

Maddie's Minutes

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The Rise of a Chief



It was my freshman year, a year of many firsts, and I was in Texie Jonsson's Journalistic Writing I class, thinking that I was only in the class to earn one of my English elective credits. To my surprise, I learned that I have a profound passion for journalistic writing.

As the leaves fell off the trees, the second semester appeared, and I was fortunate to move right into Journalistic Writing II otherwise known as Newspaper. The class consisted of purely upperclassmen- mostly students I'd never met. I soon noticed that I was the only freshman student on the Newspaper staff. I quickly became motivated to demonstrate my journalism skills and write at the same level as my fellow staff members.

As I made my first staff profile, I became a part of the Red Ink family, and the feeling of being the youngest disappeared. Following that, I was assigned my first article and print story. I don't think I've taken anything more seriously in my life- writing my first newspaper article was the most defining moment of my freshman year. It soon became very apparent that having student-directed media in school is the

key to staying connected.

As a sophomore, my passion for newspaper continued to grow as did my relationship with my peers and my roles. My role of a staff reporter is a shared title for many staff members; however, my role felt more individual and complete every time I distributed a newspaper to each student in the building. Our combined efforts manifested into a mas-

“
Just be yourself, there is no one better.”

-Taylor Swift

terpiece of information that students can enjoy reading. The feeling of accomplishment and pride kept bringing me back to the classroom with my staff where all were committed to empowering the student voice through a student-produced newspaper.

The passion for journalis-

tic writing can be felt in this shared space, and it truly is an amazing experience. The following semester I was promoted to Opinion Editor, which boosted my confidence to excel in the next level of journalistic writing.

I continued my role as an Opinion Editor my junior year which also came with more responsibilities since we had a new staff. The loss of my upperclassmen staff members was hard, but I knew that I had to carry on what they started. I started to manage the social media account to promote and advocate for the EHS student voice. At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, my role and responsibilities increased as Eamon Shaw (25) and I were announced as the new Editor-in-Chiefs for the EHS newspaper.

Soon the 2023-2024 school year started and the roles of leadership came naturally to us. We had plenty of ideas and updates to add to our student-run class. Through the entire experience of running the newspaper, I strongly believe that everyone on the newspaper staff can testify that writing for your school brings a sense of satisfaction and pride. Getting to share opinions, news, sports, features, and personal experiences can ignite confidence and honor in the Eaton community. This is why we write for our student body, and why we worked together to create a back-to-school newspaper for all students at EHS.

Staff Editorial



Embrace Cultivation of the EHS heart



A new school year means new students, new teachers, and this year it means a school-wide system with a focus to equip professionals at EHS with rational and intentional tools to help develop the campus culture. Through the organization Capturing Kids Hearts(CKH) teachers and staff members have been trained on the best methods to build relationships with students and minimize behavioral concerns. Capturing Kids' Hearts is an organization that strives to equip educational professionals with the necessary skills to increase campus culture in schools around the world. Eaton already prides itself on a fantastic school culture, as Jessica Grable, Eaton High School's principal, said "CKH will help to make this amazing place even more amazing." CKH also provides tools to effectively deal with discipline issues, which is something that has not been consistent schoolwide in past years. CKH's process isn't one that's hard to understand, CKH deploys four questions, which are as follows, "What are you doing," "What should you be doing," "Are you doing it," and "What are you going to do about it." These four questions put the students in control of how they choose to respond to each question. Their choice of response can result in a "behave out" where the student is then sent out of the classroom, or their response can lead to a solution to their action. It is all in the hands of the student and how they choose to respond to the questions. Grable said, "Our hope is that fewer kids will choose to behave out,

and we can create an environment where students check each other if a student is not doing what they are supposed to do." Another fantastic tool that CKH provides is the social contract, which is a hand-crafted contract created by the students and teacher in every single classroom, designed to lay out how the teacher and student should interact and be treated every single day when in the classroom. When a student or teacher goes against the contract set, it is expected that another student or the teacher can address the offending behavior and address the social contract.

With a new policy and plan comes obvious challenges, new assistant principal, Andy Poland said, "The biggest challenge is getting everybody to put their best foot forward and buy it," Grable added saying, "It will take everybody and hopefully what happens when everyone does it, is that everyone models each other and that trickles down all throughout the school community." CKH will ultimately increase the school culture, but also make EHS feel like home to every student. The hope is that the EHS student community takes the necessary time to learn and really believe in this new process that seemingly provides nothing but positives to EHS. CKH will be a positive for EHS thanks to clear processes in the system and a crafted plan designed for EHS.

In order for CKH to truly bring out the best in EHS, students and staff must be committed every day to seriously carrying out the plan to increase school culture and productivity. Students should recognize and be grateful to be a part of a school that seeks out other resources to make our community stronger. Only time will truly tell if CKH and the student community will be able to bring out the best in EHS, but the immediate present is hopeful.

RedInk Staff

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- Co-Editor-in-Chief.....eamonshaw
- Managing Editor.....juliameagher
- News & Sports Editor.....patrickpreston
- Feature & Opinion Editor.....alexwilliams
- Staff Reporter.....annieDeJager
- Staff Reporter.....gracehill
- Adviser.....kacigreen

The Red Ink is a public forum, School-sponsored and student generated, which encourages the free exchange of ideas and information.

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