



# EMMAUS ATHLETICS ***HORNET HIGHLIGHTS***

Some exciting news to share about the incredible “off the field” work our student-athletes in the Emmaus Football program are involved in. Each fall, our football players volunteer to participate in an event that connects them with the students in our support classrooms. The program is known as “Lunch Buddies.”

The Lunch Buddies program was created in 2016 by Head Football Coach, Harold Fairclough in partnership with Mrs. Lynn Gitski, faculty member. Every Friday afternoon from September through December, the players meet with their buddies to socialize, play games, share lunch, and help them feel a part of the school community.

According to Coach Fairclough, “The program has fostered meaningful relationships and strengthened the sense of belonging and inclusion within the school.”

Many of the friendships formed through “Lunch Buddies” continue well beyond the football season, leaving a lasting impact on both the student-athletes and their buddies. It has become a valued tradition that reflects the empathy, teamwork, and community that Emmaus Football strives to represent. Additionally, it highlights the character, leadership, and compassion of our student-athletes. While some may already be familiar with this program, we wanted to be sure to highlight the positive impact our students are experiencing.

Mrs. Gitski shared her thoughts regarding Lunch Buddies, “I feel that the best part of the Football Buddies Program is watching the friendships between the students here at EHS develop. I love watching the excitement and listening to the laughter between players and buddies on Fridays when they get together.”

