



SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars and join us for these great events:

April 6-13 - EMHS E-Term (experiential learning week)

April 7 - EMES Dessert Theatre, 7:00 p.m., EMES Campus

April 10-13 EMMS Explore Week

April 23 - EMES Earth Day Extravaganza, 2:00 p.m., EMES Campus

April 28-30 - EMMS presents: "Charlotte's Web" 7:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. (30th only)
EMS Auditorium

May 1 - Parent Forum, 7:00 p.m., EMS Commons

May 5 - Fore The Flames Golf Tournament, 8:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
flights, Heritage Oaks Golf Course

May 5 - Junior/Senior Banquet,
7:00 p.m., EMS Dining Hall



TODAY

Volume 34, No. 4
April 2017

Let the children come...

Can You See It?

by Paul Leaman, Ph.D., Head of School

Picture an unseasonably warm February afternoon. Laughter echoes under the covered bridge where children excavate treasures buried in Menno Run last fall. Across the way, friendly competition on the Gaga Court and bouncing balls on the hardtop indicate EMES students are out enjoying the fresh air during recess. Fort builders are gathering materials from the campus "no mow zone" and creative structures are taking shape at the woods' edge. Three high school students stroll toward the bridge, each carrying books to read to clusters of kindergarten children who scamper from climbing bars to the laps of their reading mentors. Grass stained knees, happy chatter, and rosy cheeks are the telltale signs of childhood creative play and strong neural connections happening in the brain. All of this is happening because of our specially designed K-12 campus and new elementary school made possible by you, a community of generous people believing in the future and promise of children through the *Let the Children Come* campaign. Can you envision this scene and sense the special programs happening within and around our shared facilities?

The illustrated timeline on page 2 summarizes our campaign progress goals. Our silent phase began with EMES faculty and board giving at 100% participation. We secured these generous stretch-gifts first before reaching out to others to emphasize the strong community buy-in of this project. Community leaders are now also stepping forward during the quiet phase with encouraging support. We look forward to announcing in June the expected scope of this project.

Everyone's help is needed through large and small gifts. As children move about



Music Teacher Joy Anderson shares the love of making music at EMES. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

Continued on page 2.

faith

excellence

integrity

service

Continued from page 1.



our new classrooms and expanded campus we want it to be obvious that their school opportunities are made possible by a generous community. We plan to recognize everyone who participates in *Let the Children Come* in a way that inspires creativity and has students seeing their cloud of witnesses who promote the values of EMS.

LTCC Steering Committee is ready for the "loud" phase! May-December 2017

Led by our LTCC Steering Committee, this public phase seeks to give all EMS friends, near and far, an opportunity to participate. Monthly meetings began in March to plan events, gatherings, and meetings with individuals to invite participation and bring success to *Let the Children Come*. The Steering Committee desires all of us to rally behind upcoming activities aimed toward meeting the LTCC funding goal.

Parents: Kathleen Graves, Sean Hole, Sarah Kratz, Jill McGlaughlin, Melissa Stoltzfus

Grandparent: Lois Forbes

Faculty: Jodi Beachy, Heidi Byler

Board: Matt Weaver

Staff: Maria Archer, Mary Golden Hughes, Paul Leaman, Mary Kaye Slonaker

Consultant: Rebekah Basinger

Join us in daily prayer for the future of EMS and the *Let the Children Come* campaign and do not hesitate to contact me at leamanp@emhs.net or (540) 236-6012 if you would like join in this exciting project!

Are you interested in participating in the next 100 years of promise for EMS? Here are ways to make this vision a reality.

Ways to Support LTCC

Cash – Tax-deductible up to 50% of adjusted gross income.

Donor Advised Fund – Strategically create a DAF and distribute funds at a timely moment for a worthy cause.

Appreciated Stock – Gifting appreciated stock allows you to give more and benefit from tax incentives.

IRAs & Pensions – After age 59½ withdrawals may carry no penalty and the income tax can be offset by charitable deductions. Age 70½ and older can make Qualified Charitable Donations of up to \$100K, tax-free.

Life Insurance – A charity can be named the beneficiary on a life policy no longer needed and provide the donor a charitable deduction.

Real Estate – Gifts of property to EMS can avoid capital gains tax and give a charitable deduction for the full value of the property.

Matching Gifts – A match gift can encourage others to give. Some corporations offer matching gifts for employees.

Estate Gifts – Known designations for EMS allow long-term financial planning confidence when considering loan payback options.

In-Kind – Can you offer skilled labor/services? Contact Paul Leaman at (540) 236-6012 or leamanp@emhs.net.

Music Spotlight

A Hundred Years of Music

by Elwood Yoder

For a hundred years, our lives at Eastern Mennonite School have flowed together in endless songs of praise and adoration toward God. Through music, which lifts us above earth's lamentations, we catch the sweet though far off hymn that hails a new creation. When we sing or create stirring instrumental harmonies, storms cannot shake our inmost calm while to that Rock we cling. Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can we keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife of a century, we hear the music ringing. It finds an echo in our souls, though we grew up in the Shenandoah Valley or came to the dorm from another state, or transferred in more recently from East Asia. In *My life flows on*, a classic and oft sung hymn, Robert Lowry wrote that though the darkness gathers round, songs in the night He giveth. Whether during community singing in chapel, Touring Choir programs, or a skillfully performed orchestral piece, we cannot help but make music, for from it our lives flow on in endless song to our Maker, Redeemer, and Savior, who is Jesus Christ the Lord.

Grace Brega '17

Senior Grace Brega decided to attend EMHS when she heard great harmonies on a Touring Choir CD. Grace has flourished in EMS musicals, choirs, and the fine arts program. If you enjoyed the EMS *Brigadoon* musical in spring 2016 or *The Pirates of Penzance* operetta last fall, you

were likely wowed by Grace's lilting soprano solos and infectious stage presence. At EMS, Grace has learned music theory and sight reading in her music classes, and at her music teacher Jared Stutzman's request, she learned a German piece to perform in Class Voice. Grace prepared

a variety of compositions in Italian, French, and English for auditions this spring at some of the finest music conservatories in the U.S. including: Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Boston Conservatory, the Manhattan School of Music, Baldwin Wallace, and Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. "EMS," Grace says, "has provided me so many opportunities in music that I feel I have an edge to get into a top music conservatory." She will receive acceptances from colleges soon and will then decide where she will take her musical gifts for further training.



Grace Brega '17 (Photo by Andrew Gascho)



Brian Buchanan teaches Middle and High School band and guitar. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

David the Shepherd Boy

In 1921 music teacher Henry B. Keener directed the first performance of *David the Shepherd Boy*. This cantata became a favorite at EMS and students performed it annually for fifty-two years, until 1973. Former music teacher Marvin Miller led the popular cantata at the 2015 Homecoming, with many EMS graduates involved in a grand reunion performance.

Early music teachers at EMS included Noah D. Showalter, Elizabeth Horsch, and Chester K. Lehman. Lehman liked *The Holy City*, a Victorian religious ballad dating from 1892, and choirs under his direction sang it for many years. Chester K. Lehman led the first tour in the school's history in 1937, when a mixed choir traveled to sing in churches in Maryland and Pennsylvania.¹

Choral Music Foundations

During his music teaching years at EMS, John Mark Stauffer emphasized quality a cappella

VISION:

Eastern Mennonite School aspires to reflect Christ's light as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives, and lives God's call.

music for his choirs. Stauffer taught both high school and college music classes from 1938-1976. Under Stauffer's 38 years of music leadership, the choirs and vocal performance quality of EMS choirs flourished.

Stauffer led high school performances of *David the Shepherd Boy*, but his passion was classical music by master composers. Stauffer used traditional hymns with his choirs, rather than the increasingly popular gospel songs, as he believed hymns had long-lasting value that stood the test of time.²

During J. Mark Stauffer's years of directing, the high school choir program became increasingly differentiated from the college. The Junior Chorus was the high school ensemble, though some high school seniors sang in the Collegiate Chorus. J. Mark Stauffer had a very positive influence on the vocal music heritage at EMS.

Mid-Century Transitions

During a series of five music teachers at the high school, the music curriculum came to include instrumental music, and Touring Choir became the premier vocal group on campus. Music teachers Earl M. Maust and Audrey B. Shank continued to lead high school a cappella groups and choirs in the 1950s and early '60s. Music teacher Jay B. Landis created a variety of new choir options, especially to include younger students. Landis and new music teacher Annetta Wenger Miller helped to broaden the music program, with numerous choirs and ensembles, as well as an organized instrumental program by the late 1960s.

With a new EMHS building in 1964, the high school music program prospered under Marvin L. Miller's leadership from 1966-1981. An outstanding musician, Miller believed that music helped people express their faith in God, enabled them to share the gospel with others, and helped to unite people in praise and worship. Miller's Touring Choirs participated in annual Mennonite High School Music Festivals, and they went on yearly tours, singing in many churches. Miller's musical leadership at EMHS helped establish a premier musical arts program that laid the groundwork for the arrival of music teacher Jay Hartzler in 1981.

We Keep On Singing



Braden Brunk '18 (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

When Braden Brunk '18 enrolled at EMS in 2014 and sang in Junior Choir, he was unaware that it would be Jay Hartzler's last year teaching music at the school. For thirty-four years, from 1981-2015, Hartzler directed the EMS music program, and Braden Brunk sang for him in 9th grade.

Braden learned to sing well in the Harrisonburg Mennonite Church Youth Choir and the Shenandoah Valley Children's

Choir. Braden carries the history of music at EMS with him as he sings bass in the current Touring Choir, under the leadership of Jared Stutzman. Brunk's great-great-grandfather George R. Brunk was vice-chair of the Board of Directors when the school opened in 1917; his great-grandfather

George R. Brunk II was a professor at EMS for years; his grandfather, Gerald R. Brunk, taught history at the school; and his father Benjamin Brunk graduated from EMHS in 1991, singing in Touring Choir under Jay Hartzler.

In 2017 we keep on singing and playing our instruments, under the leadership of music teachers Joy Anderson (elementary music, HS musical directing), Maria Lorcas (strings), Brian Buchanan (band, digital recording, guitar), and Jared Stutzman (choir, music theory, sight reading and orchestra). Whether singing as an entire school in Middle/High Chapel or EMES Gathering, giving national and international performances by the select EMS Touring Choir, or hosting packed-house audiences for the acclaimed British ensemble VO-CES8, we keep singing. How can we not do so, how can we help but give praise to God through the musical arts, and how can we not give glory to God who has gifted us with the wonder of musical enjoyment?



Maria Lorcas, EMMS Strings Teacher. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)



Jared Stutzman leads High School Orchestra, Junior and Senior choirs, Touring Choir and Chamber Choir. (Photo by Andrew Gascho)

1 For the early history of choirs and music at Eastern Mennonite School, the Editor is indebted to a research paper by Dwight Cornell Basham, written for his Thesis in a Master of Arts program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1999.

2 Basham, Dwight Cornell. The History of the Eastern Mennonite High School Touring Choir: 1917-1981. Master's thesis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1999. Accessed February 9, 2017. <https://theses.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-081799-174859/unrestricted/DwightBasham.pdf>. 15.

**Want to hear the 2017 Touring Choir?
Follow their tour on Facebook and at
www.easternmennoniteschool.org,**

EMS News Updates

Elijah Powell '17 National Merit Finalist

Congratulations to Elijah Powell '17 who has qualified as one of 15,000 finalists nationwide for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship! Elijah will learn later this spring if he has been selected as one of 7,500 students who will receive a scholarship toward the college of his choice. Way to go Elijah!



Elijah Powell '17
(Photo by Gentry Photography)



Hans Harman '98 (right), with father Carl Harman '63 at Harrisonburg Rockingham Chamber of Commerce Ceremony.
(Photo courtesy of EMU/Housden Photography)

In 2016 the Shenandoah Valley Business Journal named Hans as one of 10 key business leaders under the age of 40 in the Shenandoah Valley. Harman lives in McGaheysville, Virginia, with his wife Sarah, and children Nina, 10, Grady, 7 (a student at EMES), and Pace, 5. Congratulations Hans!

A Faculty that Plays Together ... Stays Together!

EMS Faculty and Staff K-12 enjoyed a morning of professional development on differentiation in the classroom on February

2, 2017. Thanks to the generosity of our Parent Teacher Fellowship, faculty enjoyed a catered lunch followed by an afternoon of fellowship at Ruby's Arcade in downtown Harrisonburg. Additionally, employees were given "Downtown Dollars" and instructed to go have fun

spending them together! Co-workers enjoyed heading out for coffee and gelato, shopping together and some even went to a matinee movie. Thank you EMS PTF for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship demonstrating the special partnership between our parents and faculty and staff.



EMS Faculty enjoy an afternoon of fellowship at Ruby's Arcade. (Photo by Staff)



Today is published six times a year for families, alumni and friends of Eastern Mennonite School. We value your input. Send your feedback and story ideas to: today@emhs.net.

Look for previous issues of Today online at <https://issuu.com/easternmennoniteschool>

Editorial Board:
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& Paul Leaman (Head of School).



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MISSION:

*Eastern Mennonite
School joins home and
church in calling students
to faith in Jesus Christ,
academic excellence,
personal integrity, and
compassionate service
in the world.*



Former EMS Choir Director Jay Hartzler leads the 1982 Touring Choir. (Photo courtesy of VMC archives)



Touring Choir Reunion—All Years—Oct. 13th-14th

If you or someone in your family ever sang in the EMS Touring Choir, please come for a Centennial Homecoming Touring Choir Reunion October 13-14, 2017. Rehearsals will take place October 13-14 (see enclosed insert for details) and participants are encouraged to attend at least one of the rehearsals. There will be a grand Centennial reunion performance in the EMS Auditorium on Saturday evening, October 14 at 8:00 p.m. The Centennial Touring Choir reunion is open to all EMS Touring Choir members who sang for any director in the school's history. Pictured here is Jay Hartzler, who directed the EMS Touring Choirs from 1981-2015. Jay and his wife Sherri are presently serving in Romania and we are pleased he can return for our Centennial celebration. For questions regarding the reunion, email alumni@emhs.net.

2017 Fore the Flames Tournament

Benefitting EMS Student Financial Aid & Athletics

It's all about the students!

**Morning and afternoon flights
8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Shotgun start, Captain's Choice**

**Individual registration of \$100
includes catered lunch, green fees, cart,
range balls, golfer gift, door prizes and
two Powerballs and one Mulligan**

**Prizes include:
Special prizes for longest drive
and multiple closest to the pin
\$10,000 hole-in-one prize**



**Register - sponsor - donate today!
Additional information at:**

foretheflames.com

Or contact Mary Kaye Slonaker
Community Relations Coordinator, Eastern Mennonite School
540-236-6024 • slonakerm@emhs.net



Premier Sponsor: **LD & B**
Insurance and Financial Services



Save the Date for
Centennial Homecoming
October 12-15, 2017

Our Goal, God's Plan

(times subject to change)

Log on to www.easternmennoniteschool.org for the latest details.

Thursday, October 12, 2017

- 8:30 a.m. EMS History Day Featuring EMS Centennial K-12 Campus Groundbreaking followed by all day events for K-12 students

Friday, October 13, 2017

- 9:30 a.m. Chapel and reception honoring 2017 Young Alumnus of the Year Matt Weaver '92, EMS Auditorium
- 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Touring Choir Reunion Rehearsal, EMS Auditorium
- 5:00 p.m. Booster Club Tailgate before Volleyball games, location TBD
- 6:00 p.m. JV Girls Volleyball v. Harrisonburg High School
- 7:00 p.m. Varsity Girls Volleyball v. Harrisonburg High School

Saturday, October 14, 2017 **Reunion Classes "2" and "7"**

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
EMS Founder's Brunch honoring the 2017 Lifetime Service Award winner Dr. Robert Eschelman '52 (reservations required, RSVP to alumni@emhs.net)
- 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Alumni Open House – tours of EMS available
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Touring Choir Reunion Rehearsal, EMS Auditorium

- 11:00 a.m. EMS Booster Club Tailgate before Soccer Game, EMS Soccer Field Parking Lot

- 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Relive "Walk to Lunch" @ EMU. Reminisce about the good old days by walking as a reunion class to lunch "up the hill" at the EMU Dining Hall. Shuttle buses available as needed.

- 1:00 p.m. EMS Varsity Boys Soccer v. Virginia Episcopal School - EMS Soccer Field
Recognition of Boys and Girls Soccer State Championship Title Teams at halftime

- 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Centennial Festival featuring live concert by The Steel Wheels at 4:00 p.m., local food trucks, inflatables and more, EMU Front Campus Lawn

- 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
EMS Centennial Concert, EMS Auditorium, featuring Touring Choir Reunion Concert led by Jay Hartzler. Touring Choir members of all years are invited to participate!

Sunday, October 15, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. EMS Centennial Worship Service, EMS Auditorium, honoring 2017 Alumnus of the Year Beryl Jantzi '77, special seating for the classes of 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967.
- 10:30 a.m. EMU Centennial Worship Service, Lehman Auditorium