

Here is a report on the East United Meeting held on Valentine's Day (February 14, 2008):

Assistant Principal David Watkins provided a demonstration of the PowerPoint presentation given to students to explain the class registration process for next year. Guidance counselors have already given this presentation to East's students over the course of the last few weeks.

Students are expected to figure out the classes they want (or are required) to take next year and fill out a form that lists their choices. The form is then to be signed by a parent or guardian and the students are to turn in the forms by each class's deadline toward the end of February. Once the class selections have been approved, the students will register for the classes online via the Infinite Campus system. The registration is only tentative – there are classes that are subject to sufficient enrollment and teacher allocations. The students will learn how their schedule looks in May, and then will have one week – May 19 to 23 – to make any changes they think are appropriate.

One of the primary reasons why registration is only tentative at this point is that East will not learn what its teacher allocation for next year will be until sometime in March. The allocation of teachers is based on the number of students enrolled in the school and, unfortunately, East's enrollment is projected to go down next year from a bit over 1700 students to a bit under 1600. (After a couple of years of relatively low numbers beginning next year, the enrollment is projected to pick up again in future years.) This means fewer teachers next year than this year.

Despite the likely cut in allocations, there will still be some new classes offered next year. These include: Urban Agriculture, Spoken Word, Writing Fellows, and Regional/World Cuisine (a cooperative venture that will utilize the kitchen at the new Goodman Atwood Community Center). Students were given course catalogs that describe these and all the classes that are planned for next year.

Mr. Harris mentioned that the school would likely change the format for registration prior to the start of school in the fall. In the past, students had registered by grade, with the first day of registration devoted to seniors, the second to juniors, and so on. The new plan calls for just two registration days, a Thursday and the following

Monday, from 8 to 12 in the morning and from 3 to 6 in the afternoon. Any students can register at any time, which should make it easier for families that have students in more than one class.

Mr. Harris also described the successful orientation for next year's freshmen that took place during the first week of February. At the prompting of some interested parents, there were changes made in the process to provide a more inviting introduction to East. For example, rather than have current students give tours to incoming freshmen, there was a scavenger hunt for the eighth grade students instead. There was also a PowerPoint put together by parent Carla Shedivy and her family that gave the students an upbeat introduction to what the students might expect at East.

Math teacher Ms. Paulson was at the meeting and showed the quilts that her geometry students have been making. 38 students will be accompanying Ms. Paulson over spring break on a trip to Pine Ridge, an Ogala Sioux Native American reservation in South Dakota. The students will work on the reservation and present the quilts to reservation elders.

The next East High United meeting will take place on Thursday, March 13. The topic will be athletics at East and will feature Mr. Harris and athletic director David Karp. The discussion will focus on the school's overall approach to athletics rather than a discussion of specific teams or coaches.