

God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

January 2022

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13*

This scripture passage provides us with good food for thought on a few different levels as we begin the new year. It is taken from Paul's letter to the Romans and reminds us that ours is a God of hope. As we finish out the Christmas season, we need to keep our eyes upon the gift that was given to us in the Christ child. He is a gift of God's unending love for us, and the surety of that love brings us great hope and endurance, even in the most challenging times. The larger passage that this scripture comes from is a call to harmonious living. It is a call for us to be a welcoming people who build each other up and is a lovely attitude for us to embrace as we begin 2022 and approach the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25).

This calendar year has certainly not begun in the way that we had anticipated. One of the many lessons that we have learned in the face of COVID-19 is that we need to be ever more nimble and responsive to the constantly changing landscape of this public health crisis. Our commitment to you is that we will continue to keep you updated as events evolve. There are several ways that we send out information. You can follow us on social media (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram), you can check our website, www.ecsd.net, and from SWIFT K-12, our messaging system. Our [Back To School Plan](#) is updated regularly on our public website. We will have an update of the most current measures in place by January 7 in preparation for students returning to learning on January 10.

During this first week of January, we are preparing for the deployment of the rapid test kits and facemasks that are being provided to us by the government. It is so important that families use the rapid tests to monitor the health of students, particularly if they are symptomatic. We must all work together to keep COVID-19 out of our schools and preserve in-person learning. We will share any information that we receive with respect to masks and testing as it is made available to us.

The new year marks the beginning of registration season. For families who are joining our Division for the first time, or who are transitioning to a new school, there are several ways that you can explore your options. Our [Locate a School](#) tool helps you to find your designated school based on your address or by the program that you are interested in. Each school website offers a more detailed look at their community. Finally, our schools will be hosting virtual Open Houses this year to support families who are transitioning to a new school. Watch the banner on ecsd.net in the upcoming weeks for a complete listing of our Open Houses.

As a bookend to the scripture that I began this article with, I offer you a thought from Pope Francis on World Day of Peace: "All can work together to build a more peaceful world, starting from the hearts of individuals and relationships in the family, then within society and with the environment, and all the way up to relationships between peoples and nations." (Pope Francis, Twitter, 01/01/22)

Happy New Year!

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