

**Conwell-Egan Catholic High School
611 Wistar Road**

Fairless Hills, PA 19030

EAST Monthly

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Founder's Award Finalist

Conwell-Egan EAST Program Chosen as EAST Initiative Founder's Award Finalist

The 2011 EAST Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas is rapidly approaching. It is down to the wire for this year's Conference Team members as they finalize various preparations and make last-minute deadlines for the annual gathering. As highlighted in last month's EAST publication, the 2011 CEC Conference Team includes freshmen Erica Forktus, Mackenzie Purr, Frank Sopcak; sophomore Kristen Manto; junior Alicia Rusnak; and seniors Jessica McGarrity, Cullen O'Donnell, and Julia Wojcik. These students have continued to work effortlessly on multiple projects, presentations, videos, and essays for conference.

One of the major projects team members worked to complete was the Founders' Award film, a video entailing students to bring the Conwell-Egan Catholic EAST Initiative to life. The film included an in-depth tour of the school EAST lab, as well as descriptions of numerous projects that have been completed and are currently being collaborated on by EAST students. The film was created by team members and included narration along with ambient background music.

The video was recently submitted to the EAST Initiative and judged by several EAST affiliates from across the nation. The Conwell-Egan EAST Program was selected as one of the ten finalists for the EAST Initiative Founder's Award, the biggest honor given at the annual conference. CEC is the only school of the ten finalists not from Arkansas.

This month will be filled with after-school meetings each week as Conference Team members work strenuously to complete a wide array of assignments, focusing their attention in multiple directions before taking off for Hot Springs on February 28th. Students will physically construct the school's conference booth and plan a presentation for the panel of judges, in hopes of bringing it all home. Best of luck to the 2011 Conference Team as they strive for the EAST Initiative Founder's Award!

"Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

- St. Francis of Assisi

"A classroom has four walls and a tomorrow inside."

- Connelly Foundation

"We proudly support innovative and independent teamwork which nurtures tomorrow's leaders in science and engineering."

- Dan and Alice Abramowicz



ABOVE 2011 EAST Conference Team members Jessica McGarrity, Cullen O'Donnell, and Julia Wojcik work diligently while brainstorming booth design ideas in the lab.

Coming Up... ...In Future Issues

2011 EAST Conference

The March *EAST Monthly* will provide an exclusive look at Conwell-Egan Catholic EAST Initiative's success at this year's annual conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Read students' insights regarding their experiences representing their school at the gathering and learn about various awards the CEC EAST program received.

Second Semester Initiative

Students Propose Independent Projects for Second Semester EAST

The second semester in EAST will be majorly based on independent action: students proposing and carrying out their own unique project ideas. This mentality is the very platform on which the EAST Initiative is built, the idea of students building on their passions and creating remarkable service projects to benefit their surrounding communities.

For the third quarter, students will be expected to involve themselves in three respective EAST projects. Two assignments will be independent projects proposed by students and approved by Mr. Hupka. The third project for the quarter will be an assignment

given to students in ArcGIS, a digital mapping software.

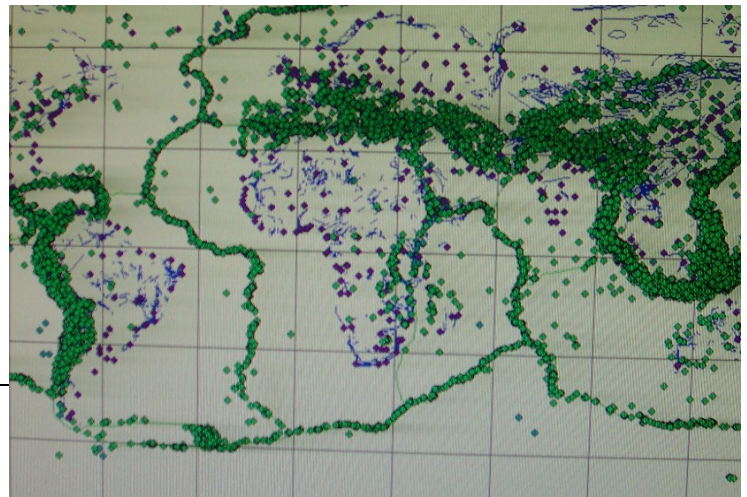
Both first-year and veteran EAST students have become quite familiarized in ArcGIS after attending Jerry Prince's day-long seminar on the program in September in the school EAST lab. Prince taught the students the significance of ArcGIS in modern society and its endless possibilities for users.

Rookie EAST students will complete an ArcGIS project similar to last year's second semester assignment. The project will consist of five levels, each level concerning different data in five separate maps. Levels will

include major subdivisions of the student's four-mile radius surrounding their neighborhood, essential services, economic factors, demographic concerns, and special concerns of the student's choice.

Veteran EAST students will work on a similar ArcGIS project

concerning significant information regarding the surrounding community of their grade school parish. The maps will be made into a PowerPoint presentation and burned onto a CD for the parish to utilize for future purposes.



RIGHT View of an EAST student's ArcGIS map from last year's second semester project.

Happy Traveling

Conwell-Egan Catholic Wishes Conference Team Success in Arkansas

On Monday, February 28th, the eight 2011 EAST Conference Team members, along with EAST facilitator Mr. Kenneth Hupka and school principal Mrs. Margaret Blanco, will depart from Philadelphia early in the morning. The group will arrive in Houston, Texas and board a second flight to Little Rock, Arkansas where a shuttle bus will transport them to Hot Springs.

The students, Mr. Hupka, and Mrs. Blanco will stay in Embassy Suites, a five-star hotel connected to the Hot Springs Convention Center, where the EAST Conference will be held. The three conference days will be planned for students, including rigorous daily agendas. On Tuesday, March 1st, the CEC Conference Team will register at the convention center and set up the booth. On Wednesday, March 2nd, students will attend a variety of breakout sessions and an

awards dinner banquet later that night. On Thursday, March 3rd, the students' last day in Arkansas will include their booth presentation for numerous EAST affiliates.

BELOW EAST students from across the country arrive for the 2010 EAST Conference.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February, 2011:

- 1 Catholic Schools Week Liturgy
- 4 Student Appreciation Day
- 13-15 Kairos Retreat
- 21 Presidents Day
No classes
- 25 Renaissance Assembly

March, 2011:

- 1-3 EAST Conference
Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 2-3 Terra Nova Testing
Grades 9 & 10
- 8 1st Semester Honors Convocation
- 9 Ash Wednesday Liturgy
- 18 No classes

April, 2011:

- 1 3rd Quarter Ends
- 4 4th Quarter Begins
Spring Uniform Begins
- 18-20 Class Retreats
- 21-25 Easter Vacation