The Leaflet

Summer 2024

NATIONAL SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION
PUBLICATIONS AND DIGITAL MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARD
2024
HONORABLE MENTION
NEWSLETTER



Elmwood Park High School senior Xavier Arroyo walks across the stage during May's graduation ceremony

401
ELMWOOD PARK
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 Graduation

A new class of Elmwood Park High School students has a bright future ahead of them. 2024's commencement ceremony saw 236 graduates walk across the stage.

This year's graduates did not have the typical introduction to high school. This group of students began their freshman year online amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. It was not until their sophomore year that in-person learning resumed for all students.

"They are an incredible group of students and they have set a very high bar for all the students who come after them," said EPHS Principal Dr. Amanda Brode-Rico.

This is a resilient group that flourished over the past four years. Several seniors carried on the traditions of many extracurricular activities including National Honor Society, DECA and athletics.

District 401 could not be more proud of the class of 2024!

Class of 2024 Highlights

- 168 students are headed to college
- 13 students will enter trade or apprenticeship programs
- 4 students will be serving the United States by joining the military
- 26 students earned 31 total scholarships
- 35 students earned either the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy or Commendation towards Biliteracy



Students watch on during the 2024 commencement

2023-24 District Highlights

- 79 students received biliteracy honors from the state of Illinois
- 10 EPHS students competed at the DECA International Career Development Conference
- 179 elementary students graduated from the D.A.R.E. program
- 9 EPHS and Elm Middle School students were honored by the Illinois Music Education Association
- 6 staff members were placed on the Illinois State Board of Education's "Those Who Excel" list
- 55 students were inducted into either the National Honor Society or the National Junior Honor Society

Athletics

EPHS

EPHS wrapped up its final year in the Metro-Suburban Conference as the Tigers join the Upstate 8 this fall. Here are some of the school's achievements:

- Regional Champions: **Girl's Varsity Softball**
- Conference Champions: **Girl's Varsity Soccer**
- State Track & Field Qualifier: **Jordyn Boatman**
- State XC Qualifier: **Cassandra Chowaniak**
- State Wrestling Qualifier: **Rose Craig**

Elm

Elm had another successful year in the Leyden-Norwood Athletic Conference. Here are some of the school's achievements:

- Conference Champions: **Girl's Softball**
- Conference Runners-Up: **Girl's Soccer**
- Conference Runners-Up: **Boy's Varsity Volleyball**
- Conference Runners-Up: **Boy's JV Volleyball**

What's Next?

The 2024-25 school year starts soon! Here are some key dates:

- Aug. 21: First day of school
- Oct. 4: Homecoming, kickoff at 7 PM
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3: Winter Break
- March 24-28: Spring Break
- June 3: Last day of school

www.epcusd401.org/enroll

Have you enrolled for the 2024-25 school year? Scan the QR code to visit our enrollment page!



Elm Middle School's main office under construction in June

Construction

This past year, students and staff utilized the renovated learning spaces at Elmwood Elementary School, John Mills Elementary School and EPHS.

As you may have seen while driving by one of our buildings, we have multiple ongoing projects. Thank you for your continued support as we continue to improve District 401!

Current Projects

- EPHS Decade Wall installation
- New flooring in the EPHS cafeteria
- Elm front office renovation
- Landscaping at the elementary buildings
- Partial roof replacement at the elementary buildings

View our progress on our website!
epcusd401.w/construction

EPHS Journalism

Journalism programs at EPHS saw significant growth. Thanks to a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, the student newspaper, *The Tiger*, had its website upgraded while the student television team, *EPTV*, worked from their brand new broadcast studio.

"It was a joy to be able to provide new opportunities to the students and see them take initiative," said Director for Data, Assessment & Innovation Aaron Celmer.

The new tools made available to classes paid off. Five EPTV students competed at the Illinois High School Association Journalism sectional competition, all of whom placed top six in their categories. The TV News team placed first, qualifying for state.

In the Illinois Journalism Education Association (IJEA) competition meanwhile, four different students earned either first place, second place or an honorable mention.

> ***"The enrollment numbers for both Introduction to Journalism and Advanced Journalism are skyrocketing," said Journalism Teacher Christina Heinen. "Students are truly excited to experience this career pathway."***



Journalism students Johnny Baratta, Sarai Quintanar and Rayan Lahlou-nabil work in the new broadcast studio

IHSA Awards

- 1st Place in TV News: **Johnny Baratta, Rayan Lahlou-nabil & Sarai Quintanar**
- 4th Place in Sports Writing: **Matthew Pritt**
- 5th Place in Editorial Writing: **Lili Corbett**
- 6th Place in Review Writing: **Lili Corbett**

IJEA Awards

- 1st & 2nd Place in Best Sports Feature Story: **Matthew Pritt**
- 1st Place in Best Serious Commentary: **Weronika Walaszek**
- 2nd Place in Best Review: **Yeimi Alday**
- Honorable Mention in Best Video Story: **Michael Rominiski**

Teacher Spotlight



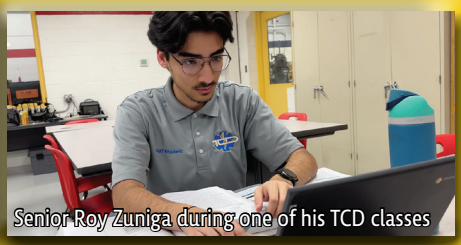
Jackie Regnier

Jackie is a Social Studies Teacher at EPHS. She is also a cross country and track & field coach as well as a 2025 class sponsor. Here's some trivia about her!

- Years at EPHS: 2.5
- Undergrad: Illinois State University
- Achievements: ISBE Award of Meritorious Service & Street Law Supreme Court Attendee
- Fun fact about me: I enjoy fishing and my best catch was a 41-inch musky
- In my free time: I run and spend time with my dog Frank, my family and friends
- My family and I always argue about: Where to go for dinner
- A hot take of mine: Pineapple belongs on pizza

Dual-Credit Opportunities

EPHS continues to offer dual-credit opportunities for its students. Similar to Advanced Placement courses, credits earned from dual-credit classes are transferable to colleges and universities after graduation. Some classes are taken at the high school, like Virtual Enterprises International and English College Composition. Other classes are offered off-campus at Triton College or the Technology Center of DuPage.



Senior Roy Zuniga during one of his TCD classes

For dual-credit courses, students earn transferable credit based on completion and class grade. This differs from AP, where a college or university determines credit a student may receive based on how well they perform on the end of year AP test.

Interested in our many dual-credit classes? Talk with your school counselor this fall!

Get your school spirit wear!
epcusd401.org/spiritstore

Want to advertise with us?
Email brittens@epcusd401.org

Want to work for us? Check out our job openings!
epcusd401.org/careers

Stories Around 401

We have the privilege of telling the many stories of our staff and students at District 401. Below is just a small taste of what our district has been up to. Scan the QR code to view our entire district news section!

www.epcusd401.org/news

WE ARE 401: Elm Middle School's Jazzy Soto



Jazzy Soto is now in eighth-grade at Elm. Jazzy's dedication and disciplined skating have earned her a place on the Starlights, one of the top synchronized teams in the country. Her commitment shows what D401 is about!

Butterflies released by John Mills students



John Mills students learned about the life cycles of butterflies as they tended to their transformation from chrysalises. The lesson finished when students released the insects into the wild.

EPHS Theatre Company dazzles in *Chicago*

The moment everyone in EPHS Theatre had been working for since December finally arrived when the curtain opened for this year's spring musical, *Chicago: Teen Edition*. Cast and crew members worked tirelessly to deliver three stellar performances.

Elmwood students work on stories with their parents

Elmwood third-grade students wrote stories about any topic of their choosing. After finishing their rough drafts, their parents came in and helped them write the final draft and draw a picture.

Cultural Heritage Celebration sees great turnout



This year's Cultural Heritage Celebration (previously multicultural night) had a great turnout this year. The event featured several performances highlighting different cultures. After the performances, the crowd enjoyed food from a variety of cultures.

Source
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EPCUSD 401 Board of Education



Frank Parisi
President



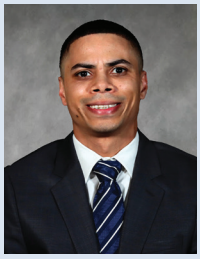
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Member



Jason Shipinski
Member



Michelle Silver
Member

Building Principals

Dr. Amanda Brode-Rico, Elmwood Park High School
Ashley Groeneveld, Elm Middle School
Matt Lerner, Elmwood Elementary School
Frank Kuzniewski, John Mills Elementary School



Dr. Leah Gauthier
Superintendent of Schools

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