

## Advancement News

### BIG BOOST TO FUND

Donors have rallied to support the school's **Students of Color Scholarship Fund**, making gifts totaling more than \$115,000 in recent months.

Learning of the gifts in the last days of a challenging year brought Justin King, high school principal, to a halt. "This is so encouraging," he said. "It is amazing to know that donors believe in our vision to be a place where every student can belong, thrive, and live God's call."

Read more about this and other scholarship funds at [easternmennonite.org/scholarships](http://easternmennonite.org/scholarships)

### ADMISSIONS

Spaces are available in grades 7-12 (wait lists for K-6) for the 2022-23 school year. Prospective Family Visit Days (parents/guardians tour; student shadows an EMS student), 8:30 to 10 a.m.

- Monday, Feb. 21
- Friday, April 8
- Tuesday, May 3

[easternmennonite.org/visit](http://easternmennonite.org/visit)

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

Pull together a foursome for fun, reconnecting, and raising funds for student financial aid and athletics! Friday, April 29 at Heritage Oaks Golf Course. Sponsorship opportunities, registration, and schedule at [easternmennonite.org/golf](http://easternmennonite.org/golf)



Andrew Gascho, athletic director, and Justin King, high school principal, prepare to hit the greens.



Partners Excavating Co. 2021 foursome. Left to right: Brad Grove, Adam Berkey, Seth Berkey, Trent Fadeley.

### HOMECOMING 2022

Classes ending in 2 and 7 will have five-year reunions at Homecoming, Oct. 14 and 15, 2022, and there will be activities for all.

See [easternmennonite.org/homecoming](http://easternmennonite.org/homecoming)

### NOMINATE A CLASSMATE TO CELEBRATE AT HOMECOMING!

Email [alumni@easternmennonite.org](mailto:alumni@easternmennonite.org) or with the online form at [easternmennonite.org/alumni](http://easternmennonite.org/alumni)



### THE WIZARD OF OZ

Feb. 24-27: Join us for this musical production involving 80 students K-12. See [easternmennonite.org/tickets](http://easternmennonite.org/tickets) or call 540-236-6025 to purchase tickets.

### FLAMES ACTION

See [easternmennonite.org/athletics](http://easternmennonite.org/athletics) for game schedules and results. Join us for a home game!

### TOURING AND CHAMBER CHOIR

We are singing again! See [easternmennonite.org/tour](http://easternmennonite.org/tour) for program dates and times this spring in the Harrisonburg area.

Today is written by Andrea Wenger, director of advancement, and designed by Lindsey Kolb. Editorial support from Trisha Blosser, Christine Fairfield, and Erin Kennedy Hess. Photos in this issue by faculty and staff unless otherwise noted.

Paul Leaman, head of school

Send feedback to [today@easternmennonite.org](mailto:today@easternmennonite.org)

Find past issues at [easternmennonite.org/today](http://easternmennonite.org/today)

*In admissions processes, Eastern Mennonite School does not discriminate on the basis of any race, color, handicap, national or ethnic origin, or religion, and admits students to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.*

*The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the school's non-discrimination policies, including its Title IX policy: Andrea Wenger, director of advancement, 540-236-6026. For assistance related to Title IX or other civil rights laws, please contact OCR at [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov) or 800-421-3481, TDD 800-877-8339.*



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# TODAY

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## Thank you!

### Student-led Success

Donors responded to students' invitations – via postcards, emails, texts, and conversations – to support the Christmas Fund Drive, as they have since 1948.

As of January 27...

- \$173,506 total gifts to support students, teachers and staff
- 487 generous donors gave 550 gifts
- 2,936 postcards written in two weeks

**THANK YOU** to our student leaders, supportive parents and extended family, faculty and staff, alumni, and friends. Your generosity inspires us!



Students acting as Supreme Court justices in Shannon Roth's Constitutional Law class asked questions to student lawyers who were presenting the Supreme Court of the United States case, *United States v. Taylor*.

## EMS: More than Academics

Prospective parents sometimes ask me, "Why should we choose a Mennonite education for our student?" My answer? An EMS education offers strong academics and so much more!

When they visit, I hope they – and their student – can feel that EMS is a place where:

**Joy for learning is cultivated.** Teachers know each student and create space for exploration, questions, and risk taking.

**Life skills grow.** From kindergarten work stations to senior presentations, students are coached to communicate, collaborate, develop self awareness and empathy, and learn conflict resolution skills.

### We are a community.

Relationships are as important as academic success, and we strive to be a place where everyone belongs. When we get it wrong, we hear from those who have been harmed, and work to repair relationships.

### We are grounded in faith.

Jesus is our guide as we learn and grow together.



Marsha Thomas  
Admissions  
Counselor

### 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.

### VISION:

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

### FOLLOW US:



## EMS was the GRATEFUL RECIPIENT of MORE THAN \$467,528 in 2021 from people who named the school in their will.



These legacy gifts make it possible for new generations to benefit from an EMS education. More about this and other planned giving options at [easternmennonite.org/planned-giving](http://easternmennonite.org/planned-giving)

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

FAITH COMMUNITY

THE ARTS

[easternmennonite.org](http://easternmennonite.org)

## Intern Program Expands Business Hosts Needed

The EMS internship program gives high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to explore their interests, gain confidence, and learn about career paths. Placements within the school itself have given students the opportunity to explore interests in:

- information technology
- marketing and communications
- fundraising
- elementary education.

In the broader community, placement opportunities include:

- financial institutions
- architecture
- physical therapy practices
- several locations within James Madison University
- a mechanical engineering firm
- an aviation operation.

See [easternmennonite.org/internships](http://easternmennonite.org/internships) for more details and an online form to indicate interest in hosting an intern. Or, reach out to Jennifer Young, coordinator, at [youngj@easternmennonite.org](mailto:youngj@easternmennonite.org).



Caroline Young '22, JMU internship

## A Time to Laugh And a Time to Cry

Three times a week, students grades 6-12 join chapel either in person (always masked) or by live stream.

With teen anxiety and stress at an all-time nationwide high, we added mental and emotional well being to our theme of "Faith at Work" for the year. We have also made a point to laugh more together.

"The most important thing we can teach our students right now, is to love life," says Justin King, high school principal. "Coming together for chapel reminds us that we are part of a caring community, and that we are loved unconditionally by God."

Student leaders meet twice a month in the Chapel Planning Committee. Search for "Eastern Mennonite School Chapel" on YouTube. People who are open to speaking in chapel should email [chapel@easternmennonite.org](mailto:chapel@easternmennonite.org).



Sarah Nahar (introduced by her cousin Naomi Diener '23) shared about her research in sanitation justice and who gets to have access to facilities with dignity.



Chamber Choir sings "Lift Every Voice and Sing" for an MLK Jr. Day service.



## Solar Update

The graph on this screen shot shows how much energy EMS gained daily during December 2021 from 357 solar panels on the upper building roof. Volunteers installed the panels in October 2020. Icons (right) show savings and impact made over installation's lifetime. For example, the array generated the equivalent amount of energy produced by burning more than 15,000 gallons of gasoline. Explore the interactive display at [easternmennonite.org/solar](http://easternmennonite.org/solar) and consider installing solar on your home or business!

## Soft Skills for Life

BY MARIA ARCHER, K-8 PRINCIPAL

Soft skills. Life skills. Whatever you call them, educators, parents, future employers agree: learning them early supports overall well being and success.

At EMS, we dig deep into topics and encourage students to ask big questions like:

- What can I learn from this author to help me understand my own identity?



Maria Archer discusses morning snack with a kindergartener. Each day, students follow instructions, measure, cut, and stir to prepare a healthy snack for classmates.



We Serve volunteers worked with Rotary Interact Club members to fill Christmas stockings for residents at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community.

- How do the decisions made during WWII (for example) relate or inform our country's decisions today?
- How does what we learn about the environment affect our daily decisions?
- How do Jesus' words in the New Testament help me answer important questions in my life?

We give time for students to reflect, ask questions, and discuss issues with peers. This enables students to **practice leadership**, to **develop empathy**, to **be self-aware**, and to **take responsibility**



Physics students lead 3rd graders in hands-on STEM activities. These include rocketry, circuits, density, robotics, buoyancy, aerodynamics, and more.



Eighth graders collected and delivered cards, treats, and small gifts for staff working in the COVID unit at Sentara RMH for their class service project. Read about K-12 service culture at [easternmennonite.org/news](http://easternmennonite.org/news)

for their words and actions as they practice their faith.

Additional skills include:

- Collaboration (teamwork)
- Constructive thinking
- Resilience and flexibility
- Conflict resolution
- Creativity

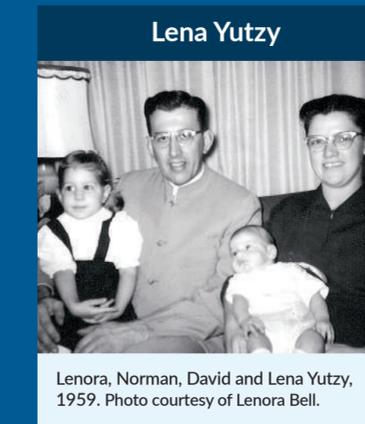
As an educator and administrator, I am grateful to be part of a school that intentionally fosters a culture where students can grow in these skills for life.



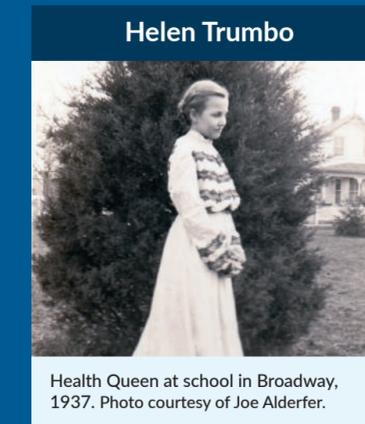
Fifth grade students plan the EMES International Day of Peace program and parade each fall.



Spanish students connected with people in Guatemala for conversation, including their teacher's mother, as well as women through *Project Olas*. More at [easternmennonite.org/news](http://easternmennonite.org/news)



Lenora, Norman, David and Lena Yutzy, 1959. Photo courtesy of Lenora Bell.



Health Queen at school in Broadway, 1937. Photo courtesy of Joe Alderfer.



EMU President Loren Swartzendruber presented a quilted wall hanging by Brownie (left) and Gladys (right) Driver to Desmond Tutu in September 2007. Photo courtesy of Eastern Mennonite University.

## Four Women Help Fund EMES Building

BY ELWOOD YODER

Four Mennonite women who loved children and education lived frugally and gave generously. By naming EMS in their wills, the women contributed a combined total of \$890,354, which ended up funding a quarter of the cost of the Eastern Mennonite Elementary School renovation project, completed in 2019.

**Lena Yutzy Showalter**, from Plain City, Ohio, married Norman Yutzy in 1955. The two served Trissels Mennonite Church in Broadway, Virginia, where Norman was pastor and Lena shared hospitality with hundreds of people in their home and in various church roles.

The family operated a dairy farm and raised turkeys. Their children – Lenora, David, and Charlene – all attended EMS. Norman Yutzy died in 2000 and Lena remarried Omar Showalter in 2006. Lena gave generously to family, church, and school.

**Helen Trumbo '42 Shank** was an editor, writer, and teacher. In the early 1940s, she taught Summer Bible School in remote areas with Virginia Mennonite Conference. In 1946, she co-authored a paper on the mission stations of the Mennonite Church in the highlands of western Virginia and the mountains of West Virginia contributing to historians' understanding of this movement.

From 1945 to 1966, Helen worked at Mennonite Publishing House, Scottsdale, Pa., editing *Beams of Light* (later called *Story Friends*), and *Words of Cheer*, a youth publication.

In 1968, at age 43, Helen married Stuart Shank (1920-2018). She taught second grade at Plains Elementary School for the next nine years and supported Stuart's work on their Broadway farm.

In the 1980s, Helen wrote the stories of Stuart and others who served with Civilian Public (alternative) Service during WWII. In later years, she welcomed interviewers to her room at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community to help with photos or inquiries about twentieth-century Mennonite history.



Helen Trumbo at the Mennonite Publishing House. Photo courtesy of Helen Shank family.



Gladys Driver, Yvonne Martin, Jan Kauffman, Brownie Driver. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Kreider.

**Gladys Driver '38** and **Brownie Driver '46**, were sisters who lived their lives within a five-mile radius of Harrisonburg. Through creating works of art with cloth scraps and teaching others the same skills, their impact was global.

Among the organizations that benefited from their craft were their home congregation of Weavers Mennonite Church, and Mennonite Central Committee through the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, where one quilt sold for \$4,100.

In 2007, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South African Nobel Peace Laureate, received an award at James Madison University, and Eastern Mennonite University President Loren Swartzendruber presented him with a 21" by 31" quilted wall hanging by the sisters.

Gladys and Brownie both passed away in 2017. Their cloth creations represent the art, beauty, and community life of Mennonites in the Shenandoah Valley.

Read more about these generous women at [easternmennonite.org/news](http://easternmennonite.org/news)