

East Middle School welcomes a visit from *New York Times* Editor Tracy Bennett

Farmington, MI – On October 11, 2023, East Middle School (EMS) had a visit from Tracy Bennett, a *New York Times* editor. Tracy is an editor with the very popular daily game, Wordle.

Tracy visited EMS after she found that the Newcomer students in Susan Bertoni's class play Wordle every day. Wordle helps the students with their language skills and vocabulary, as many of the students are new to the country.

Wordle is a word game that was created by Josh Wardle and Palak Shah in 2020. The game is designed for players to guess a five letter word in six attempts or less. Wordle was bought in 2022 by the *New York Times*. The game grew in popularity very quickly, becoming a household staple. Families, classrooms, and friends come together to play the game every day. In November of 2020, only 90 people were playing the game. In January of 2021, the number grew to 300,000 playing the game. Now, millions of people play across the country.

While visiting East, Tracy talked about her experience with the game during her presentation. Tracy had always loved playing and creating her own cross word puzzles. She published her very own puzzles in 2013 and it became her full time job in 2020. She did this until she became a Wordle editor in 2022. Tracy talked about editing Wordle including, randomly choosing words, editing lists, avoiding similar words, variations in difficulty, and more.

During her presentation, students had the opportunity to help choose Wordle words for November, and were able to play Wordle with Tracy. This was such an amazing experience for the students.

Thank you Tracy Bennett for spending time at East Middle School!

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