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Eastern Mennonite High School

School Profile, 2018-2019

Eastern Mennonite School was founded in 1917 by the Mennonite Church with the purpose of providing a rigorous academic education, developing ethical thought and behavior, practicing faith expression through the arts, and cultivating a practice of leading through serving. Now a thriving K-12 institution located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, the constituency of the school has diversified over the years, but the founding focus has remained the same. Of the 150 students currently enrolled in the high school division, approximately half identify as Mennonite and several are international students hosted through our boarding program.

ACCREDITATION

Eastern Mennonite School is a member of the Mennonite Schools Council and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1957 and the Virginia Association of Independent Schools since 2002.

Mission & Philosophy of EMHS

Since our founding, students have explored a “whole child” curriculum. Our mission statement captures the vision that a student’s spiritual, academic, ethical, and social needs must be attended to in a variety of ways. EMHS faculty strive to provide an enriching classroom experience for all students. Some students need greater academic challenge and others need adaption of the curriculum. The scale of our school allows us to attend to these varied needs and provide personalized education.

EMS 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.

Faith

Central to the philosophy and goals of EMHS is a commitment to the Christian faith. We see God as the source of all truth. In our classes, we explore the relationship of Christ’s teachings to academic disciplines and to all of life. Chapel also meets daily for 20 minutes, attended by all faculty and students.

Each student is required to take a semester-long Bible course each year. As part of the senior-level class, Kingdom Living, each senior prepares a 15-20 minute presentation, reflecting upon their spiritual, academic, and co-curricular experiences. Senior presentations are heavily attended and are a meaningful culmination of an EMHS education.

Fine Arts

We apply the original vision for the school by requiring our students to earn credit in fine arts and the practical arts. Additionally, students uphold the tradition of a *capella* four-part harmony singing in chapel, and approximately over 50% of our juniors and seniors audition for and participate in our select choirs in addition to other academic and co-curricular commitments. The touring and chamber choirs perform at local churches nearly every weekend in the spring, as well as participate in a week-long tour and choir festival. Every other year, the choir travels abroad for several weeks in the summer.

Experiential & Service Learning

From the start of middle school to the conclusion of the senior year, our students have significant experiences outside our classrooms. Whether through our week-long spring E-Term, class field studies, or participation in our biennial cross-country summer Discovery trip studying sustainability issues, our students have numerous opportunities to engage people and places. Service learning is a part of the middle school program as well as a requirement for National Honor Society and Kingdom Living class for all seniors. The high school also participates in Community Service Day every year, working for organizations, churches, and camps in our community.

Writing across the Curriculum

Students receive rigorous writing and grammar instruction through courses in the English department at EMHS. However, all courses require significant writing assignments and are graded according to standardized criteria established by the school.

Gifted Behaviors

Encouraging gifted behaviors (traits characteristic of those who excel) in all students is a challenge we take seriously. Teachers plan course work to develop significant thinking and living skills in each student, believing these gifted behaviors can be encouraged, modeled, and taught to all students regardless of their academic accomplishments. Gifted behaviors include . . .

- the ability to organize and follow through
- persistence
- strong thinking and reasoning skills
- curiosity and insight
- a voracious appetite for reading
- an expanded vocabulary
- leadership skills
- managing impulsivity
- a confident sense of self
- listening with understanding and empathy
- clarifying moral right and wrong

Finally, we encourage students to pay attention to their well-being. Many of our students take rigorous courses, participate in athletics and drama, and are part of choir and orchestra. Given these demands, we encourage students to use one of the eight periods in our day for a study hall, allowing them space to complete assignments during the school day.

Online Learning, College Courses, & Independent Study

A number of our students pursue online learning. Primary reasons for online learning include the desire to advance in a subject or to take a course not offered at EMHS. Upperclassmen may take college classes at adjacent Eastern Mennonite University, at James Madison University, or at Blue Ridge Community College. College courses receive weighted grade points. Some of our students use their junior or senior year to explore areas of academic and vocational interest through independent study, overseen by a faculty member or local college professor.

School Year

The 36-week school year is divided into two semesters and four quarters. The school day is divided into eight periods and one 20-minute chapel period.

Student Ranking

EMHS does not rank students as the small size and composition of our student body does not yield meaningful data. GPA range for the Class of 2019 (42 students) is 2.424 to 4.4509.

EMHS Class of 2018 SAT Score Ranges*/Mean Scores		
EBRW	550-670	575
Math	550-680	600
*Ranges for the middle 50% of scores		

National Merit Finalists

Since 1998 we have had 53 commended scholars, 14 finalists and one presidential scholar.

Disclosure Statement

EMHS will report to colleges any major change of status (out-of-school suspension, expulsion, withdrawal, or leave of absence) that occurs during a student’s enrollment. Students are expected to respond truthfully to any questions asked of them regarding disciplinary action take during their time at the school.

Minimum Graduation Requirements

- 4 credits of English
- 3 credits of mathematics
- 3 credits of science
- 3 credits of social studies
- 2 credits of physical and health education (including driver’s education)
- 2 credits of Bible
- 1 credit of fine arts
- .5 credit of family & consumer science or technology education
- .5 credit of communications technology

AP, Dual Enrollment, Honors, & Optional Honors Courses

Honors courses demand an advanced level of research, reading, and critical thinking and are designed for students seeking a challenge in academic work. In Optional Honors courses, students contract individually with the teacher for advanced individual work. All Honors courses receive weighted grade points. *AP and Dual Enrollment courses are generally reserved for Juniors and Seniors.* Because of the rigor of all our classes, *students are discouraged from taking more than two AP/DE classes a year, but exceptions are made in consultation with our school counselor.*

AP, DE & Honors Courses

Advanced Music
Biotechnology
Biology (AP or DE)

Calculus (AP or DE)
Chemistry (AP or DE)*
English Literature (AP)

Research Writing
Robotics (DE)*
Scientific Research Methods

Statistics (AP)
World History (AP)

*New for 2018-2019

Optional Honors

Algebra II
Anatomy & Physiology
Biology
Chemistry
Creative Writing
Earth Science

English 9 & 10 (2nd semester)
Environmental Science
Geometry
Global Anabaptism
Global Christianity
Kingdom Living

Novel
Physics
Poetry
Pre-Calculus
Psychology
Shakespeare

Short Fiction
Spanish III, IV
Speech
US History
World Issues
World History

College Matriculations 2013-18

Approximately eighty-five percent of EMHS graduates attend college upon graduation. A number of our graduating seniors opt to perform service and/or mission work immediately after high school before continuing their education, a true extension of our mission. Recent graduates have attended:

American University
American University of Paris
Belmont University
Bluffton University
Boston University
Bridgewater College
Calvin College
Catholic University of America
Christopher Newport University
Clemson University
College of William and Mary
College of Wooster
Colorado Christian University
Culinary Institute of America, NY
Drexel University
East Tennessee State University
Eastern Mennonite University
Franklin & Marshall College
Furman University
George Mason University
Gordon College
Goshen College
Grove City College
Hesston College
James Madison University
Juniata College

King University
Lancaster Bible College
LeTourneau University
Liberty University
Laboratory Inst. of Merchandising
Longwood University
Marymount University
MA Coll. of Pharmacy & Health Sci.
Messiah College
Occidental College
Old Dominion University
Olin College of Engineering
Pennsylvania State University
Radford University
Regent University
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Savannah College of Art & Design
Shenandoah University
Siena College
Temple University
Trinity College Dublin
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine

University of California, San Diego
University of Denver
University of Georgia
University of Louisville
University of Mary Washington
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami
University of NC at Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown
University of Richmond
University of South Carolina
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Virginia
University of West Florida
University of Wyoming
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Military Institute
Virginia Tech
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
Wheaton College IL

Grading Scale

In the spring of 2016, the school adopted the following evaluation standards. Teachers are given the freedom to choose one of the following three options: standards-based, percentage (10-point scale), or letter grade. Each of them translates to a GPA weight.

For returning students matriculating in 2018-19, their GPA includes grades from the previous scale and the new scale.

Current Scale					
Standards-Based Grading	Percentage	Letter Grade	GPA Weight		
			Standard	AP/Univ. Course (HR2)	Optional Honors (HR1)
Exemplary	98-100	A+	4.2	5.2	4.7
	93-97	A	4.0	5.0	4.5
	90-92	A-	3.8	4.8	4.3
Accomplished	87-89	B+	3.2	4.2	3.7
	83-86	B	3.0	4.0	
	80-82	B-	2.8	3.8	
Promising	77-79	C+	2.2	3.2	
	73-76	C	2.0	3.0	
	70-72	C-	1.8	2.8	
Developing	67-69	D+	1.2	2.2	
	63-66	D	1.0	2.0	
Beginning	60-62	D-	.80	1.8	
No Mastery	0-59	F	0	0	

Previous Scale (up through 2015-16)				
AP courses and full honors courses receive a 1.0 grade weight and are designated H2 on transcripts. Optional honors courses receive a .5 grade weight and are designated with an H1 on the transcripts.				
Percent	Grade	GPA	University/AP Honors (H2) GPA	Optional Honors (H1) GPA
99-100	A+	4.2	5.2	4.7
95-98	A	4	5	4.5
94	A-	3.8	4.8	4.3
92-93	B+	3.2	4.2	3.7
88-91	B	3	4	
87	B-	2.8	3.8	
85-86	C+	2.2	3.2	
78-84	C	2	3	
76-77	C-	1.8	2.8	
74-75	D+	1.2	2.2	
68-73	D	1	2	
0-67	F	0	0	