

Parent Organizations at Elk Grove High School *Meeting Changing Needs*

We are in the process of changing our parent organizations so they can better meet the changing needs of our school while providing enhanced support for them. We are initiating two new groups - a Parent/Teacher and an Athletic Boosters Organization. In addition, the Music Parent groups have expanded to support the growth planned for our music programs—band, choir, and orchestra. Finally, our Parent Foundation will cease to exist, as you know it at the end of this school year. In its place, with your help, will be a new organization that will operate more as an endowment group seeking corporate donations and grant support for school activities.

A Parent/Teacher and Athletic Boosters Organizations are needed at EG. Both are integral to the other District 214 high schools' success, and they will be helpful to us as well. They will provide a focal point for coordinating parents and community with the special needs of our students. At the moment, we are working clarifying both groups' missions and goals, while preparing to hold Board and Officer elections this spring. Parents will be able to join these groups next year during the fall registration.

Here are some specifics regarding each of the new or revised parent organizations:

Elk Grove Parent/Teacher Organization – New Organization!

The Elk Grove High School Parent/Teacher Organization will be fully functioning by the fall of 2008. This volunteer parent group will be committed to contributing to the educational program for all students. Meetings will occur once a month (second Wednesday of each month) at 7 p.m. in the school's Faculty Lounge where business will be discussed and parents can interact with school administrators.

The EG – PTO will consist of the Executive Board, Class Representatives, and Standing Committee Chairs, i.e., Post Prom Committee, Parent Teacher Conference Night Scheduling Committee, Open House Coordination Group, etc. The Executive Board will include President/Co-presidents, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and the EGHS Principal will act as a non-voting member. If you are interested in possibly running for a 2008-09 Executive Board position or a Class Representative position, please contact Diane Free, at diane.free@d214.org.

Our goal is to have every Elk Grove High School parent join this organization. Membership forms will be available with the '08-'09 registration packet mailed to every home in the spring. That also will be an opportunity for parents to volunteer for one of the standing committees.

EG - PTO will

- Coordinate the Parent/Teacher Conference scheduling process.
- Support and coordinate staff appreciation dinners for Parent Teacher Conference night, Open House, etc.
- Schedule additional fundraisers to support other standing committee objectives.
- Provide parent volunteers for various school activities.
- Support Teacher/Staff Appreciation events.
- Organize student appreciation activities.
- Offer parent awareness programs throughout the school year.
- Compile the EGHS Student Directory, which is new at EG. The directory will be available in September '08. The proceeds will go to the EG Parent Organization group to assist with the purchase of the academic planners that are distributed free to all students and to assist with additional EGHS Parent Organization fund raising needs.
- Help support the efforts of the Post Prom committee

Music – Choral and Instrumental Booster Parents

This fall we also made some changes to our Music Parent groups to better serve the needs of our choir, band and orchestra. Previously, we had one Music Booster group. Now we will have Instrumental Boosters, which include band and orchestra parents, and a Choral Booster for the choir parents.

Elk Grove High School Athletic Boosters – New Organization!

We anticipate the Elk Grove High School Athletic Boosters to be fully functioning by the fall of 2008. We'd like to have the Executive Board in place by late spring so the '08-'09 school year objectives, fund raising, and events for this organization can be planned this summer. This organization WILL NOT REPLACE any of the already flourishing parent athletic groups like our EG football parent group, our baseball parents, etc. Rather this organization will work on NEW and COMPREHENSIVE fund raising efforts designed to support "large ticket items" with the goal of assisting ALL school athletic programs. It also will provide general assistance for all of our sports teams.

An organization like the Athletic Boosters currently is functioning in every other District 214 school. Each school has found that this parent group does much to support the purchase of large items, such as new score boards, sound systems, and conditioning and weight equipment that the school's Athletic Department otherwise would be unable to afford.

Meetings for the Elk Grove High School Athletic Boosters will occur once a month beginning late summer (dates to be determined) at 7 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. Business will be discussed and parents will be able to interact with school administrators and the school's Athletic Directors.

The EGHS Athletic Boosters goals will be:

- To unify and strengthen public awareness and support of the athletic programs.
- To provide assistance with fund raising projects and improve facilities and equipment above and beyond the capabilities of established administration budgets.
- To promote good sportsmanship for the welfare of all athletes.
- To promote goodwill and assist visiting competitors, coaches, and spectators.
- To encourage spectators to act in a courteous and enthusiastic manner while attending school sporting events.

The Executive Board members will include a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the Assistant Principal for Student Activities working in conjunction with the Associate Principal for Operations. The group will need liaison parents for areas such as student awards and recognition, hospitality, membership, volunteer coordinator, coordinators for each of the specific large fund raisers, and a liaison parent from each of our girls and boys athletic groups. If you are interested in possibly holding an Executive Board position or becoming one of the liaison parents for an Elk Grove athletic team, please contact Assistant Principal for Student Activities Rick Mirro at rick.mirro@d214.org or Associate Principal for Operations Ken Stiff at ken.stiff@d214.org.

Parent Foundation – Disbanding at End of School Year

Parent Foundation – This organization, as you've known it in the past, is disbanding at the end of this school year, as its structure no longer meets changing needs at the school. We are working on creating a new endowment group with a focus on obtaining grants and corporate support to assist Elk Grove High School. So we're in the midst of a transformation. At the end of this school year, the Elk Grove Parent Foundation, as you know it, will disband, and we will create a new organization with a different mission and focus. If you have an interest and experience in eliciting corporate support and/or experience with grant writing, please contact either Nancy Holman, principal, at nancy.holman@d214.org or David Travis, EG associate principal, at david.travis@d214.org.

In summary, we are very excited about the changes taking place. They will provide more opportunities for parent involvement while enhancing the experiences for our students. Please join us in making them a reality.