



EVERGREEN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Evergreen Community Members,

What a year! Thank you to all of our Viking students and families for their hard work and resiliency throughout this past academic year. While COVID presented several challenges, the year was also filled with many successes. It is with great pride that I can say we educated more than 1,100 students in-person for all 180-school days without any COVID-related closures. This remarkable feat is due to the commitment of both the Evergreen staff and community. It's true, Vikings really do row together! Thank you for your perseverance, cooperation, and tenacity as we navigated the many strict rules and regulations COVID presented.

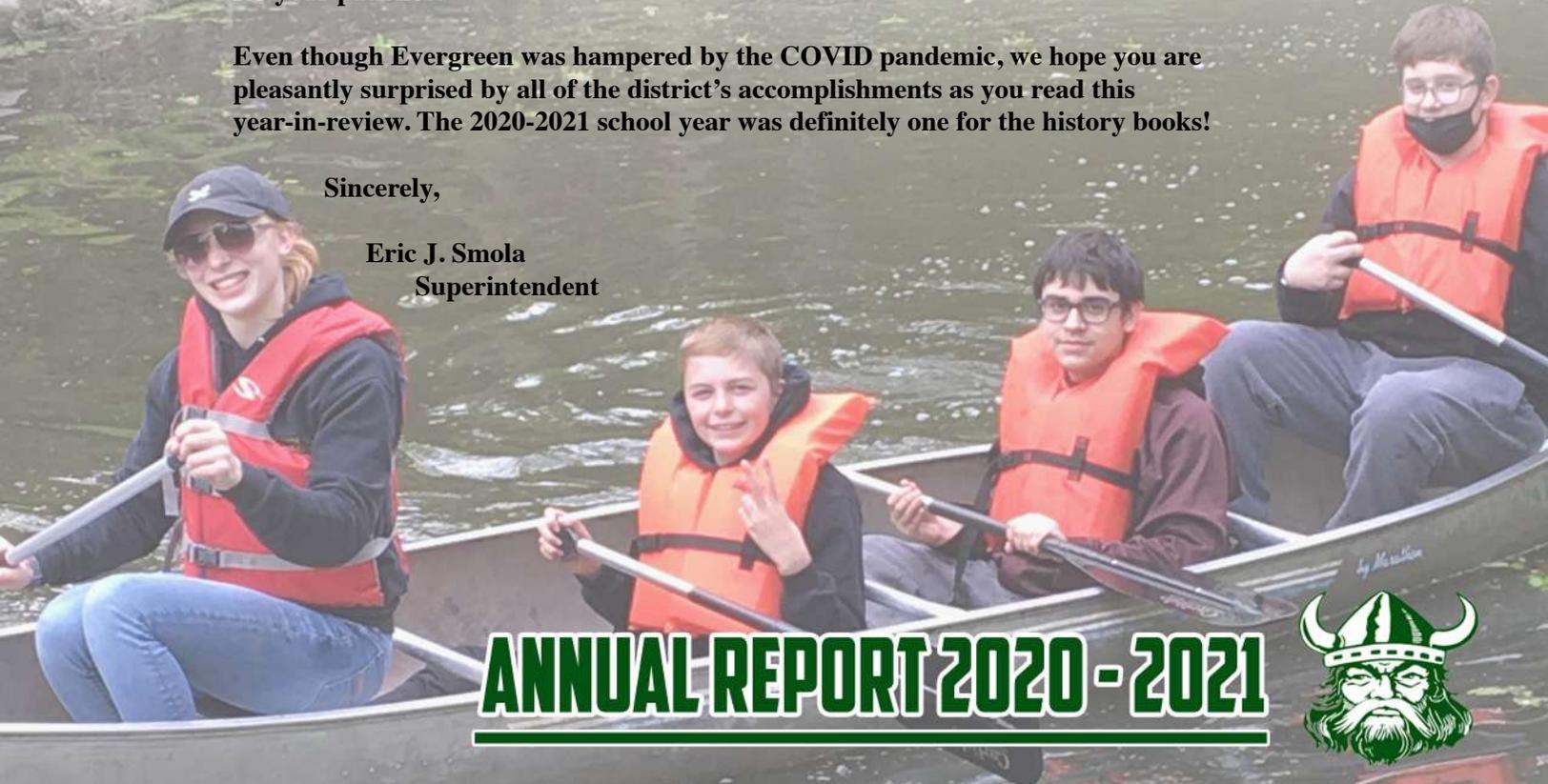
We are excited to announce the overall district theme for 2021-2022 is *Building the Foundation for Student Success*. In addition to establishing district goals, each school is developing building-level objectives related to student achievement and staff development. We have so much to look forward to this year.

Speaking of getting started, most of you are aware the renovation and expansion project of the high school locker rooms is underway. Progress is moving along swiftly, and we will soon be able to provide more athletic opportunities as well as equal facilities for both male and female athletes. During construction, the service drive will be closed to all vehicles, and bus traffic will be rerouted around campus. We apologize for the inconvenience, and thank you for your patience.

Even though Evergreen was hampered by the COVID pandemic, we hope you are pleasantly surprised by all of the district's accomplishments as you read this year-in-review. The 2020-2021 school year was definitely one for the history books!

Sincerely,

Eric J. Smola
Superintendent



ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021



DISTRICT RECOGNITION

Whether school districts were in-person, remote, or virtual during the 2020-2021 school year, state testing was required. Evergreen was recognized with the following accomplishments, largely due to consistent, in-person learning:

- Students in all three buildings, EHS, EMS, and EES, exceeded the state average on all mandatory spring 2021 testing.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

This past year, the following academic opportunities were made available to enhance student learning:

- A new, 10-point grading scale was instituted for all coursework at EHS. In addition, Advanced Placement (AP) and honors classes now include a weighted scale.
- Established the Viking Virtual Academy (VVA) to accommodate students with an online option who were unable to attend in-person learning due to COVID concerns. A total of 104 students were enrolled in the VVA.
- Took advantage of the Broadband Ohio Connectivity Grant, funded by the Ohio Department of Education CARES Act, and purchased 40 internet hotspots for student families with internet connectivity issues.
- EMS partnered with BGSU to provide teachers with year-long professional development focusing on co-teaching and Universal Design for Learning (UDL).
- Participated in the Amazon Future Engineers Program through the Expanding Opportunities For Each Child Non-Competitive Grant provided by ODE. This program focuses on the field of computer science.

STUDENT SUCCESS

While COVID presented many challenges, Evergreen students continued to excel in the classroom while representing the district throughout the community and surrounding areas. A few of the many accomplishments include:

- Evergreen High School's Class of 2021 graduated 86 students, including 13 students who attended the Four County Career Center. In addition, 15 students met the rigorous criteria set forth by ODE and received an Honors Diploma. The class also recognized eight valedictorians, one salutatorian, and one Four County top-student.
- Two EHS students were named to Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's Teen Ambassador Board.
- EHS had one student achieve "Commended" status in the National Merit Qualifying Test, and two others were named Evans Scholars. In addition, FFA members placed first in various contests, and multiple students placed in the top spots of various competitions sponsored by the American Legion, VFW, Black Swamp Arts Council, Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation District, and more.
- EHS inducted 36 students into the National Honor Society, and 25 EMS students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.
- EHS Quiz Team qualified for the NAQT National Small School Tournament for the fifth consecutive year.
- Evergreen's first eSports team competed in the eastern region of the Play VS league and included 17 student members. The team finished with a season record of 6-7.
- The annual EHS musical, *The Secret Garden*, was performed and streamed through an online ticketing agency which enabled the show to go on, and the audience was able to view it from home.
- Band and choir concerts were recorded and made available to the public via the district's website. Family members were able to attend the spring concerts in person.



STUDENT SUCCESS CONTINUED

- The District Art Show continued by displaying student artwork virtually. Select pieces were also on display for public viewing at the Evergreen Community Library.
- The EHS Trap Team was named the Fulton County Champions.
- Sixth and seventh graders were able to attend the Outdoor Education program for two days each at Camp Palmer.
- Thanks to the generosity of MVP, fifth graders were able to attend their end-of-year field trip to Greenfield Village. EES also held a special “graduation ceremony” for the class.
- Girls soccer team was named Sectional Champs logging the most wins in school history; overall record 11-6, 2-3 NWOAL.
- Varsity softball team was named NWOAL Co-Champions and Sectional Champs; overall record 15-9, 6-1 NWOAL.
- Two EHS athletes received All-State distinctions, while a Viking volleyball and a boys basketball were each named NWOAL “Player of the Year.”

SAFETY, SECURITY & SUPPORT

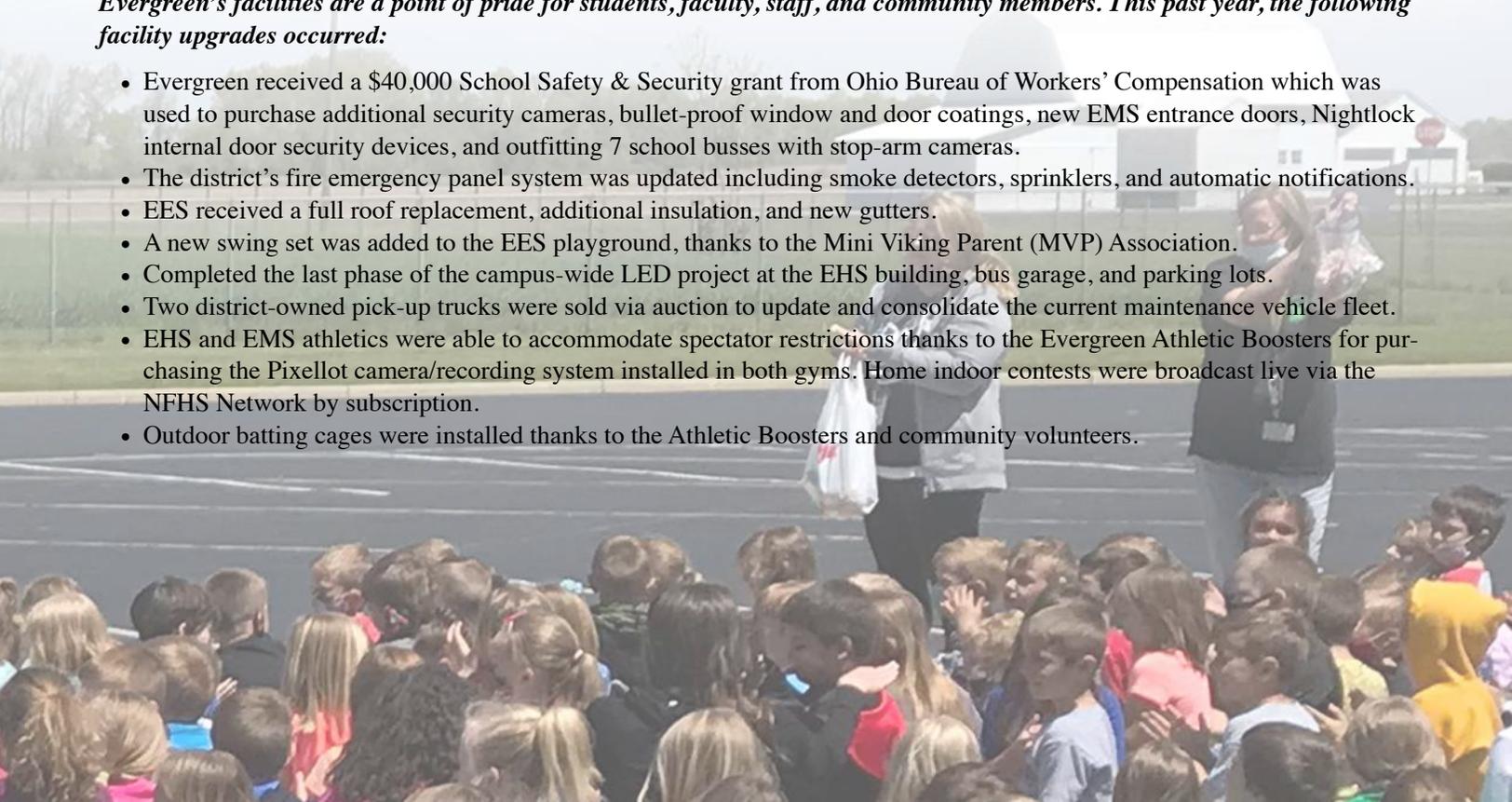
In addition to providing a quality education, the District’s top priority is the safety, security, and support of its students and staff. The following measures were implemented in 2020-2021:

- Evergreen strictly followed all COVID mandates including visual signage, mask requirements, increased cleaning and disinfecting measures, and social distancing floor decal placement.
- Due to the generosity of the Gleaner Life Insurance Society, South Fairfield Arbor, 46 Evergreen students received new winter coats, boots, and cold-weather accessories.
- Evergreen hosted a free community self-defense clinic presented by KOGS.
- Preschoolers and first graders were visited by emergency personnel to learn about fire safety and household escape plans.
- The FFA and FFA Alumni provided 113 Thanksgiving meals and Christmas packages to community families in need.
- Evergreen developed a technology plan to continue meeting student and staff needs.
- EMS established a Zeros Aren’t Permitted (ZAP) policy that allows students needing extra time and support to complete assignments and homework during the school day.
- Evergreen hosted a COVID vaccine clinic making the vaccine more accessible to students and community members.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Evergreen’s facilities are a point of pride for students, faculty, staff, and community members. This past year, the following facility upgrades occurred:

- Evergreen received a \$40,000 School Safety & Security grant from Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation which was used to purchase additional security cameras, bullet-proof window and door coatings, new EMS entrance doors, Nightlock internal door security devices, and outfitting 7 school busses with stop-arm cameras.
- The district’s fire emergency panel system was updated including smoke detectors, sprinklers, and automatic notifications.
- EES received a full roof replacement, additional insulation, and new gutters.
- A new swing set was added to the EES playground, thanks to the Mini Viking Parent (MVP) Association.
- Completed the last phase of the campus-wide LED project at the EHS building, bus garage, and parking lots.
- Two district-owned pick-up trucks were sold via auction to update and consolidate the current maintenance vehicle fleet.
- EHS and EMS athletics were able to accommodate spectator restrictions thanks to the Evergreen Athletic Boosters for purchasing the Pixellot camera/recording system installed in both gyms. Home indoor contests were broadcast live via the NFHS Network by subscription.
- Outdoor batting cages were installed thanks to the Athletic Boosters and community volunteers.



INCREASED COMMUNICATION

Communicating student experiences and promoting positive relationships, and providing updated news in a timely manner are important to the district. The following steps have been taken to effectively share information:

- Families with students attending Evergreen Schools received a District Superintendent Update via email every-other week regarding COVID protocols, upcoming events, community affairs, and more.
- A section devoted to the COVID crisis with local Evergreen updates was added to the district website.
- Whether or not to remain in the NWOAL called for community awareness and input. Evergreen hosted a Community Forum, conducted surveys, relayed historical statistics, addressed community concerns, and more.
- Internally, an EES Climate Committee was formed to help foster positive collaboration between staff and students. In addition, a Discipline Committee was established to improve support systems for the most at-risk students.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The District remains in good financial condition at this time. This is due to the support of our community, federal funds to assist during the pandemic, and conservative spending patterns.

- The current EHS locker room construction project has been planned for many years. Funds have been set aside leading up to this project for several years with the intention to not strain the General Fund.
- There is a new funding formula for all Ohio public schools. Funding from the State of Ohio may increase about 2% over the next multiple years.

NEW for 2021-2022

As a new school year begins, the District has several exciting initiatives in place, some of these include:

- Re-launching the strategic planning process by conducting a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threats (SWOT) analysis with staff, students, and parent input. New district goals will be established and a revised Viking Compass (the district's existing strategic plan) will be developed and shared.
- Beginning August 2021, EHS moved to a traditional schedule which includes eight, 44-minute periods per day.
- Developing and implementing a district-wide Positive Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team while partnering with the University of Toledo to gain expert guidance and provide clinical opportunities for college students within this process.
- Completing the renovation and expansion of the EHS locker rooms.
- Begin exploring the possibility of renovating the EMS building to include additional gym and performing arts spaces.
- Based on the district's comprehensive food service review, a service contract has been established with Taher Inc. to direct Evergreen's cafeterias in providing students with expanded food options.
- Upgrading the HVAC roof-top system at EHS.
- Installing WiFi access points in all classrooms in order to increase internet capabilities.



Evergreen Local School District
14544 County Road 6
Metamora, OH 43540