

EGRPS Parent Tech Update

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East Grand Rapids Middle School Innovation Lab

During the summer of 2016, a room that was formerly home to the middle school shop received a high tech makeover. Renamed the Innovation lab, this space has the latest technology focused on inspiring student learning. Teacher Kevin Vance assisted in the redesign of the space and has taught the first few classes in the space shares: "The Innovation Lab has allowed students to have creative freedom to explore new technologies such as littleBits, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and Robotics and create unique projects using these tools. The students also have shown great collaboration when working together in teams and also when teaching other students how to use a technology that they have become an expert with. Perhaps the most important thing that I have witnessed is students embracing failure and not giving up on a project even though it may be difficult and problematic at times."

Please view the below video to visit Mr. Vance and his students as they share a few of their projects!



District Device Request Window Open

Engage 1:1 is a voluntary and encouraged technology program which supports the learning of middle school and high school students in East Grand Rapids. Students are encouraged to bring their own technology device, or they may join the District-Provided Device program. As part of the Engage 1:1 program we offer an option for families who are unable to provide a personal device for their student(s) to secure a District-Provided Device. Students accepted into this program will be provided with a district-owned technology device to use during the 2017-2018 school year. Interested families with students who will be in grades 6-12 during the 2017-2018 school year may submit an application for consideration. The application deadline is Friday, May 5, 2017, and families will receive notification of their acceptance status by Friday, June 2, 2017. For further information, please visit the [Engage 1:1 webpage](#) or access the application [here](#). Also, if you would like information on Comcast Affordable Internet check out our [information page](#). Please do not hesitate to contact me at djenkins@egrps.org or 235-3535, if I can address any questions regarding the Engage 1:1 program.

Online Tools Available To Families:

Submitting an Absence Request:

Click [here](#) for instructions for how to submit an absence request online for your student

Skyward Family Access:

egrps.org/skyward

Parents can securely access all of their student's information from our Skyward Family Access portal

Alert Notification Preferences:

Click [here](#) and learn how to customize your alert notifications for text, email and telephone calls

School Lunch Menus and My Payment Plus:

Visit our Food Service page [here](#) for the latest menus and for information on maintaining student lunch accounts

Skyward App Update Coming

Attendance is coming to Skyward Mobile Access! Since we made the shift from parents calling in student absences to logging them on Skyward Family Access we have received requests that the mobile app be able to log absences. While it is possible to do this from desktop mode on your phone ([instructions here](#)), it will be far simpler in the fall when Skyward integrates this as a part of the App.

As we near the end of the year, if you would like a great tool to assist in following your student's' school progress check out how to receive [Skyward Notification Email](#) messages from our December issue!



Skyward Mobile Access

Skyward, Inc Education

Everyone

★★★★

This app is compatible with your device.