

# Trojan Tribune

December 20, 2022

## Students, Parents & Guardians

Parent(s) & Guardian(s)

First off, thank you so much for your support this year. It has been one of, if not the best first semester I have experienced. I know I say it multiple times but we have amazing students and staff in this building. Recently we completed my favorite day of the year, Community Service Day. We sent roughly 600 students out to over 20 businesses! Additionally another 300 students and 80 employees worked on projects throughout the day to support local businesses.

All the tangible items that were donated, put together, and distributed are great, however the most important part is the lessons we are teaching our students. Mr. Benjamin, chair of the staff committee, has always said to our students: "this day is not about you, it is about others." That is so true, and the exact reason why we dedicate this day to serve others.

Again thank you to all of you who donated items, embraced having students at your business, and all the students and staff who make this day so important and special. I am honored to work in this school and community.

## Guidance

### Touch-A-Truck

ECMS' first ever Touch-A-Truck event was a huge success. Exhibitors from over 25 different companies and agencies shared their knowledge and equipment with the students. Kids were able to get hands on and climb into a military truck, fire trucks, semi's just to name a few. Some of the highlights included running the hydraulics on a crane and blowing the airhorns on the big trucks!

We plan to expand this event next year with the completion of our new parking lot.





## Exploring Careers Program

The Exploring Careers wrapped up a successful season of site visits. 8th graders were taken to over twelve different site visits based on their Career Interest Inventories. Sites included the CVG Airport Control Tower, Baylor Trucking, Beacon Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, Vincent Lighting (pictured here) Maxwell Construction and many more.



This year included two "hybrid" visits. IVY Tech has been a part of the Exploring Careers Program since it started. This year, they invited Rising Sun Middle School and Milan Middle School and us to tour their Lawrenceburg Riverfront Campus. Students were able to be hands on with different equipment including the nursing lab.



Our other hybrid trip was to the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP). A dozen ECMS students along with students from East Central High Schools Interior Design and Fashion and Textile classes experienced first hand what DAAP students do to prepare for careers in those fields. Another great hands on experience helping students explore careers.



# English Language

## **6th Grade**

The 6th grade ELA students will be completing quarter 2 by reading a novel, *Anything But Typical or Out of My Mind*. The students will focus on vocabulary and literary elements used throughout the book.

At the same time an argumentative piece of writing will be working towards completion. The students have learned how to write a thesis statement, a counter argument and how to document works cited. A lot of learning has taken and will continue to take place in 6th grade!

## **7th Grade**

The 7th grade ELA students spent a lot of time this quarter analyzing and comparing arguments. Once they mastered those skills, they were tasked with writing their own argumentative essays. Students had a variety of controversial topics to pick from, such as lowering the voting age and keeping animals in captivity. The final drafts were turned in on Friday, and we are looking forward to reading them! We are ending the quarter with *A Christmas Carol*. Honors and advanced students will be reading the original classic, while general education students will be reading the abridged version. After we finish the book, all students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the text with the movie. Happy holidays to all!

## **8th Grade**

### **8th Grade ELA - Mrs. Bevis and Mr. Wagner**

Students continue to look at the elements of fiction while reading short stories. Some of the reactions to Edgar Allan Poe's work were priceless! We have also been working on identifying sentence structure, using semicolons properly, and writing using active voice. The second round of NWEA testing will be completed in the coming weeks, and, based on the participation in class, growth is expected! As we end the quarter, students will be writing responses to the short stories we have been reading. The last day to turn in missing or late work will be December 9, 2022, by 3:00 P.M. Students should also be wrapping up their Accelerated Reader Goals by December 20, 2022.

### **8th Grade Advanced ELA - Mr. Wagner**

It has been an outstanding second quarter in the Advanced classroom! Students have been working hard on developing their literary analysis skills, developing an expansive vocabulary, and honing their understanding of English grammar. We have surveyed a variety of short stories, analyzed their plots, and even spent time breaking down the character types found in each. I am looking forward to seeing all these skills utilized in the third quarter when we begin our class novel. We have just a few days before the end of the quarter; I know students are feverishly wrapping up their AR goals before December 20th.

## **8th Grade Honors ELA - Mr. Wagner**

Where has 2022 gone? We suddenly find ourselves rapidly approaching the end of the semester and trying our best to squeeze in as much instructional time before we're off to celebrate the holiday season. This quarter has been devoted solely to studying fiction and compositional skills. We have surveyed a variety of short stories, analyzed their plots, and even spent time breaking down the character types found in each. Honors students have also been honing their writing skills as we practice explanatory responses. Students also spent this quarter working on their Quarter 2 Project (Creative Writing), and I am in the process of reading their creations! We have just a few days before the end of the quarter; I know students are feverishly wrapping up their AR goals before December 20th.

Mrs. Bevis and Mr. Wagner would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and hope the New Year brings both joy and happiness.

# Math

## **6th Grade Math**

The second quarter has been a busy quarter in and out of the classroom. We have been working through many of the algebra and function standards, pausing to take the NWEA test, and finishing up with measurement conversions.

At the outset of the quarter, we have stressed the importance of taking the NWEA test seriously, as it is a tool that we use to measure academic growth throughout the year. The students have responded very well and have shown tremendous improvement on the end-of-semester test! The majority of our students met or exceeded their growth goals set for this quarter!

## **7th Grade Math**

The seventh grade general math classes have been working really hard collaborating to discover unit rates and measurement conversations. We have worked on real-world situations such as, "Better buys at a grocery store." Students worked with partners to compare prices of food, such as buying in bulk, to determine unit rates. We are still working on completing our chapter on rates, as we shift toward proportional relationships for the last couple weeks of Quarter #2.

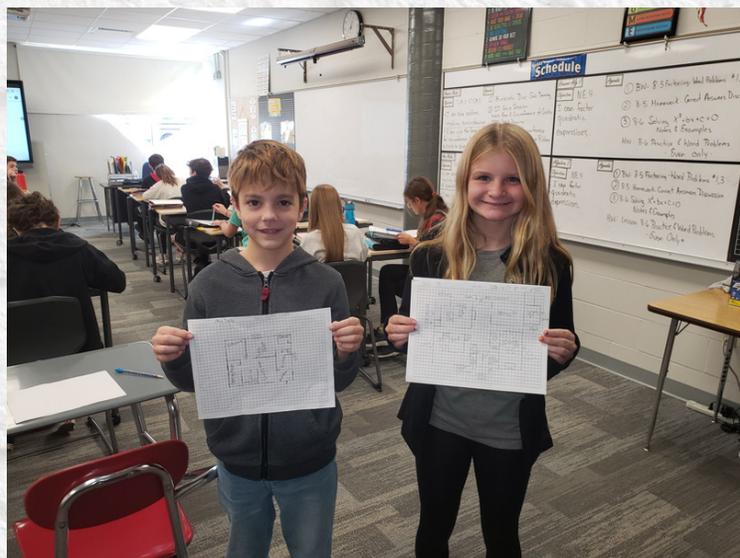
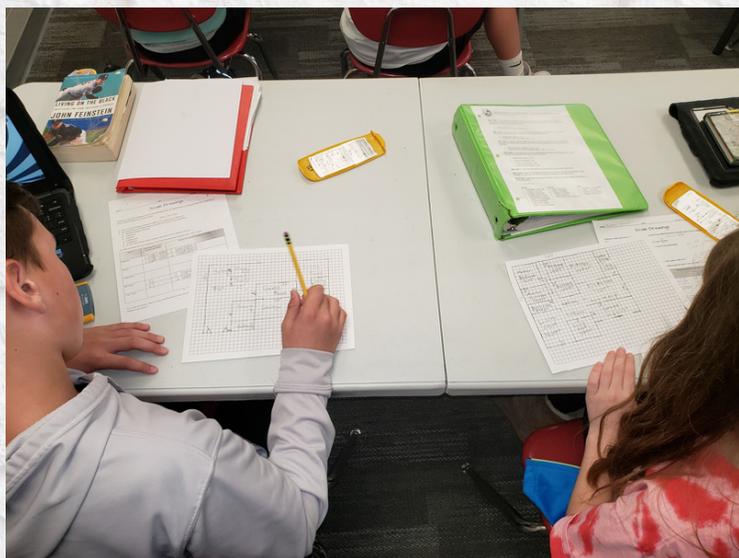
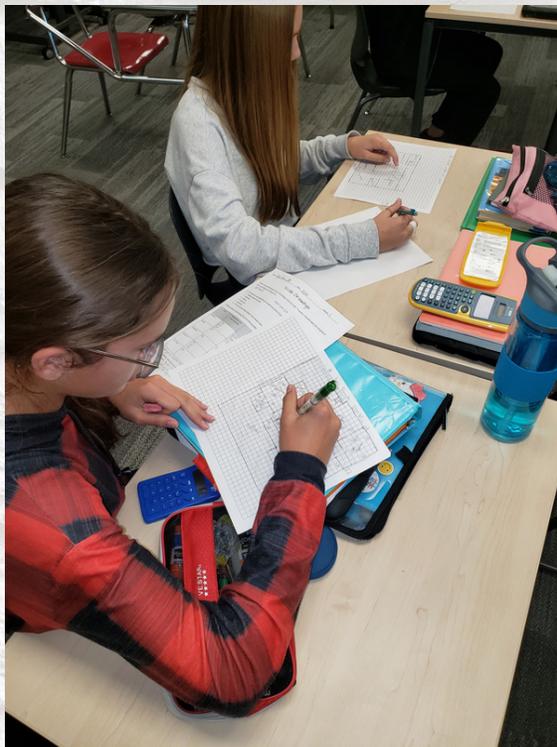
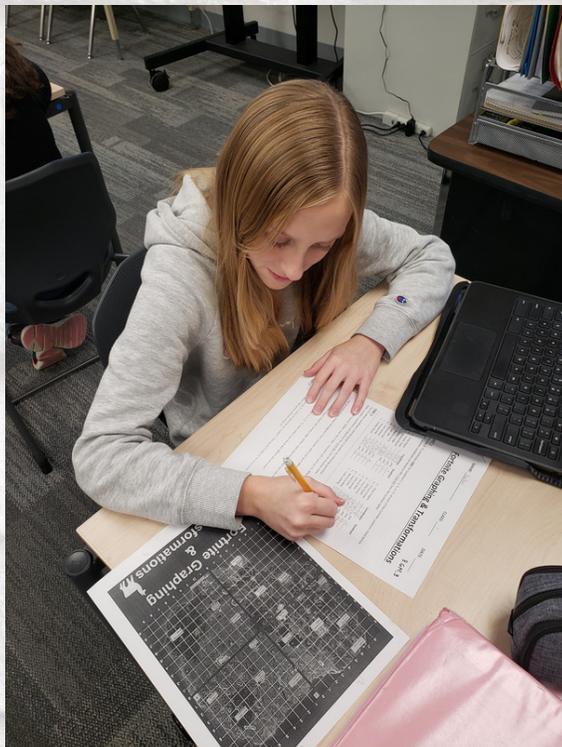
Students are continuing to review our Priority Standards through warm-ups in everyday class. Students work hard to help one another on warm-ups to ensure everyone in the class is understanding what we are doing. Seventh grade math classes are pushing hard to the finish line of Christmas break, and all the wonderful activities that come in the month of December here at ECMS.

The seventh grade Honors & Advanced math students have been working on the 7th & 8th grade geometry standards. When learning about scale drawings, they designed their own blueprints of their dream homes based on specific requirements. Students did an awesome job, and who knows, we may have a future architect. Also, during the second quarter, students practiced using formulas to find the area and circumference of circles and the volume and surface area of other geometric figures. Students are finishing up the quarter by exploring the effects of transforming geometric figures by translating, reflecting, rotating, and dilating on two-dimensional figures on a coordinate plane.

## 8th Grade Math

The eighth grade general math classes have worked primarily with the geometry standards during the second quarter and just wrapped up our unit on transformations. Right now, we're working on simplifying the radical to prepare for Algebra 1.

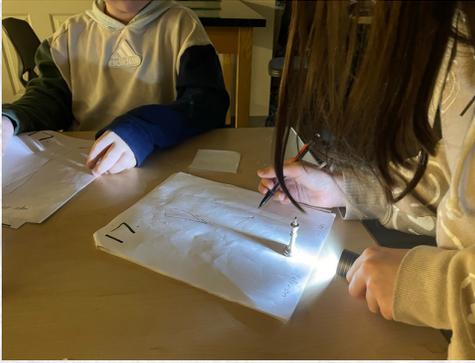
The eighth grade Algebra 1 students have been working hard on simplifying algebraic expressions and factoring quadratic expressions. Students are doing a fantastic job of learning how to factor quadratic expressions and finding the x-intercepts and vertex of parabolas. After mastering the skills, they will be inputting quadratic expressions into graphing calculators to graph their parabolas and find their x-intercepts and vertex using technology. In addition, students are working on understanding data and statistics and recognizing possible trends in data.



# Science

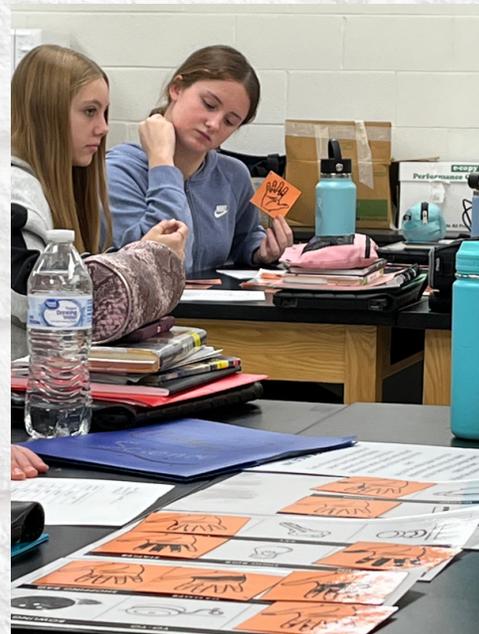
## 6th Grade Science

Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Lecher: Students have been learning about energy that travels in waves and properties of those waves. We did a lab investigating reflection, refraction, absorption, and transmission.



## 7th Grade Science

Mrs. Knueven, Mrs. Radcliffe: Students investigated the evidence that supports both the Continental Drift Theory and Plate Tectonics by assembling evidence maps and also mapping earthquakes and volcanoes to identify tectonic plate boundary zones. Next we will be looking at the cycles that occur on Earth.



Students working on critical thinking skills by trying to match ink covered items with ink stained hands.

## 8th Grade Science

Mrs. Bertke, Mr. Dawley: Students had a guest speaker, former EC graduate, Elise Doan, who is an aeronautical engineer at NASA. She shared pictures and videos from the recent launch of Artemis and also talked about her current project of 3D printing a permanent living space on the moon. In class, students are finishing the chemistry standards by creating their own periodic table, observing chemical reactions, & balancing chemical equations.



## Social Studies

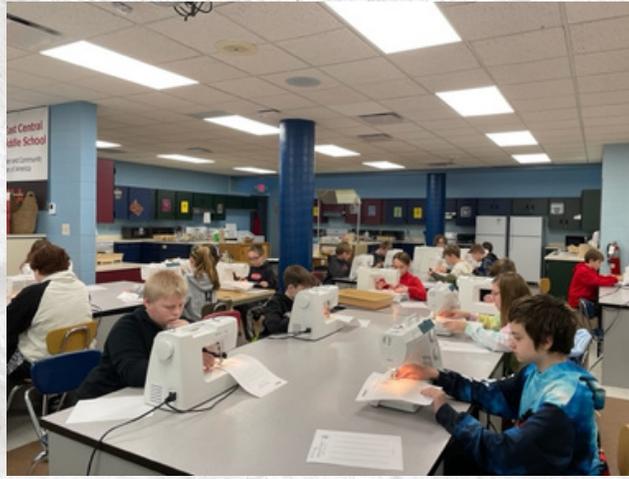
As the social studies department wraps up the second semester, topics covered in December include: Europe (6th grade), Africa (7th grade), and US Government (8th grade). 7th and 8th grade social studies will also be competing in an online International Geography Bee through International Academic Competitions. Scores on the exam will be used to determine which students qualify for the regional competition. We wish our students well in this competition!

## Special Ed

As we wrap up Semester 1, please be on the lookout for your child's Quarter 2 Progress Monitoring Report. If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding your child's IEP, please reach out to their Teacher of Record. You can find who this is by looking at their 9th period teacher in PowerSchool. We've seen such tremendous growth from our students this semester and we couldn't be more proud. We hope you all have a Happy Holiday Season and look forward to a great 3rd quarter when we return from break!

## Family & Consumer Science (FACS)

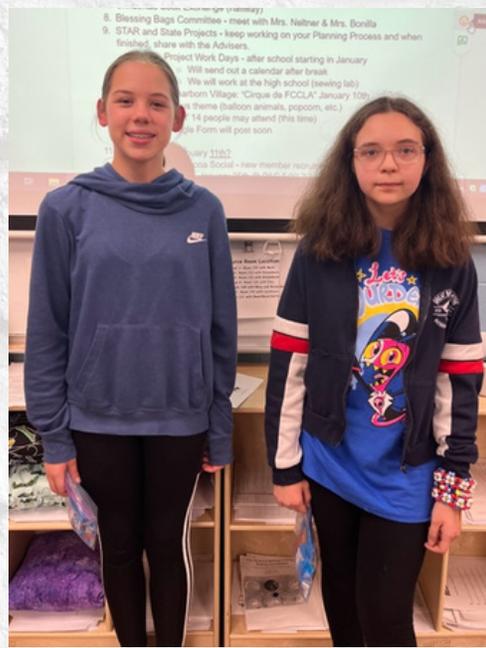
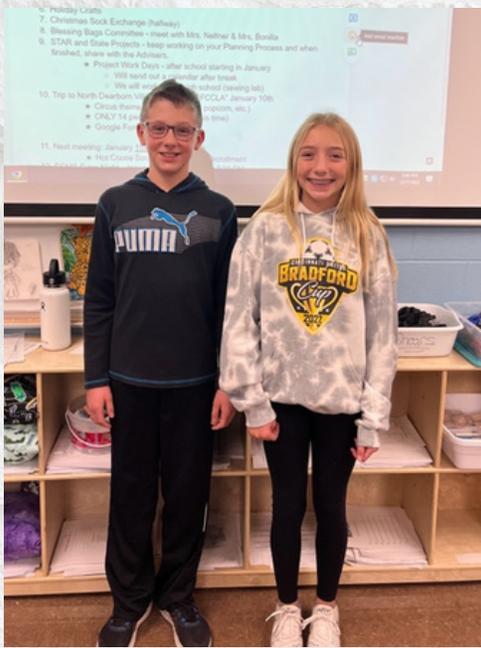
FACS students have been very busy preparing to sew (6th grade) and preparing food with their cooking groups (7th & 8th grade). Our goal is to have students learn life skills in class then continue to use them at home as well. It is nice to see that students are cooking more and also sewing with their families.



# Family, Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

FCCLA members hosted a VIP Dinner on November 17th to recognize the important people in their lives. The students prepared all the food and it turned out to be a wonderful evening filled with good food, great company and amazing young leaders. We prepared and sold Taco Casseroles as a fundraiser which was also a huge success thanks to all of the community support. Several members worked the FCCLA booth at the North Dearborn Craft Show on December 3rd to sell Silly Socks To finish up the semester, we held our Holiday Meeting on December 7th where students enjoyed ice cream sundaes and a sock exchange. The December Members of the Month are Avery Calvert and Katelynn Reifel. The Officers of the Month are Lexie Fey and Parker Simpson. Thank you for all of your hard work throughout this semester!





# Choir

The ECMS Winter Choir Concert was on Monday, December 19th. All of the choirs did a wonderful job and I'm very proud of them! It has been a great first semester for the Choir Department!



The Concert Choir and the 8th Grade Show Choir had the opportunity to perform for the elementary schools on Community Service Day! We had a great time visiting each school and spreading some holiday cheer!



# Creative Dramatics

The Creative Dramatics class had their end of the semester showcase on Monday, December 12th. The students planned their own blocking and movement for their scenes, monologues and musical theatre songs. All of the groups did a great job and I'm very proud of how much they have grown as actors this semester.



# Drama Club



Auditions will be January 10-12th from 3-4:30pm. Audition packets and sign ups are available outside Mrs. Brooks' room and audition rehearsal videos will be posted on the Drama Club Google Classroom Page. Performances will be April 14th and 15th at 7pm and April 16th at 3pm.

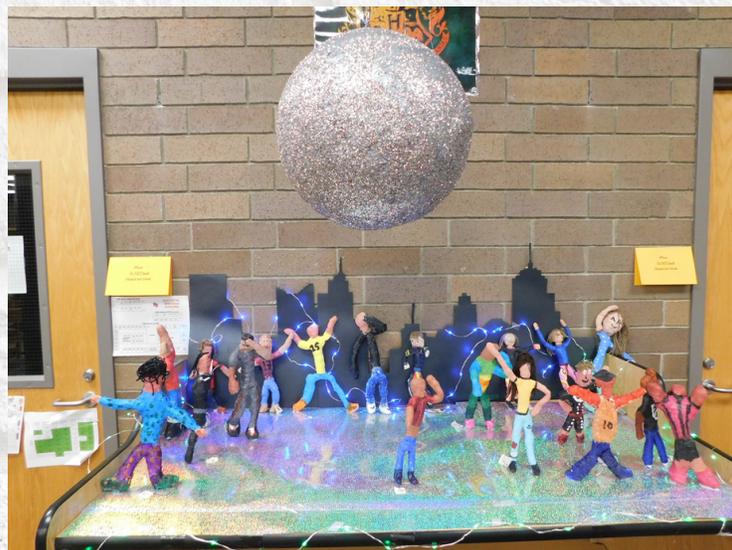
# Physical Education

As ECMS finishes up the first Semester, the PE department would like to encourage students to continue working out over the holidays. Please check your 3rd quarter schedules to see if you have PE. Details on expectations for class will be given out by the the teachers on the first couple day of class.



# Art

The 7th and 8th grade art students finished their Installation Art. This was a cooperative work of art that the entire class decided upon, planned, and created. A big thank you to Mrs. Bowling who was kind enough to let them display the works in the library. Currently the 7th and 8th grade students are working on a metal repousse'. They are learning about depth and low-relief sculpture.

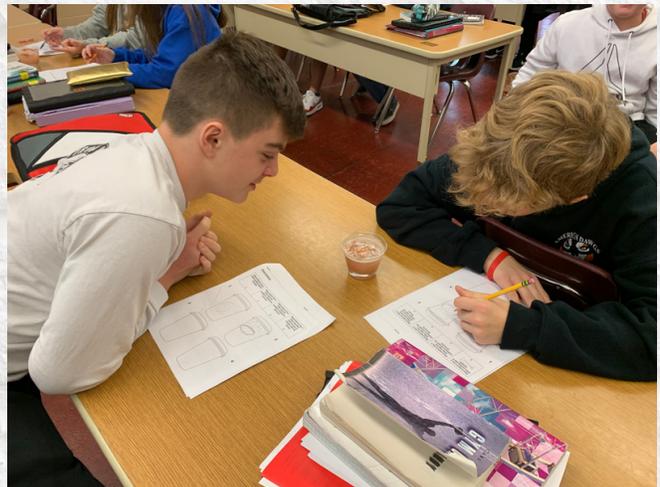


# Agriculture

Students in 6th Grade Ag have been wrapping up their nine week course by learning about the anatomy of eggs. From the eggshell to the chalaza, to the membrane and album, to even the yolk; there is surely something for everyone to learn about eggs. Students also had the opportunity to do an egg dissection and identify each part of the egg. Students loved seeing the difference in commercial eggs vs farm fresh eggs. 6th Graders also had the opportunity to learn more about dairy cattle and the production of dairy products. It was very eye opening for students to see how easy it was to make homemade butter. They loved making their own butter and how easy it can be!

7/8th Graders have been concluding their semester course by also learning about eggs and specifically Embryology. Students identified the day by day development of an embryo inside an egg, the anatomy of an egg, and even how to make a rubber bouncy egg! Students completed the Rubber Egg Lab and loved seeing their eggs bounce. Students then took their lab to the next level and determined how strong their egg membrane was by completing a series of drop tests. Students found that their eggs were able to withstand drops of over a foot in height and not break, instead bouncing out of the bowl and around their tables.

Our Introduction to Agriculture students are ending their high school credit course with a field trip to Krueger Maddux Greenhouses on Monday, December 12th. Students were able to learn more about the production and management of plants as an extension of the classroom curriculum. Students specifically learned about poinsettia production and management, perennial overwintering, pesticide usage, and so much more! We want to thank Krueger Maddux Greenhouses for allowing our Introduction to Agriculture students to come tour and learn more about your facilities. These students are now preparing for their Final Project Demonstrations to complete the high school credit portion of their course.



# FFA

East Central Middle School FFA prepared 100 poinsettias for our school's bus drivers during the 5th annual Community Service Day. East Central FFA members appreciate all their hard work for the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. Check out some of our pictures from Community Service Day.

East Central FFA just completed their annual Fruit Sale. We appreciate everyone in the community who supported us during our annual Fruit Sale!

Check out more info on our FFA Website - <https://sites.google.com/sunmandearborn.k12.in.us/eastcentralffa/home>





## Community Service Day 2022

