



State of East Mountain

Quarter 1 Report

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear East Mountain Community,

If there's one thing the first quarter of this school year has reminded me, it's that curiosity is alive and well at East Mountain! Spend a few minutes walking through our high school or our new middle school, and you'll encounter students asking questions, testing ideas, and occasionally discovering creative ways to do things their teachers hadn't quite intended.

As we continue to grow, we've been thinking a great deal about how we protect that natural curiosity while building the strong academic foundation every student needs. We have an opportunity to connect those two ambitions more intentionally, creating an educational experience that prepares students to succeed academically and helps them become the thoughtful young people envisioned in our Graduate Profile.



Our Graduate Profile reminds us that an excellent education is about more than earning good grades or performing well on assessments. We want our students to become thoughtful and curious young people who can navigate challenges, build meaningful relationships, and contribute to the world around them.

Middle school is a particularly important time for nurturing curiosity and establishing strong academic habits. We want our youngest students to explore ideas and discover the joy of learning. At the same time, we are intentionally building the literacy and mathematical reasoning skills that will serve them throughout their education.

Curiosity and academic excellence are not competing goals. Each strengthens the other. Students who are genuinely engaged in learning are more willing to wrestle with difficult problems and persevere when things become challenging. And the stronger their academic foundations, the more opportunities they have to explore the world around them.

This thinking also shapes our work across the high school. Our responsibility is to ensure that students experience a coherent approach to learning, in which expectations are clear, instruction builds purposefully from year to year, and every student receives the support they need to succeed.

We have much to celebrate at East Mountain, but we also recognize that strong academic outcomes do not happen by accident. They require thoughtful planning and consistent expectations. Particularly in mathematics, we know there is important work ahead.

At our first Community Council meeting, one theme emerged especially clearly: families and community members deeply value the relationships and personalized attention that define East Mountain. Students are known as individuals here, and that is something we must protect as we grow. The Council also reminded us to pay attention to students whose needs or accomplishments may be less visible and to ensure that every student feels connected to our school community.

Those observations remind us that the quality of a student's education depends on both what they learn and how they experience learning. As we look toward the remainder of the year, I am excited about the opportunity before us. We are building a more intentional and connected educational experience. An experience that begins with curiosity, develops a strong academic foundation, and ultimately prepares graduates to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.

That is the promise of our Graduate Profile, and it is the work we are committed to every day.

Thank you for being part of the East Mountain community and for helping us build something special!

Sincerely,
Dr. Trey Smith

EMHS graduates are Forward-thinking Leaders  -We are critical and creative thinkers, capable of drawing new insights, asking good questions, and making connections; we engage in productive disagreement when appropriate -We recognize that we will confront obstacles; we are resilient and take ownership of our mistakes. -We advocate for ourselves and seek to improve the systems around us. -We enjoy learning and we understand that we can grow through hard work, dedication, and repeated practice.		
EMHS graduates are College + Career Ready  -We are intellectually prepared to matriculate to college and/or enter the workforce. -We are active learners who hold ourselves accountable to meet our aspirations. -We develop habits of success - self-advocacy, goal- setting, and communication - that will allow us to thrive in college and career.	EMHS graduates have a Sense of Self  -We are honest and self-aware. -We are full people who understand what makes us unique - how our strengths allow us to contribute something special to the world. -We are aware of our growth areas and find ways to improve. -We embrace transformational experiences with an open mind.	EMHS graduates are Collaborators  -We can collaborate with folks from diverse backgrounds. -We demonstrate empathy by seeking to understand the perspectives of others. -We build up our school and give back to our community. -We go out of our way to show kindness towards others.
East Mountain graduates approach the above with core values: Collaboration Integrity Reflection Curiosity Empathy 		

STUDENT LEARNING

Making Progress Every Day

Student learning is at the heart of everything we do. Every day, our teachers are working intentionally to strengthen essential skills, close learning gaps, and help every student make meaningful academic progress.

Across classrooms, students are engaging in challenging lessons, collaborating with peers, and developing their problem-solving skills. Teachers use assessment results and classroom performance to identify where students need additional support and adjust accordingly.

One of our most important commitments this year is individualized tutoring. Every teacher has committed to providing additional academic support, whether through everyday after-school opportunities or designated tutoring days. These sessions provide students with personalized attention, extra practice, and the opportunity to master skills they may be struggling with. We encourage families to take advantage of these tutoring options as much as possible.

We are also focused on important assessment milestones. Students completed the PSAT on October 21, and we are now looking ahead to December, when 9th and 10th graders will take the middle-of-year MAP assessments and 6th graders will complete the midyear iMSSA assessment. Together, these assessments provide valuable insights into student growth, help us identify areas where additional support is needed, and guide instructional decisions for the second half of the school year.

How families can help: Prioritize attendance, encourage participation in tutoring, establish consistent sleep routines, and ask your student about what they're learning.

STUDENT LEARNING

Assessments we use

It's important that our families understand some of the common tools and assessments East Mountain utilizes to capture student learning outcomes.

The **PSAT/SAT** provides a nationally-normed measure of college readiness in reading, writing, and math, helping schools track student growth, identify learning gaps, and prepare students for postsecondary success.

The **MAP** assessment measures student growth and achievement in reading and math over time, helping teachers identify individual learning needs, monitor progress, and adjust instruction accordingly. (9th and 10th grade)

The **NM-ASR (New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness)** is the state summative science assessment for grade 11, measuring how well students have mastered New Mexico's science standards and are progressing toward college and career readiness.

The **iMSSA** is an interim assessment in reading and math that measures student progress toward grade-level standards, helping teachers identify learning needs, monitor growth, and adjust instruction throughout the year. (only 6th grade).

You can read more details about all these assessments at [this link](#). Talking with your student about these benchmarks and helping them prepare for testing days are critical moves families can make to help their student.

STUDENT WELL-BEING

Creating a school where every student is known, valued, and has a sense of belonging is central to our work.

One of the most important ways we're strengthening these connections is through our advisory program. Advisory creates intentional time for teachers and students to build relationships, develop social-emotional skills, and engage in meaningful conversations beyond academics. Our goal is for every student to have at least one trusted adult at school who knows them well and notices when they need support.

We're also working to create more opportunities throughout the school day for students to connect with peers, find their place in our community, and feel comfortable being themselves. These relationships are the foundation of a healthy school culture.



Climate Survey

We also want to hear from you! Our Family School Climate Survey is an important opportunity to share your perspective on student belonging, safety, relationships, and the overall school experience. Your feedback helps us celebrate what's working and identify where we can improve.

LEADERSHIP



We believe student leadership is best developed through experience, teamwork, service, and the willingness to take on challenges. This fall, our students are demonstrating those qualities in remarkable ways.

Our fall athletic programs are on an exciting trajectory! For the first time in recent memory, every fall sports team is on track to qualify for its respective state tournament. This reflects the dedication of our student-athletes and the tremendous commitment of our coaches, who provide invaluable mentorship to our students beyond the classroom.

Our STEM clubs are gearing up for another season of robotics builds and competitions, while our Speech and Debate team recently hosted a home tournament welcoming schools from across New Mexico. Our Student Council organized an outstanding Homecoming dance and spirit activities. We're also excited to have a new chapter of Best Buddies on campus.

We're also proud of students taking the initiative to organize community service projects make a difference in the world around them.

All of these experiences are essential for students to discover their strengths, develop confidence, and learn to lead.

BUILT TO LAST

Construction Update

Our new 27,000 sq ft. construction remains on schedule and will be complete this summer. We are grateful to our contractor (Franken Construction) and architects (SMPC) for working long hours to keep the project on track.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Discovery Learning

Our Discovery Week showcased an amazing outpouring of community support. **46 Community Partners** provided learning opportunities with 530 students participating in on-campus activities and heading out on **23 field trips** to explore nature and hike in the foothills, learn about New Mexico Native American culture and history, discover potential college and career pathways, and find meaningful ways to give back to our community.

PLUS ... 45 tables at the Career Fair
PLUS... 10 Senior Workshop Partners

Some of those community partners include: Nature Niños, Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Pueblo of Acoma, KidsCook!, Maxwell Museum, Artist Shelly Korte, UNM art students, Icon Cinema, New Mexico Highlands University, Luna Community College, CNM, Jaynes Corp, Albuquerque Fire Rescue, NM Tech, ABQ BioPark, ABQ Animal Welfare, Joy Junction, Flix Brewhouse, Guild Theatre, ABQ Aquarium, Junior Achievement of New Mexico, New Mexico Gas Company, Friends of the Sandia Mountains, and 13 parent panelists.

East Mountain Community Council: Get Involved

We had a highly productive East Mountain Community Council (EMCC) meeting in September! And we'd love to have more involvement!

This quarterly advisory group brings together students, families, staff, and school leaders to review school data, identify themes from stakeholder feedback, elevate student and family experience, and help leadership prepare clear quarterly reports for the Governing Council and broader community. The EMCC holds equity at the center of its work, with special consideration for the most disadvantaged student populations.

We hope to include at least one student and one family member from each of these grade bands: 6th grade, 9-10th grade, 11-12th grade. Students and family members who enjoy thinking about school improvement, student experience, or equity are encouraged to apply through the interest form: <https://forms.gle/gqiJPRsYponPkVgp9>

EAST MOUNTAIN
[\[www.eastmountain.org\]](http://www.eastmountain.org)



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