

July 25, 2017



Dear First-Year ECA Students and Parents/Guardians,

Even as this Welcome Newsbrief #2 hits your inboxes, a snail-mailing should be making its way to your US mailboxes. The mailing includes details about next week's New Student Orientation Program (August 1). I'm also including a copy of that letter with this emailed newsbrief (and will therefore refrain from repeating it here). Please read through this information, and certainly let us know if you have any questions. In addition--do let our main office know if you do NOT receive a letter.

Today's newsbrief includes two announcements and two parent tips about school supplies. Calendar updates are also included on the last page. First: the announcements:

1. **Parents/Guardians:** Please join us for a New Parent/Guardian Social on **Tuesday, August 22 from 6-7:30 in the King Hall Multicultural Lounge**, co-hosted by ECA Pi (Parent Involvement) and the ECA Administration. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about ECA Pi, ask questions of parents/guardians and faculty members, and socialize. A campus tour from the parent perspective will be on the agenda for those interested. Light refreshments will be provided. In order to help the organizers prepare adequately, please **RSVP by August 18** by clicking on this [EVITE LINK](#), or by calling Ms. Jackson at 734-487-4290.
2. **New Course Offering:** We are very excited to offer a high school level Engineering Technology course this year, to run both fall and winter terms during the 2017-2018 school year for "traditional" first year students (10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade or higher). The course is the first in a pilot program designed to provide a bridge from the ECA high school courses directly into Eastern Michigan University's Engineering programs. If you (or your student) are interested in this course, please link to [THIS FORM](#) to read more about the course and to express your interest. There are limited seats available, and the ECA Principal, in consultation with CORE Advisors, will make the official selection of students for this course.

On to supply list information:

[THIS LINK](#) is a supply list of the commonly required and recommended school materials that students will need in their ECA classes. Hopefully there will be time to take advantage of back-to-school sales! We collect extras of all of these supplies, and so if you/your students have need of anything, please visit our Main Office and Mrs. Jackson can help. This list was

originally compiled by an ECA-Pi (Parent Involvement) parent; below are two more parent tips I'd like to pass along:

**Parent Tip #1:** Many parents are used to buying school supplies for the start of school in September – but ECA students will need fresh supplies in January as well, for winter term. The spring semester also requires new supplies, though fewer of them since students typically only take one or two courses in the spring. The advice from parents who've been there: *buy enough for the whole year!*

**Parent Tip #2:** There are no lockers at the ECA, and books are *heavy!* A rolling backpack saves wear-and-tear on students' backs. Advice from a parent who's shopped around: *check out Ikea for a less-expensive (but sturdy) rolling backpack.*

A note about computers: ECA coursework requires the use of technology, and parents often ask whether it is necessary to purchase a laptop computer for their ECA student. It is certainly not necessary to do so – especially for an ECA schedule with its customarily *heavy* load of books. Sending in an expensive tool like a laptop carries the risk of theft and loss, which is something to consider carefully. However, there are times when such a device might come in handy. For example, the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy students will be using devices regularly on campus, and we will work with families to ensure that those who do not have a laptop to bring will have access to one as needed. “Traditional” ECA classes typically book computer labs for the occasions that on-campus access to computers is required during the school day, and there are *many* open computer labs, all over campus, available for student use before or after school. Student Emich accounts also include an allowance for printing.

Finally, see the last page for our Calendar Updates. And...as always, please never hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,



Ellen L. Fischer, PhD  
Principal, ECA

| <b>Calendar Updates</b>                        |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Tuesday, Aug. 1</b>                         | New Student Orientation:<br>8am – 1pm “Traditional” ECA enrollees<br>8am – 3:30pm ECA 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Academy enrollees<br>Check in, 8 – 8:30am<br>Parents/gdns attend with students 8:30 – 9:00am (then students only)<br>Cookout lunch 12 – 1pm<br>9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Students ONLY—ELA Assessments 1 – 3:30pm |
| <b>Tuesday, Aug. 22</b>                        | ECA Parent Involvement Hosts a New Parent/Guardian Social, 6-7:30pm<br>King Hall Multicultural Lounge   |
| <b>Thursday, Aug. 24</b>                       | 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Students ONLY—Challenge Day, 9 – 4pm  |
| <b>Wednesday, Aug. 30</b>                      | “Traditional” New Students ONLY—Challenge Day, either 8:30 – 12 or 12:30 – 4pm depending on CORE Advisor  |
| <b>Tuesday, Sept. 5</b>                        | ECA Starts!<br>Half day for ECA classes, schedule as follows:<br>9:00 – 9:20 All-School Welcome in McKenny Ballroom<br>9:30-10:00 1st<br>10:10-10:40 2nd<br>10:50-11:20 3rd<br>11:30-12:00 4th  |
| <b>Wednesday, Sept. 6</b>                      | First day of EMU classes<br>First full day of ECA classes   |
| <b>Thursday, Sept. 14</b>                      | Parent Night, 6-8:30pm in McKenny Ballroom  |
| <b>Wednesday, Sept. 20</b>                     | Half Day for ECA Classes, schedule as follows:<br>9:00-9:40 1st<br>9:50-10:30 2nd<br>10:40-11:20 3rd<br>11:30-12:10 4 <sup>th</sup><br>*NOTE: Academy schedule may be slightly different from the above   |
| <b>Friday, Oct. 6</b>                          | Teacher Work Day—No ECA Classes   |
| <b>Wednesday, Oct. 11</b>                      | Soft Skills Review Day—No ECA Classes; CLICK Activities & Academy Adventure Day 9-12 (mandatory for 1st Year students), Noon Dismissal  |
| <b>Thursday, Oct. 12 &amp; Friday, Oct. 13</b> | Student-Parent Conferences—No ECA Classes OR CLICK Activities; Academy Lab Day for 9 <sup>th</sup> grade ONLY; Conferences individually scheduled with CORE Advisors  |
| <b>Wednesday, Oct. 25</b>                      | Half Day for ECA Classes, schedule as follows:<br>9:00-9:40 1st<br>9:50-10:30 2nd<br>10:40-11:20 3rd<br>11:30-12:10 4 <sup>th</sup><br>*NOTE: Academy schedule may be slightly different from the above   |
| <b>November 3</b>                              | First Year Fall Field Trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts   |
| <b>Mon., Nov. 20 &amp; Tues., Nov. 21</b>      | Soft Skill Credentialing Days; CLICK Activities 9-12 (mandatory for 1st Year students), Noon Dismissal  |
| <b>Nov. 22-26</b>                              | THANKSGIVING BREAK (No EMU or ECA classes)  |
| <b>Wed., Dec. 13 &amp; Thurs., Dec. 14</b>     | ECA Classes—Final Exams<br>Wed., Dec. 13—1st period, 9-11am; 2nd period, 12-2pm<br>Thurs., Dec. 14—3rd period, 9-11am; 4th period, 12-2pm   |
| <b>Friday, Dec. 15</b>                         | ECA Last Day<br>Online CLICK activities & First year CLICK Celebration<br>Luncheon (parents/guardians invited—SAVE THE DATE!) 11:30am-1pm   |