

Mustang Minutes



FEBRUARY 2017

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Greetings,

As we began the second semester of the academic calendar, it is reassuring that so many East Marshall endeavors are falling in to place. This is affirmed by the comments made by many of the high school students. Over the past month I had the opportunity to meet with several high school students in small groups. The conversations were extensions from the topics they were surveyed on back on November 23rd.

When high school students were asked what they valued about East Marshall, they responded with confidence. The consistent theme shared by the students was around the topic of “positive relationships”. These positive relationships are referenced between student to student and teacher to student.

The small groups that shared comments with me elaborated in detail about how they believe that their teachers care about them as students and believe teachers truly want them to be successful. The school environment was brought up and the conversation focused on the welcoming atmosphere found at East Marshall High School. One student referenced that our school is large enough to provide many opportunities but small enough that you get to know each student attending East Marshall High School. In addition to a welcoming environment, other highlights were mentioned, such as, college class offerings, non-core classes that other high schools do not offer, and many extra-curricular offerings. There are many options for students to consider participation in if he or she chooses to get involved.

A topic that I specifically requested to visit about was school safety. Students expressed that they appreciated the upgrades of the school buildings and feel safe at school. The conversations circled back around to the topic of teachers caring about students, and how it is very evident that our staff puts in the extra effort to go above and beyond meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of our East Marshall students.

On a final note, I express how pleasing it was to meet with the high school students. Each of the students who met with me extended an offering to sit with me and have a conversation. These students have busy lives and their time is valuable. They were eager to share the positive things going on at school, and their school pride was very noticeable. Roughly one third of the high school students indicated that they were willing to take time out of their schedule and visit about wonderful things going on in their school buildings. For that, I extend a huge thank you to those students who chose to participate in the interviews.

As always, it's a great day to be a Mustang!

Yours in Education,

Anthony P. Ryan