

12 REASONS TO CHOOSE ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



1 EVERY STUDENT KNOWN BY NAME

At the heart of The Elkhart Promise is the commitment to know every student by name. Throughout the district, Elkhart Community Schools' staff - from teachers to administrators to bus drivers - strive to learn more about each child and support their needs and goals.

2 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Elkhart Community Schools recognizes the importance of partnerships with the community, including businesses, non-profits, churches, and families. Over 400 partnerships provide opportunities for ECS students through programs like the Boys & Girls Club and exclusive use of the Elkhart Health, Fitness, Aquatics, and Community Center. Community partnerships also support education through internships, volunteering, and field trips (such as Wellfield Gardens, shown above).

3 CAREER-READY GRADUATES

One of the greatest assets of Elkhart Community Schools is the Elkhart Area Career Center, home to 30 specialized fields of study dedicated to teaching real-world career skills. Programs are designed to prepare students for a future in college or directly to the workforce, with all including college credit and/or industry certification. Additionally, ECS requires capstone projects for students in middle and high school which focus on understanding career interests and goals. ECS provides career experience to students through internships, work-study, job shadowing, and field trips to local businesses. Local employers participate in job panels and committees to ensure our students are learning current, applicable skills for today's career opportunities. Through these partnerships, many local employers seek out ECS graduates for their companies, knowing they have received a superior education and possess the needed skills for their career.



ELKHART
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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 elkhart.k12.in.us

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COLLEGE-READY GRADUATES

In 2017, over 100 ECS students walked across the stage at Ivy Tech Community College's graduation ceremony, earning an associates degree or technical certificate, PRIOR to their high school graduation. These same graduates earned over \$3.48 million in college scholarships. During high school, ECS students have access to more AP/Dual Enrollment Classes than any other district in Elkhart County. The Early College Programs at Elkhart Central High School, Elkhart Memorial High School, and the Elkhart Area Career Center are the only fully-endorsed Early College Programs in the South Bend-Mishawaka-Elkhart region.

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LIFE-READY GRADUATES

In addition to preparing students for a career or college, ECS is committed to preparing students for life readiness. Classes emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication. Classes like personal finances and American Sign Language provide ECS students with real-life skills for their success.

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PRIDE

From grades K-12, students are taught and graded on PRIDE, our district's standard for life skills. PRIDE stands for Persistence, Respectfulness, Initiative, Dependability, and Efficiency, attributes sought by employers.

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CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Elkhart Community Schools continues to grow co-curricular opportunities for students, ranging from academic programs like Robotics and Problem Solvers to clubs like bowling and lacrosse to IHSAA athletics like football and soccer to performing arts like theatre and music. New to ECS are crew, archery, and boys volleyball. The Elkhart Central Symphony Orchestra has earned trips to the state finals nine times in the past ten years, and the Elkhart Central drumline recently placed second in an international event.

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DIVERSITY

Elkhart Community Schools celebrates diversity in all buildings and encourages conversations with students about culture and inclusion. Through the ECS Culture Series: Continuing the Conversation, culture and inclusion is brought front and center through speakers, events, exhibits, and curriculum. Speakers have included Holocaust survivor Eva Kor and Freedom Rider Charles Person.

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1 to 1 TECHNOLOGY

Many districts are moving toward 1:1 technology for students, but what sets ECS apart is the methodology for implementation. Using teacher-forward implementation ensures teachers receive advanced training and demonstration in curriculum development long before devices are given to students. In 2018, ECS high schools will be 1:1. Full implementation of all devices across the entire district will be completed by January 2020.

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AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

With agriscience classes in Elkhart Community Schools' middle and high schools, ECS is the largest agriculture school in the state of Indiana. But an education in agriscience begins long before middle school for ECS students. Throughout the district, elementary classrooms have indoor gardens and chick stations, so students can observe agriculture right before their eyes. ECS is also home to a 114-acre farm, where students learn about agriculture, ecology, biology, and more. Agriscience programs are offered in high school through Animal Science, Plant Science, and AgriBusiness courses, as well as through the EACC's Veterinary Assisting and Small Engines programs. All Agriscience teachers are CASE-curriculum trained.

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PRE-K

Over 400 Pre-K openings for children aged 3-5 are found at Elkhart Community Schools. Together with parental support, an early start to a child's education with a quality preschool or Pre-K program can provide short- and long-term advantages, including academic gains as well as gains in socio-emotional readiness.

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SPECIALIZED CURRICULUM

At Elkhart Community Schools, every child is known by name. For many children, learning styles differ. ECS excels at working with students with special needs, as well as students who have high academic abilities. Students are challenged at their level, provided with instruction and curriculum that promotes continuous growth.



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