra credit. Check out my YouTube lessons for extra practice or help on math skills. Calculators will be

used in this chapter! Please make sure your child has a calculator at school. We also have begun the 6th Grade Forward Math Test!

**Advanced Math** students will be working with circumference and area of circles, along with perimeter and area of composite figures in Chapter 8 of BIG IDEAS. Students will be working with the formulas for circles and they will be learning the difference between the radius and the diameter of a circle. Check out my YouTube lessons for extra practice or help on math skills. Cal-

culators will be used in this chapter! Please make sure your child has a calculator at school.

### Math 24 Team

was led by Xavier Diebold with the overall 1st place finish and Isaiah Tishler with the 2nd overall finish and Collin Keyser with the 4th place overall finish. Evansville competed against 5 other teams. A good time was had by all. Congrats!!

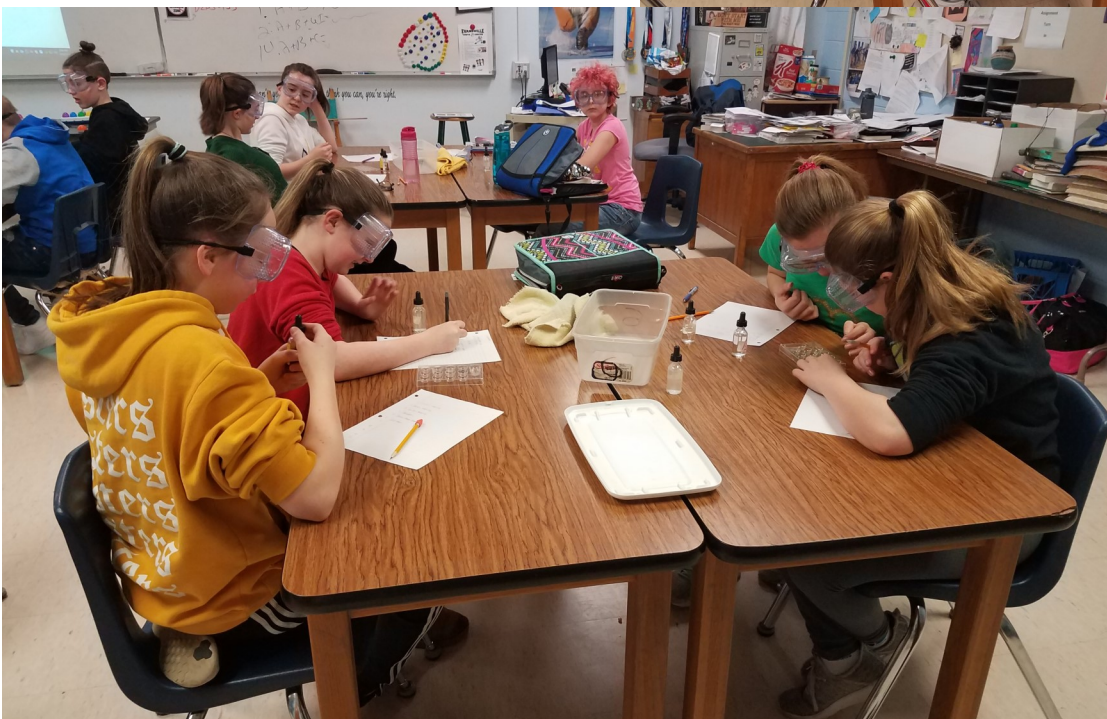
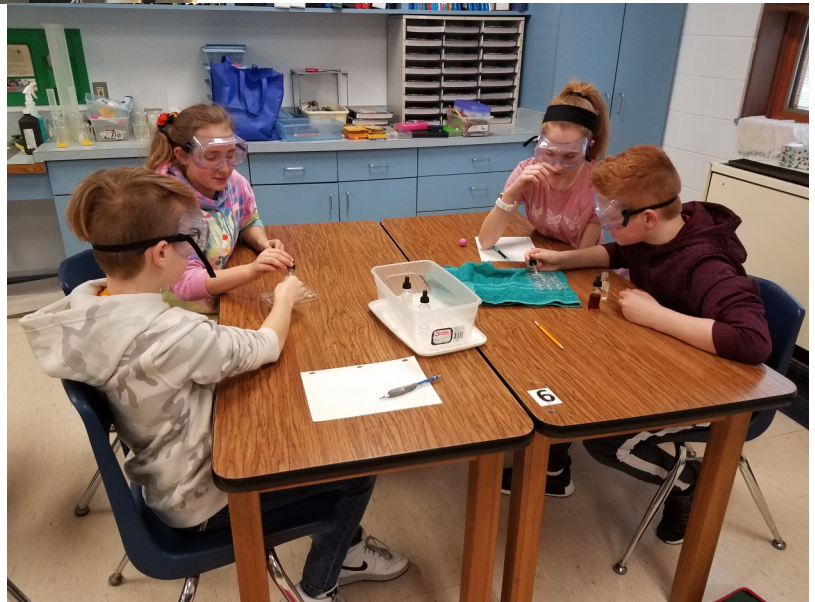


## Art

6th Grade Art is off to a fantastic start. Students are engaged in the projects and seem happy to finally get to have art! The Sixth graders are working on two projects. In the first project, students are creating an imaginative Color Wheel. Each of the 12 colors will be mixed using only the 3 primary colors. Complimentary colors are also part of the design. Complimentary colors are two colors located opposite each other on the color wheel. (Example - blue and orange). In the second project, students will be creating a ceramic bowl using the press form mold technique. A variety of glazing techniques will be explored and applied to bowl to create the design and color.

Thanks,

Mr. Schmick [schmickt@evansville.k12.wi.us](mailto:schmickt@evansville.k12.wi.us)





# 7th Grade News

## 7th Grade Team

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**Mrs. Carla Hoffman** 882-3348  
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**Mrs. Kelli Ours** 882-3324  
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**Ms. Mallory Isbel** 882-3336  
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## Science

We are finishing our Circulatory System unit and are beginning Genetics. Be on the lookout for information about their upcoming Science Project!

## ELA

In April, we will begin our medieval unit. Students will select one of the following books to read during this unit: *The Midwife's Apprentice*; *Catherine, Called Birdy*; *Matilda Bone*; *The Door in the Wall*; *Song of the Sparrow*; *The Tales of King Arthur*; and *The Sword and the Circle*. Students will each receive a calendar with reading assignments and due dates for this unit. Additionally, we will be writing a variety of different poems.



## Math

7<sup>th</sup> grade math next unit is on constructions and scale drawings. Students will be studying different types of angles. We will also be looking at triangles and quadrilaterals. Finally, we will be looking at different types of scale drawings; maps and house plans.





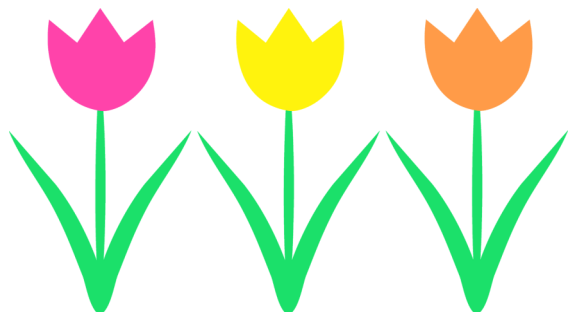
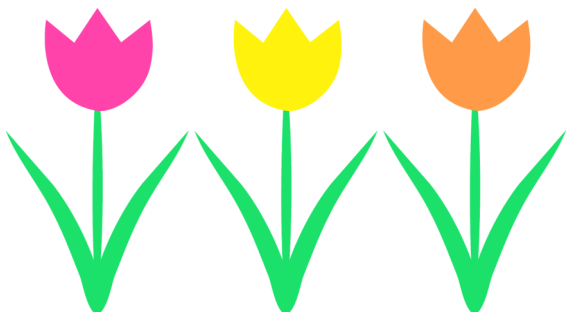
# 7th Grade News

## Computer Applications 7

Welcome to the last tri-core rotation in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We have already begun to dive deeper into the Microsoft Word software to learn more of its applications in real life. Each of our activities spotlights a tool that they can use during the remainder of their formal education here in Evansville as well as beyond in college, tech school or the workplace. Preparing students for the future is what we focus on! **Happy Spring Break!**

### Spanish

Students in 7th grade Spanish will be finishing up our unit on places and activities after break. Our next unit will be on food. Students will learn how to talk about the meals that they eat and the foods that they like and do not like. Students will also be starting a reader's workshop unit in my class on Hispanic literature. They will pick at least two books to read over the course of 6 weeks and collect their thoughts on the novels in a reader's workshop notebook. They will take part in discussions on their books in the classroom as well.



# Specials Classes

## Specials Team

**Mr. Kendall Buttchen** 882-3316  
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**Mr. Darren Demmin** 882-3309  
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**Ms. Leslie Ferrell** 882-3320  
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**Mr. Bob Harsevoort** 882-3334  
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**Ms. Cathy Kruckenberg** 882-3308  
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**Mrs. Meghann Proper** 882-3332  
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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Solo & Ensemble was a huge success! Congratulations to all of our amazing musicians. You made Evansville proud!

## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, May 9th at 7:00PM - Seventh/Eighth Grade Band Concert

Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 PM—Sixth Grade Band Concert

Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30PM - Sixth Grade Chorus Concert

Tuesday, May 21st at 7:30PM - Seventh/Eighth Grade Chorus Concert

## 2019-2020 BLUE NOTES AUDITIONS

Auditions for next year's Blue Notes will be during the last three weeks of school. Any student signed up for 7th or 8th grade Chorus class is invited to audition for this advanced group. Blue Notes is for 7th and 8th grade chorus students who want a challenge. We rehearse during the school day but students are expected to rehearse on their own as well. More information will be available soon!

Photos of Dannika Lewis, Reporter and Anchor for News 3 Now This Morning, speaking to JC McKenna students last Friday to kick off our documentary film project.



# 8th Grade News

## Composition/Literature

The 8th grade ELA classes have been working on writing informational argumentative essays. They just finished up their first essay in this unit and are now moving towards a stronger, more difficult topic where they will be doing extensive research to find their information and write an essay on whether or not child soldiers should receive amnesty. This unit ties in well with what students are learning and working on in social studies. After this unit, students will transfer back into a major reading unit where they will study dystopian societies and follow a character through a series.

**ELA FORWARD Exam** In Comp/Lit and Spanish classes : April 2nd.

## Science

After Spring Break, look for more work on the Earth History Timeline. Hopefully, if the school year has not yet gone extinct, we will also tackle units on Space, Weather and Climate.

**Science FORWARD Exam** In Science Classes : April 10th, and April 11th or 12th

## Spanish

Students in 8th grade Spanish will be learning the parts of the body and health terms. This is both a useful and fun unit!

## World Geography

After spring break '19, students will be traveling to Europe to explore its very influential geography, history and culture.

**Social Studies FORWARD Exam** In Geography Classes : April 8th or 9th

## Math 8

After a whirlwind March of pi activities and visiting the world of Pythagoras and his theorem, students will be studying all about linear equations—Graphing, writing, identifying, and interpreting linear equations. They will then explore systems of equations and functions.

**Math FORWARD Exam** In Math Classes : April 16th or 17th, and April 25th or 26th.

## Algebra

Polynomials and Quadratics! We'll use a number of methods to FOIL polynomial equations. We will also get to graph all kinds of parabolas. We'll see how changing parts of the equation changes the graph. Then, we'll start solving quadratic equations using a variety of methods. Ask your student how his/her pi group achieved and if they are going to be attending the pi party this month!

## Tech Ed

For our first unit, students will be studying robotics. They will be learning the purpose and uses of robots in our society, describe their effects on humans in terms of safety and economics, and investigate a career related to robotics. Then, they will design, build, wire, and program both open and closed loop systems, use motors and sensors appropriately to solve robotic problems, and troubleshoot a malfunctioning system using a methodical approach.

## 8th Grade Team

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**Mr. John Hanson** 882-3340  
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**Mrs. Gretchen Kopf** 882-3343  
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**Mr. David Kopf** 882-3319  
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**Mrs. Brittany Shotliff** 882-3315  
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# Battle of the Books



Battle of the Books teams did an incredible job this year! Our school battle was a tight race with five teams scoring within 10 points of each other. Our top placing team went on to compete against other schools across the state. The books ranged from classics like *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie, to pop-culture books like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney. Out of 161 teams, JC McKenna placed 40th. **Nice job!**

# EVANSVILLE High School Theatre 2019 MUSICAL

A huge cast  
featuring  
4th, 5th, 6th grade  
&  
EHS students!



**It's simply  
Fantasmagorical!**

## 4 Performances!

**May 3 & 4 @ 7:30pm**

**May 4 & 5 @ 2:00pm**

**Tickets go on sale**

**Monday, March 18**

**\$12 Adults**

**\$8 K-12 Student/Child**

*To purchase tickets after March 18*

**call: 608-882-3582 or email: ehstheater@evansville.k12.wi.us**

Tickets will also be sold at the box office  
one hour before each performance

Evansville High School Performing Arts Center / 640 South 5th Street / Evansville, Wisconsin

Music and Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman  
Adapted for the stage by Jeremy Sams and Ray Roderick / Based on the MGM Motion Picture  
Ian Fleming's Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)



# Evansville Youth Center

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2019

Craft of the Week: Origami Bunnies

1—Wii Wakeboarding

2—Boxing Bag

3—Boxing Bag

4—Singles Pool Tournament

5—Singles Pool Tournament

Craft of the Week: Glitter Eggs

8—Surprise Visitor

9—Fishing in the Park

10—Race Cars

11—Let's Cook

12—Charades

Craft of the Week: Easter Bunnies

15—Frisbee in the Park

16—Library Alison

17—Mystery Activity/Permission Slips Due

18—Skeeball Tournament

19—GAGA Ball

Craft of the Week: Slime

22—FIELD TRIP

23—Movie

24—Challenge Us

25—Challenge Us

26—Party!

Craft of the Week: Rubberband bracelets

29—NERF wars

30—NERF wars

1—May Day

2—Scavenger Hunt in the Park

3—Mario Kart Tournament