

# EJHS Team 8A

EJHS Mission: Working together to inspire life-long learning

## Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade!

Welcome to the beginning of another successful school year at Evans Junior High School! We are looking forward to meeting our new team of students and watching them grow throughout the year.

Our goals as teachers are to encourage higher-level thinking, assist your student with organization, time management, and academic achievement to ensure success, and to help guide them during the transition to high school. This is a critical year in your child's development, and we truly enjoy watching the progress that students make between August and May!

## Team Cell Phone Policy

Unit 5 policy states students are not allowed to have phones during the school day. 8A teachers expect students to have their cell phones off and not visible while in the classroom and hallways. Teachers will notify students if there is an occasion where they will need to use their phones during class.

If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the main office and they will relay the message.

## Team Communication

Email is the most effective and timely way to contact teachers. Please allow 24 hours for a reply.

Mrs. Shanks – [behrenk@unit5.org](mailto:behrenk@unit5.org)

Mr. Bostic – [bosticnr@unit5.org](mailto:bosticnr@unit5.org)

Mrs. Gallier – [galliern@unit5.org](mailto:galliern@unit5.org)

Mrs. Dickinson – [dickinlm@unit5.org](mailto:dickinlm@unit5.org)

Mr. Felix – [felixr@unit5.org](mailto:felixr@unit5.org)

## Supplies

In addition to the items on the district supply list, your student will also need:

- \* Ear Buds or headphones
- \* Post-it notes
- \* 3 spiral notebooks
- \* 1 composition notebook
- \* Pencils and pens
- \* Organization system (binder, folders, etc)
- \* Calculator

## Wish List

Team 8A hosts a number of events throughout the year, including team awards, team fun days, and more. Many times, we provide treats to students.

- \* Snacks for team awards – full sizes candy bars and/or candy (e.g. Skittles, Snickers, etc)
- \* Soda and bottled water
- \* Duct tape (engineering projects)
- \* Hand sanitizer
- \* Clorox wipes
- \* Monetary donations
- \* 3 x 5 index cards

# Meet the teachers

Mr. Bostic  
Science

I graduated from ISU with my Bachelor's degree in Middle Level Education, and this will be my 15<sup>th</sup> year teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I've recently completed a Master's degree in Educational Leadership at Eastern Illinois University. My wife and I have 3 boys, 13-year-old twins, Carter and Collin, and a 12-year-old, Cayden. I am a member of the Illinois Air National Guard. I spend my spare time enjoying the outdoors, playing and watching sports, and traveling.

Mrs. Shanks  
Literature and Composition

This is my 18<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher in Unit 5 and my fifth year teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade. My previous teaching years were in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Chiddix and Evans. I received my Bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education and my Masters in Reading. Additionally, I am the speech club sponsor at EJHS. I have a 9-year-old Bichon Poo dog named Camo (short for Camouflage). In my free time I like to play the violin & piano, listen to old-time radio shows, and watch movies. Some of my other favorites include; Fall Out Boy, the Evil Queen from "Snow White", and shopping at JC Penney! I love reading and I'm anxious to introduce a multitude of engaging authors this year.

Mr. Felix  
LBS1 – Resource

I grew up in Indiana. I've been in education for 12 years. I went to Purdue University. Before education, I was an archaeologist (the human kind, not the dinosaur kind). I like to travel and have been to 47 states (I'm missing Alaska, North Dakota, and Oregon).

Mrs. Gallier  
Social Studies

This will be my 22<sup>nd</sup> year of teaching, all in Unit 5 middle schools. I received my Bachelor's in Social Science Education and my Master's in Communication from ISU. I earned National Board Certification in 2010. My husband, Rob, and I are kept busy by our 3 kids – Mitchell, 19, Jack, 17, and Reese, 15. I love coaching and watching sports, working in my yard, scrapbooking and spending time with my family!

Mrs. Dickinson  
Math 8 and Algebra

I'm excited to start another school year! This will be my 14<sup>th</sup> year working in Unit 5. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Middle Level Education and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction both from Illinois State. My husband and I are kept busy with our twins, Josie and Hendrix, that attend Pepper Ridge Elementary. I enjoy coffee, gardening, traveling, playing with our cavalier named Cooper, and baking amazing creations with my kids.