

EASTERN STARLINE

Important Dates | Welcome | Meet Your PTO

Important Dates

Sept 8: First Day of School

Sept 21: First Day F2F School

Oct 13, 630pm: PTO Meeting

Facebook Page

If you are a Facebook member, please join our Facebook group to stay informed on the latest news and events:

Eastern Elementary PTO

@easternrocks

Welcome Back

Welcome back to students and staff! We hope you had an amazing summer!

Seeking Room Parents

Duties include coordinate/support your teacher, coordinate holiday parties (likely will look different this year), and organize your teacher's birthday gift!

Please email Laura Ashton at lauraashton5484@gmail.com.



Update from PTO

While this year may look a little different than we are used to, we are going to make the best of it and have an incredible school year!

Ways Y O U can help our Eastern Stars

- **Be a role model:** Children will react to and follow your reactions. Demonstrate proper mask wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing where appropriate.
- **Stay positive:** Celebrate the positives!
- **Have a conversation about Covid:** Teaching children positive preventive measures and talking with them about their fears can go a long way in reducing anxiety and fear regarding going back to school.
- **Explain simple safety steps:** Tell your child this disease spreads between people who are in close contact with one another, when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or when one touches infected objects or surfaces. Explain mask wearing.



2020-2021 PTO Board:

LAURA ASHTON
PRESIDENT



Hello, hello Eastern Stars and families! I'm Laura Ashton and I am so excited to be the Eastern PTO President for the 2020-2021 school year (regardless of how it ends up looking)! I am a MSU grad, mom of two (Rob, 2nd grade and Kate, preschool) wife to a crazy, funny, amazing husband Ian and an obsessive supporter of our awesome staff and school. I grew up in the area but moved back to TC in 2012 and love raising a family here. I stay home full time but used to dabble in the corporate world as an Executive Assistant in the investment department of a bank. I love collaborating and hearing ideas of others and am really anxious to get as many families involved in our amazing school community as possible!

JOHN BAILS
VICE PRESIDENT



Hello, I'm John Bails and I have the pleasure of serving the Eastern Elementary community as the Vice President of the PTO. I have a 3rd Grader (Deverick) returning this year and a preschooler (Lando) who will start kindergarten in a couple of years. My wife and I have spent the majority of our summers in northern Michigan and finally figured out a way to move permanently to Traverse City when she was offered a position at TCAPS. I grew up in East Lansing, went to undergrad and law school at MSU, and served overseas as a U.S. diplomat for the Department of State before eventually returning to Michigan 12 years ago to work in my current position as in-house counsel for an entertainment finance company now based in Los Angeles (that is kind enough to let me live in TC). We're excited to be a part of the community, and I was an active volunteer with the parent organization in East Lansing before moving. I'm looking forward to assist with the PTO's efforts to come up with novel approaches to support our students, teachers and staff through what will likely be a dynamic school year.

KRISTIN HARNISH
TREASURER



Hello Eastern Stars Community, I'm Kristin Harnish your Eastern PTO Treasurer for the 2020-2021 school year. I attended Western Michigan University and received my MBA. I'm originally from Okemos, MI. We spent our Summer in Elk Rapids and the opportunity for us to move up to TC year round came up 16 years ago and we jumped at it. My family is happy to be here in TC and we call it home. I'm blessed to be the mom of nine amazing kids. Their ages range from 2 years old to 22 years old. My 4 older kids all attended Eastern and are now in college. We currently have 2 that attend Eastern. Zach is in second grade and Hailey is in fourth grade. We also have a few more Eastern Stars "wannabes" on the way. I served as the Eastern PTO treasurer from 2010-2013 and I'm excited to be a part of the Eastern PTO Board again this year. Besides being involved in my children's schools, I have been actively involved with Child Family Services for 12 years. I'm passionate about advocating for children and what's in their best interest. It is very rewarding to see a child find their "forever home". I look forward to an amazing school year with our amazing Eastern Community. Together we can do anything for our Eastern Community! Please feel free to reach out to me.

LYDIA POTTHOFF
CO-SECRETARY



As Traverse City natives, my husband and I were thrilled to be able to return home after 10 years away for education and work. After earning my Bachelors in Science and Nursing from UofM, I worked as a pediatric and neonatal nurse for 10 years before deciding to stay home with my kiddos. I have two incredible daughters, Penelope (Young Fives) and Paige, with another girl on the way joining us in November! I have also been the chair of the Family Committee at the Traverse City Country Club for 2 years. I love crafting, golf, and enjoying all that Northern Michigan has to offer. As your PTO Secretary, I strive to bridge communication between Eastern PTO and our school community in regards to events, questions, concerns, and plans!

KYLIE CROON
CO-SECRETARY



Hi everyone! I was born and raised in Traverse City and attended TCAPS schools K-12. I got my BA in Sociology and Psychology at Kalamazoo College and then moved to Chicago where I got my cosmetology license and worked as a stylist for 10 years at a luxury salon in the heart of the Gold Coast. My husband and I moved back to Traverse City 2 years ago and enrolled our twins, Marlo & Guy, in PreK at Eastern. They are thrilled to be starting Kindergarten this year as Eastern Stars! Our family has slowly acclimated to life in Northern Michigan and I am enjoying becoming involved in this amazing community. I am an Impact100 member, serving on the Family Committee for the past 2 years. I'm excited to share the Secretary position with Lydia and help Eastern PTO continue to rock.