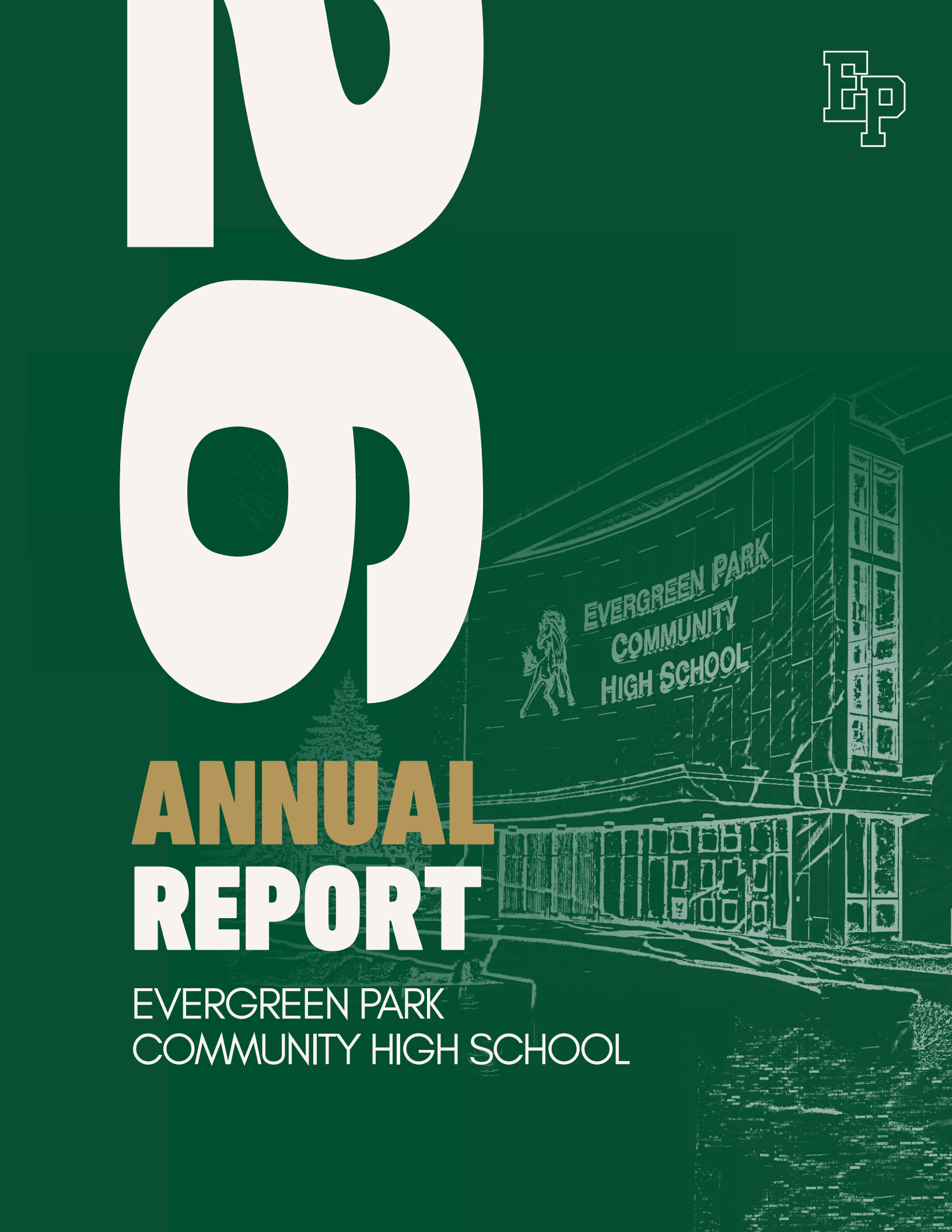
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ANNUAL REPORT

EVERGREEN PARK
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



From the **Superintendent**



Thomas O'Malley
Superintendent

Welcome to Evergreen Park Community High School!

We are thrilled to bring you this Annual Report, which highlights many of the accomplishments of our students, staff members and others from our school family from the 2025-2026 academic year. Within these pages you'll see an assortment of the successes in the classroom, through extracurricular activities and on the athletic fields.

Our EPCHS Board of Education, faculty and staff continue to go above and beyond to ensure every student entrusted to our care is provided with a high quality educational experience and is supported in their growth and development as young adults.

Sincerely,

Thomas O'Malley, Superintendent

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Class of 2026 *Congratulations to all our new grads!*

CLASS OF 2026

Evergreen Park Community High School



Valedictorian
Grace Koziczkowski



Salutatorian
Tess Lee

Evergreen Park Community High School is proud to congratulate **Grace Koziczkowski** as the valedictorian and **Tess Lee** as the salutatorian from the EPCHS Class of 2026. Grace and Tess both delivered inspiring speeches during the EPCHS Class of 2026 graduation ceremony. In addition to excelling academically, both Grace and Tess have exemplified the Evergreen Park Mustang spirit through their involvement in athletics and extracurricular activities.

Grace has been a multi-sport athlete during her time at EPCHS having competed in volleyball, dance and cross country. She's also been a member of the Student Government, National Honor Society, Service Club and the Prom Committee.

Tess has also been involved in numerous endeavors outside of the classroom at EPCHS, having competed on the regional champion varsity volleyball team and additional after-school involvement in Student Government, National Honor Society, Principal's Advisory, Advice Beyond the Classroom, Battle of the Books and the school's Future Business Leaders of America club.

Grace will attend the University of Illinois and Tess will attend Villanova University.

TOP 10 PERCENT

Elizabeth Adjayi
Jade Alfano
Juliana Bosch
Louise Brady
Fiona Buchanan
Adrian Buenrostro
Maya Cisneros
Kailey Farrell
Gaida Gainer
Emilio Gonzalez
Neve Hayes
Hailie Hernandez
Megan Klimowski
Grace Kole
Mackenzie Lantz
Patrick Moroney
Emma Neylon
Julia O'Hare
Annie Olson
Samantha Sliter



Samantha Sliter was chosen to deliver the Student Address to the Class of 2026 at the May 20 graduation ceremony. Samantha will be attending Marquette University in the fall.

HONORS NIGHT SENIOR AWARDEES

Academic Awards:

Illinois Principals Association Award: Grace Koziczkowski, Therese Lee

Student Leadership Award: Camryn Banks, Louise Brady, Isaiah Matthews, Megan Klimowski

Senior Service Award: Kaitlyn Fort

Operation Snowball 4-Year Participants: Camryn Banks, Louise Brady, Camila Jarquin, Megan Klimowski, Zion McCadd, Jaida Miller, Donae Parker, Londyn Robinson-Gwin

The United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Scholastic Excellence Award: Fiona Buchanan

The United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence: Louise Brady

The United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Athletic Excellence: Victor Flores

American Legion Citizenship Award Evergreen Park American Legion Post #854: Jade Alfano, Cornelius Faulkner

Scholarship Awards:

Evergreen Park Foundation Scholarship: Julianna Bosch

EPCHS Scholarships: Jade Alfano, Jazmin Ayala, Therese Lee, Rihanna Martinez

Class of 1971: *In Memory of Roy & Marla Shobe and in Honor of Marlene Rutherford Nelson Award:* Patrick Moroney

Evergreen Park Music Boosters College Scholarships: Juliana Bosch, Louise Brady, Alex Francisco, Adelina Jones, Lauryn Sommerio

EPCHS Boosters Anna Cieslewicz Memorial Scholarships: Fionn Doherty, Cornelius Faulkner, Bridget Hayes, Neve Hayes, Annie Olson, Michael Visser

STamPede Volunteerism Scholarship: Therese Lee, Annie Olson

Marquette Bank Scholarship: Jade Alfano

IHSA All-State Academic Team Nominees: Elizabeth Adjayi, Patrick Moroney

Tony Knight Scholarship: Cornelius Faulkner

Kladis-George Mustang Wrestler of the Year Award: Brayden Mateja

Don Ferchau Mustang Defensive Player of the Year Award: Gavin Wheeler

Outstanding English Student: Therese Lee

Outstanding Math Student: Claire Schaller

Outstanding Social Studies Student: Megan Klimowski

Outstanding Science Student: Louise Brady

Excellence in Physical Education: Julia O'Hare

Spirit of Learning Award: Roland Johnson, Jr.

Vocational Education Award: Ja'Bron Jones

Outstanding Industrial Technology Student: James Templin

Outstanding Art Student: Mackenzie Lantz









Class of 2026

VARSITY WALL INDUCTIONS



19 new names have been added to the EPCHS Varsity Wall from the EPCHS Class of 2026.

Congratulations to the following Mustang student-athletes who have achieved five or more varsity letters during their time at EPCHS: Elizabeth Adjayi, Owen Brady, Fionn Doherty, Israel Fagbulu, Ciana Farmer, Connor Faulkner, Michelle Fernandez, Victor Flores, Yarim Garcia, Neve Hayes, Amiya Lane, Leniyah Lee, Joshua Matheny, Isaiah Matthews, Annie Olson, Chloe Plunkett, Londyn Robinson-Gwin, Alexandria Rodgers and Michael Visser.

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS



23 EPCHS senior students were named Illinois State Scholars for the 2025-2026 school year and were recognized in mid-December alongside their parents at a breakfast held in their honor.

Illinois State Scholars from the EPCHS Class of 2026 are Elizabeth Adjayi, Jade Alfano, Zachary Barnes, Juliana Bosch, Louise Brady, Fiona Buchanan, Adrian Buenrostro, Maya Cisneros, Giada Gainer, Emilio Gonzalez, Neve Hayes, Megan Klimowski, Grace Kole, Grace Koziczkowski, Mackenzie Lantz, Therese Lee, Zion McCadd, Patrick Moroney, Emma Neylon, Annie Olson, Elliott Rayson, Marielle Ribar and Samantha Sliter.

THANK YOU, STUDENT AMBASSADORS!



Jade Alfano
Jazmin Ayala

The student ambassadors to the Evergreen Park Community High School District 231 Board of Eeducation during the 2025-2026 school year were Jade Alfano and Jazmin Ayala. Both Jade and Jazmin did an excellent job representing Mustang students throughout the year!

2026 Academic Accomplishments

12 EPCHS Students Nationally Recognized by the College Board

EPCHS is proud to celebrate the achievements of its students who earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Program. The program helps students stand out on college and scholarship applications. Every year, talented students claim an award based on their achievement on College Board assessments, including the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10 and AP exams.

In 2025, the program offered three awards to students of all backgrounds and across schools nationwide: First-Generation Recognition Award, Rural and Small-Town Recognition Award, and for the first time, the School Recognition Award, to honor top-performing students in every high school.

This past year, 12 students at EPCHS were awarded. Eleven were awarded with the School Recognition Award and four with the First-Generation Recognition Award.

Three students – Jade Alfano, Muhammad Malik-Gonzalez and Marielle Ribar – were recognized with both awards. Additional EPCHS students receiving the School Recognition Award were Adrian Buenrostro, Zion McCadd, Megan Klimowski, Emilio Gonzalez, Zachary Barnes, Patrick Moroney, Lauryn Sommerio and Fiona Buchanan. Also receiving the First-Generation Recognition Award is EPCHS student Rihanna Martinez.

"We're incredibly proud of our students for earning this national recognition," said EPCHS Director of Curriculum Megan Schillo. "Their dedication and drive have led to incredible accomplishments, and this honor highlights just how bright their futures are."


Jade Alfano


Zachary Barnes


Fiona Buchanan


Adrian Buenrostro


Lilianee Claros


Emilio Gonzalez


Megan Klimowski


Muhammad Malik-Gonzalez


Zion McCadd


Patrick Moroney


Marielle Ribar


Danny Sommerio

The recognition serves as a signal for colleges eager to recruit awardees and as an opportunity for communities to celebrate students as they start a new school year. Thousands of nonprofit colleges and scholarship organizations using the College Board Student Search Service can connect with awardees during the recruitment process to share more about their postsecondary programs.

Mustangs Boast MVCC Tech Challenge Winner



EPCHS student **Armani Eshun** took home the top honors from the Moraine Valley Community College Tech Challenge in April, a competition that included top technology students from various schools across the south suburbs.

Eshun and the other participants were tested on their knowledge and skills using Microsoft applications. Also representing EPCHS in the competition were Chidi Nqoye, Katalina Ortiz and Jershawn Dubose, Jr. The group was accompanied by Mr. David Pierce, their computer literacy instructor.

Graduate Achieves Perfect Attendance Throughout High School



EPCHS graduating senior **Ryan Arethas** was recognized during the school's Honors Night in early May, honored for his incredible consistency in having shown up for school every single day since the first day of school his freshman year.

Arethas was awarded the 4-year Perfect Attendance award and received $100 on Honors Night for his achievement.

Additional students who achieved perfect attendance throughout the 2025-2026 school year at EPCHS include Jonathan Christian, Emilio Gonzalez, Megan Klimowski, Chloe Ortiz, Ava Osterloh and Kameron Smith.

IN THE CLASSROOM

See more via #intheclassroomatep on Social Media



American Law
American Law students in Mr. Gallagher's class participate in mock trials in which the roles of prosecutors, defense attorneys, witnesses and defendants are portrayed by students as Mr. Gallagher serves as the judge.



Science Competitions
Students are shown participating in the popular egg drop event in which teams create devices designed to ideally prevent an egg from breaking after dropping it from the pool balcony. The activity has become part of the EPCHS Science Department's biannual STEAM competitions, which also include events such as mousetrap racecar, boat building and bridge making.



Computer Maintenance
Students in Mr. Masterson's Computer Maintenance courses are tasked with disassembling a computer and putting it back together.



LRC
Students work together on a project that involves both math and reading, one of the many opportunities EPCHS students have throughout the year that involve more than one subject in a single assignment.

Academics at EPCHS: *By The Numbers*

57% of EPCHS students qualified for either the Honor Roll or High Honor Roll for the second term of the 2025-2026 school year.

12 EPCHS juniors scored 30 or higher on the ACT.

48 EPCHS seniors graduated with 3.75+ GPAs

17 EPCHS seniors are on track to earn the AP Capstone Diploma

12 dual credit courses are offered by EPCHS

21 AP courses are offered by EPCHS

33% of EPCHS seniors earned college credit by earning an AP exam score of 3 or higher

49% of EPCHS seniors took at least one AP course

Mustang Pride Awards Celebrate Stellar Students

The Mustang Pride award is handed out to students twice a year to recognize their unique or unusual achievements either in or out of the classroom or as part of an extracurricular activity or sport. Students are nominated for the award by a faculty or staff member and receive recognition (a certificate, t-shirt and pen) at a breakfast held in the cafeteria at the end of each term.

Those who earned the Mustang Pride award during the 2025-2026 school year were:

First Term: Connor Faulkner, Madeline Serna, Chase Willis, Calleigh Moran, Kalen Davis-Smith, Charlie Avros, Sean Meierkort, Adela Torres, Erin Butler, Alexa Guzman, Moira Davies, Neve Hayes, Julia Woody, Landon Robinson-Gwin, Kevin Reyes, Roland (R.J.) Johnson, Victor Flores, Mia Paller, Liam Sefcik, Marilynn Hohman, Lisette Dugar, Ashton Brunner.

Second Term: Jade Alfano, Abrielle Ambers, Adam Cihocki, Charles Farrell, Giada Gainer, Anel Hernandez-Ruiz, Caleb Johnson, Antonio Lloyd, Raymond Mankowski, Natalia Martinez, Patrick Moroney, Dhruvi Patel, Sherryah Perry, Amarion Robinson, Ivan Ruiz, Bella Salgado, Layne Schillo, Connor Sefcik, Shania Shorter, Eva Sieloff, Cavion Wright.







Record Number of EPCHS Students Participate in Advice Beyond the Classroom

Twenty-one EPCHS students participated in Advice Beyond the Classroom (ABC) at the UBS Tower in downtown Chicago in late April. That's a record number of EPCHS students who participated in the program since our school first became involved in the endeavor a few years ago.

The ABC program helps students interested in constructing the foundation of their future professional success through curriculum and access to an extensive network of alumni and professional mentors who are driven to empower and guide our future leaders to success. The goal is to create a competitive advantage for ABC participants in their careers.

EPCHS took third place overall in the day's events. Senior Sam Sliter was recognized as the best speaker from our group.

Students representing EPCHS in ABC include Jade Alfano, Sam Sliter, Tess Lee, Keira Kelly, Morgan Brady, Shannon Farrell, Faith Etapa, Griffin Yeaman, Brady Bruen, Audrey Bilas, Hannah Pikus, Adeline Zdano, Nolan Kress, Brenna Hayes, Madison Majka, Natalia Porroga, Molly Goyke, Nora Peart, Lola Ramazinski, Ryan Smyth and Fatima De La Pena.

Industrial Technology Continues to Expand at EPCHS

The 2025-2026 school year saw a significant advancement in EPCHS' Industrial Technology program.

During the year, construction was completed on an entirely new room adjacent to the Metals Room that will be used specifically for teaching HVAC.

Our school now offers five Industrial Technology courses, including Introduction to HVAC and a Construction Internship open to senior students who qualify. Industrial Technology courses offered during the 2025-2026 school year were Metals/Fabrication, Intro to HVAC, Tech Concepts, Building & Construction and the construction internship.

These new offerings coincide with the growing popularity of our students choosing to enter the trades upon graduation. To this end, a trades forum is held every February at EPCHS that welcomes representatives from various local unions who highlight the many benefits and opportunities of selecting a career in the trades.



HVAC Ductwork: Students in Mr. O'Connor's Intro to HVAC course built the ductwork in EPCHS' newly created HVAC room as part of their final project for the year.



Construction Internship: EPCHS has added a construction internship to the list of real-world experiences offered to students.



Learning the Trades: EPCHS industrial technology teacher Rob Rymek discusses a few of the projects students have been working on during the EPCHS Open House in November.







State **Qualifiers**

Boys Track
Landon Gwin
Kevin Reyes

Cross Country
Ricardo "RJ" Leon
Nicole Mitchell
Kevin Reyes

eSports
Andrew Barnes
Cristian Cuellar
Noah Fernandez
Nicolas Hernandez
Jayden Zamora
Liam Zurella
Milo Molinari

FBLA
Megan Klimowski
Tess Lee
Elliott Rayson
Sam Sliter
Michael Visser

Girls Track
Lashaun Elam
Rickayla Gustafson
Londyn Gwin
Amiya Lane
Lenyiah Lee
Nicole Mitchell
Jordin Pittman
Chloe Plunkett
Nia Shakir
Chloe Thompson

SkillsUSA
Alberto Aranda Jr.
Emilio Gonzalez
Megan Klimowski
Rihanna Martinez
Sean Meierkort
Zackary Rosario



Cross Country



Girls Track



SkillsUSA



Chess Team



Mathletes



Girls Bowling Team

Wrestling
Brayden Mateja-Bates
Jayden Cervantes
Adrian Cervantes
Michael Chatman

Teams
Cheer Team
Chess Team
Competitive Dance Team
Girls Bowling Team
Mathletes Team
Science Olympiad Team

Mustangs In The Village

EPCHS showed exactly why it's Evergreen Park's community high school in 2025-2026, with droves of groups venturing out into the community throughout the village of Evergreen Park to show that Mustang Pride extends far beyond the corner of 99th and Kedzie.





Fit4Life

Mrs. Kueltzo's Fit for Life class took a trip to Club Pilates in Evergreen Park this past November to experience reform pilates at one of our beloved local businesses. The students enjoyed a fun experience learning about reform pilates and participating in a workout that can be beneficial for anyone.

Swimming for a Cure

Members of the EPCHS swim and dive teams have made it a yearly tradition to volunteer at the Christmas Without Cancer 5K race held in the area around Klein Park. This year, team members took it a step further by raising $650 to support the locally-based non-profit that provides holiday gifts and financial assistance to families affected by cancer. Inspired when volunteering at the 5K, the team hosted a Swimming for a Cure fundraiser at one of their home invitationals in which t-shirts were sold to all participating teams and a 50/50 raffle that brought in even more donations.



Media Day in the Village

Mustang football players took to the village to hold their Media Day just before the 2025 season began. Players showed up in full uniform to interact with Evergreen Park residents at popular local eateries like Pappy's and Wu's House, and here they paid a visit to Evergreen Park's finest with a stop at the Evergreen Park Police Department.

High School Interns Helping The Community

Tech Interns: EPCHS technology interns Emilio Gonzalez, Zackary Rosario and Israel Fagbulu provided technical assistance to Evergreen Park residents through a Tech Time Drop-in program in partnership with the Evergreen Park Public Library. On all Wednesdays through the school year, the tech interns went to the library to help anyone who came in with questions related to technology.

Firefighter Interns: EPCHS' firefighter interns Sean Meierkort and Alberto Aranda Jr. are shown in full gear during a drill outside the Evergreen Park Fire Department. In its first year, EPCHS' firefighter internship program has not only offered excellent real-world experience for our student participants, but some assistance for Evergreen Park's bravest as well as the Evergreen Park Fire Department provides the training as part of the program.

Book Buddies: EPCHS seniors kept a holiday tradition alive and brought holiday-themed stories to read to first graders throughout Evergreen Park. Four students visited the kids at Southeast, Northeast, Southwest and Northwest elementary schools in Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 during a two-week span in December. Senior EPCHS students Fionn Doherty (shown here at Southeast), Chloe Thompson, Emma Neylon and Samantha Senese, all of whom are part of the school's education internship, carried on the tradition of Book Buddies in Evergreen Park. They each brought a holiday-themed story to read with the group of first graders as well as a special gift for each of the students.







2026 Activities

2-Time FBLA National Qualifier



Megan Klimowski has qualified for the Future Business Leaders of America's National Leadership Conference in consecutive years. Her eighth place finish in the FBLA's computer solving category event at the Illinois state competition held in April landed her the opportunity to participate in the national conference that was held in San Antonio earlier this summer.

Klimowski qualified for nationals in the same event as a junior in 2025 after finishing in fourth place in the state competition. Attending the FBLA national conference last year was "a fun, really cool experience," Klimowski said.

"I had a chance to see people from all over the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands," she said. "It was interesting to see how people from other areas interact in a business setting and it was very inspiring."

FBLA is one of several extracurricular activities Klimowski was involved in at EPCHS before graduating on May 20. She's also been a member of the band, choir, Science Olympiad, Student Leadership, Snowball and the National Honor Society. Academically, she's received awards from the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics and was named the Social Studies Student of the Year her senior year.

Klimowski now looks forward to attending the University of Illinois and majoring in computer science.

New NHS Members

Fifty-nine new members were inducted into the EPCHS chapter of the National Honor Society during a ceremony held in the Batho Auditorium in December. A majority of the new inductees were juniors during the 2025-2026 school year, with a few senior members of the Class of 2026 inducted as well.



New members of the NHS were:
Rashawn Andrews, Ryan Arethas, Charlie Avros, Grace Babiarz, Camryn Banks, Autumn Bell, Audrey Bilas, Taylor Black, Nathan Bosch, Adam Bowden, Morgan Brady, Ryan Brennan, Nahjyah Cannon, Cara Cassidy, Tavio Cisneros, Malaya Cook-Davis, Bella Dever, Cathy Diallo, Shannon Farrell, Caitlyn Feeley, Brianna Ferreira, Janisha Hubbard, Jasmine Johnson, Brittnii Johnson, Garrett Kazmierowicz, Keira Kelly, Aiden Kilian, Grace Kole, Amiya Lane, James Lee, Salem Majoch, Charlotte Mankowski, Yaneli Martinez, Jalen Mazariego, Madalyn McQuillan, Emily Mills, Owen Nardo, Jax Olson, Nyela Owens, Lucille Palmer, Alexa Parra-Martinez, Vanessa Paterson, Saniya Peat, Hannah Pikus, Gianna Prado, Yuliza Rodriguez, Jovanna Rodriguez, Izabella Rodriguez-Acevedo, Layla Ross, Evan Sagaille, Conor Sefcik, Samantha Senese, Mariah Smith, Gregory Tagler, Caitlin Terri, Syniah Thomas, Maggie Troglia, Imani Walker and Julia Woody.

CULINARY CLUB



It was another stellar year for the Culinary Club, which prepared meals for a number of events including our annual senior citizen dinner, opening night of the fall play and the fall Open House.

ART CLUB



The Art Club is one of 23 clubs or activities offered to EPCHS students. Taylor Cunningham is shown here working on an art project during the most recent Open House.
See a full list of activities offered at EPCHS online at evergreenpark.org/activities/activities-clubs

2026 Activities

eSports: Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Team Places 2nd in State

The Super Smash Bros. Ultimate video game has become an area of success for EPCHS eSports participants in recent years, which was further evidenced by that team's unexpected run to the state championship game at the IHSA eSports state finals held here at EPCHS in early May.

Despite only finishing as the runner-up in the sectional round, our Mustang Smash players won match after match at the state finals and finished in second place statewide after a thrilling championship match against Stagg. It's the second time in three years in which EPCHS has finished as the state runner-up in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate.

"On an individual level, Evergreen Park's eSports team annually finishes as one of the top 5 in the entire state of Illinois, and continually competes for state titles with schools three to four times our size," said Dan Truffa, EPCHS' eSports faculty sponsor. "While placing 2nd in the state final isn't our ultimate goal, we are proud of our students' accomplishments and look forward to the opportunity to continue to pursue a state championship for Evergreen Park Community High School."

Hosting the state eSports finals has become a yearly tradition at EPCHS, which boasts a state-of-the-art facility for the event within the school's Learning Resource Center.



Also representing our Mustangs in the state championship was Milo Molinari, who competed in the Ea Sports FC event.

"eSports has proven to be a positive experience for every high school student involved in it," Truffa said. "It has offered a great place for students to come together and enjoy a shared interest while building important collaborative team work skills in a competitive environment. It is a continually growing competitive activity in the IHSA and Evergreen Park is happy to help foster that growth by serving as host of the IHSA State Championship."

SERVICE CLUB



Members of the EPCHS Service Club helped with a number of community-minded projects including this one in which they helped construct beds for the organizations Bunks Across America and Sleep In Heavenly Peace. Additional Service Club projects throughout the year included volunteering at The Urban Barn in Evergreen Park, the Little Red Schoolhouse and Pro Labore Dei.

HOMECOMING 2025







Homecoming 2025 was a weeklong celebration of everything EPCHS. Students of all grade levels competed in the Homecoming Olympics, which included games like musical chairs and dodgeball. They also took part in daily theme days, a pep rally on the football field and many were involved in the second year of Fan Fest, which drew hundreds of families to the school before the Homecoming football game that night.

2026 Fine Arts

Trip of a Lifetime



Members of the EPCHS Music Department spent much of their Spring Break touring Walt Disney World in Florida.

Sixty-eight student participants involved in the band, choir and color guard made the trip to what's often referred to as "The Happiest Place on Earth." This was made possible when the band and choir were accepted to perform there through a submitted audition demonstrating ensemble excellence last spring.

Highlights of the trip included the band and color guard marching in the Festival of Fantasy Parade through Main Street USA in the Magic Kingdom with thousands of spectators and the choir performing a concert on the Waterside Stage at Disney Springs before hundreds of spectators. All groups also participated in Disney Imagination campus workshops under the direction of Disney's elite music educators and performing artists, in which they were offered a chance to spend one morning as honorary Disney cast members.

The group also spent time at Universal Studios, Disney's Hollywood Studios and EPCOT.

Student Singers Impress at AERO Karaoke Showdown

EPCHS was proud to participate in the 4th annual AERO Karaoke Showdown held at Oak Lawn Community High School this past year. The fun annual event features the best student singers from Argo, Evergreen Park, Oak Lawn and Reavis high schools and raises money for the AERO Special Education Cooperative. The four schools are the founding members of AERO.



This year, EPCHS was represented by Emari Crossley, Bella Dever and Jamari Jefffries, all of whom impressed the judges and audiences that night. We were particularly proud that we had two contestants - Emari and Bella - who qualified for the Final Four of the showdown for the first time ever!



EPCHS Art Show 2026

The EPCHS Art Show was held just prior to the Spring Concert as a way to showcase the many terrific works of art created by our students. Art teacher Chrystal Gryz is shown here pointing out a few of the works to a pair of students.

Awards were handed out to the artists who were voted by judges as having the best works in each category. Dasiah Ward won the Best of Show award at this year's competition, having created what was voted as the best work overall.

2026 Fine Arts

Band Has Successful First Year Under Colin Curatolo



EPCHS' instrumental groups - both the marching band and concert band - had an impressive first year under the direction of **Colin Curatolo,** who took over for the recently retired Ken Kazin in 2025-2026.

In addition to performing at Disney World's Magic Kingdom parade, the band took part in several competitions across Chicagoland as well as the South Suburban Conference Band Day in January. The band performed at all home EPCHS football games, continued taking part in traditional events such as the Winter Concert, Spring Concert and Sounds from the Stadium, and even brought back the pep band at a number of home boys basketball games as well.

Best of Day Winners

Another banner year for the EPCHS choir groups included a highlight in March in which nine of our students were recognized with Best of Day awards at the IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest. Best of Day awards mean that, out of all the events the judge heard that day, they deemed these the best. Winners from EPCHS were:

- **Jamari Jeffries,** "Goodbye" from Catch Me If You Can
- **Riley Pippen,** "Our Lady of the Underground" from Hadestown
- **Charlie Avros, Adrian Buenrostro, Jamari Jeffries and Isaiah Matthews,** "Yesterday" arr. Tom Gentry
- **Emari Crossley, Jordan McCadd, and Zion McCadd,** "The Storm is Passing Over" arr. Barbara Baker



Senior Band and Chorus Nominees

In October, several students in the EPCHS music department prepared rigorous auditions for the Illinois Music Education Association's District 1 Senior band and chorus.

Five students from EPCHS were accepted. Isaiah Matthews was accepted into the Senior Band for the euphonium, and Adrian Buenrostro, Bella Dever, Jamari Jeffries and Zion McCadd were all accepted into the Senior Chorus.

These students participated in a full day festival at Elmhurst University in November, when they performed several pieces with high schoolers from across Chicago and many south suburbs.



EPCHS

Once A Mustang, Always A Mustang



Golfer Patrick Moroney looks ahead at the next hole on the course.



Students enjoy class outside on a nice day.



Football player RJ Mankowski takes in a good book before that night's game.



Color guard members are all smiles during Sounds from the Stadium.





Top: Grace Babiarz performs during a competitive dance competition at EPCHS.

Left: Adrian Buenrostro sings and plays the guitar at the NHS Talent Show.



Drama students perform in the fall play, *Little Shop of Horrors.*



Mr. Mikulskis gets a pie in the face from senior student Isaiah Matthews during the winter pep assembly.



Basketball player James Lee goes for a rebound during the Mustangs' Pack the Place game vs. Argo.

HAVE A LOOK



Girls Track & Field had a banner year in 2026.



Cheerleaders are shown during their Media Day.



Top: Choir students perform during a concert.



Right: Science students bake pancakes in one of Mrs. Papasideris' classroom activities.



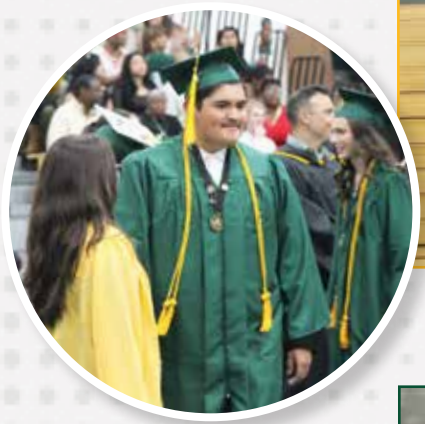
Football players exit the giant Mustang just before game time.



Members of the new Folkloric Dance Club perform for students.



Student leaders encourage other students to get involved during an extracurricular fair.



Above: Emilio Gonzalez is shown just before receiving his diploma at graduation.

Right: A student works on a welding project in the metals room.



Adrian Buenrostro and Zion McCadd show off one of the music department's recent trophies.





Fiona Buchanan during a volleyball game.



Scholastic Bowl team members prepare for a match.

Athletics

A Season To Remember







The 2025-2026 girls basketball season at EPCHS was filled with personal milestones, team achievements and never-before-seen program heights.

The list of accomplishments is long, and can perhaps be considered all the more impressive considering the Lady Mustangs only had nine varsity players suit up all year long.

Led by second-year Head Coach George Shimko, the Lady Mustangs pulled out a string of exciting victories en route to the program's first South Suburban Red Conference title since 1989 and just the fourth conference championship in program history. The team finished the season with an all-time program best 26 victories and advanced to the regional championship game.

"When this season began, we talked about setting a standard and building a team that competed every day, trusting one another and representing Evergreen Park High School with pride," Shimko said. "What our team accomplished this season exceeded even our highest expectations."

Those accomplishments weren't limited to the team victories on the court, which included a thrilling, last second come-from-behind win on the road against powerhouse T.F. North and a win over rival Oak Lawn for the first time in several years. Individual milestones were also reached, as star player Tatum Harris surpassed the 1,000-point career milestone and her senior teammate Grace Kole saw her career totals surpass 500 points and 500 rebounds.

Harris was also named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association 3A All-State team as a special mention and was selected to play in the IBCA All-Star Game, where she scored 12 points and pulled down eight rebounds in her team's victory.

In addition to Harris and Kole, Ella Throndson and Yaritza Mendez were also named to the All-Conference team.

"While banners, trophies and records will always be remembered, what I will remember most is the character of this team," Shimko said. "They inspired one another, represented our school with class and created a culture that future teams will strive to match."



Dance State Champs

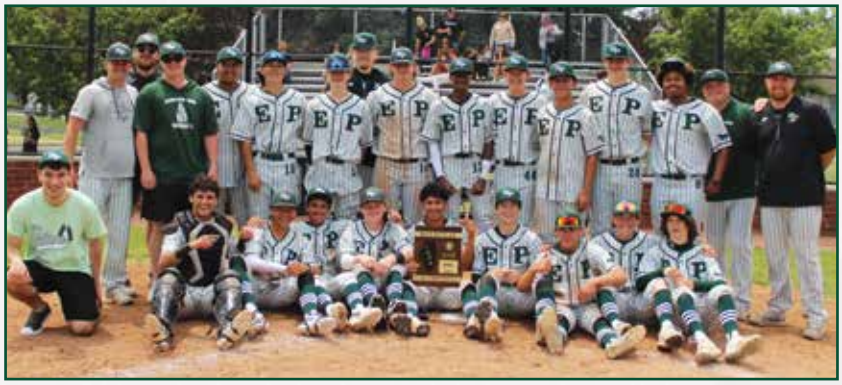
Both EPCHS varsity and junior varsity competitive dance teams won state championships in the program's first year competing in the Illinois Dance Team Association state competition. The varsity team's IDTA state championship came one week after finishing in 12th place at the IHSA state finals.

Athletics

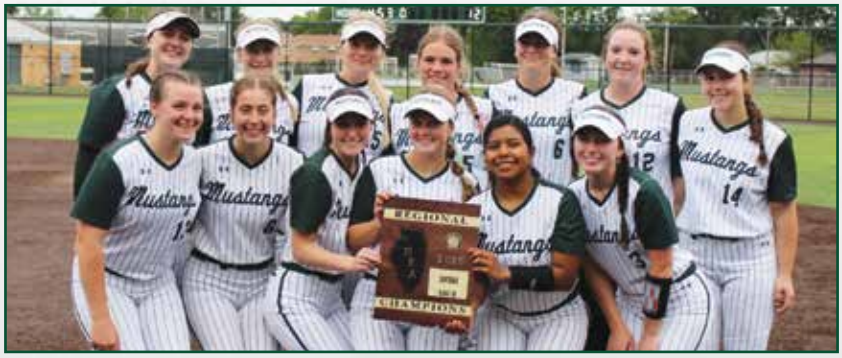


Regional Champions

Five EPCHS varsity athletic teams brought home regional championships during 2025-2026: baseball, boys bowling, boys wrestling, girls volleyball and softball.











Athletics



New School Records

Three EPCHS student-athletes broke all-time athletic school records in 2025-2026. Nicole Mitchell topped the mark in the girls cross country 3-mile run with a time of 18 minutes, 38 seconds. Londyn Gwin broke the all-time mark in the girls track & field discus event with a throw that spanned 128 feet, 10 inches. Nia Shakir broke the all-time record in the 300 M hurdles with a time of 48.05 seconds.

All-State Athletes

A number of EPCHS student-athletes were named to all-state teams by coaches organizations across Illinois after their impressive seasons. Included on all-state teams were Neve Hayes (girls volleyball), Tatum Harris (girls basketball), Noah Munoz (baseball), Grace Babiarz, Salem Majoch, Makiya Williams (competitive dance) and Maggie Troglia, Molly Goyke, Shelby Izzo (softball).

Athletes of the Week

The following Mustang student-athletes were recognized as Athletes of the Week, as nominated by their coaches.

Fionn Doherty, Boys Golf
Keira Kelly, Girls Golf
Tyler Phelps, Football
Neve Hayes, Girls Volleyball
Diego Saldana, Boys Soccer
Morgan Brady, Girls Swimming
Lily Deranek, Cross Country
Elijah Swartz, Cross Country
Destinee Feliciano, Cheerleading
Harlem Reed, Competitive Dance
Aidan Gerstein, Boys Bowling
Tatum Harris, Girls Basketball
Cam Dandridge, Boys Basketball
Damian Perez, Boys Wrestling
Malia O'Neal, Girls Wrestling
Esperanza Garcia, Girls Bowling
Matt McQuillan, Boys Swimming
Elizabeth Adjayi, Cheerleading
Adrian Ladson-Davis, Boys Track & Field
Londyn Gwin, Girls Track & Field
Maggie Troglia, Softball
Layla Ross, Girls Soccer
Garret Kazmierowicz, Boys Volleyball
Noah Munoz, Baseball
Landon Gwin, Boys Track & Field
Chloe Plunkett, Girls Track & Field
Annie Olson, Softball
Jake Bishop, Baseball
Connor Gallagher, Boys Volleyball
Yaritza Mendez, Girls Soccer



Booster Scholarship

Six EPCHS student-athletes were awarded the Mustang Booster Scholarship.
From left: Fionn Doherty, Connor Faulkner, Annie Olson, Neve Hayes, Bridget Hayes and Michael Visser.

5 Goals/ 1 Game:

A highlight of the EPCHS girls soccer season came on April 22, when Mustang star player Layla Ross netted five goals in one game during a 9-0 victory over Richards.



College **Athletic Signings**



Destinee Feliciano
Northern Illinois University,
Cheerleading



Brayden Mateja Bates
Joliet Junior College, Wrestling



Joshua Matheny
Lake Forest College, Football



Londyn Robinson-Gwin
Davenport University, Cheerleading



Megan Doherty
Joliet Junior College, Softball



Neve Hayes
Augustana, Girls Volleyball



Owen Velazquez
St. Xavier University, Football

Future Mustangs

EPCHS is proud to welcome our Future Mustangs to campus at events throughout the year

Shadow Days: Shadow Days at EPCHS allow 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in Evergreen Park the chance to experience a day-in-the-life of a high school student as a way to give them an idea of what to expect in their upcoming high school years. EPCHS Shadow Days have grown more interactive by the year, with Future Mustangs not only following their EPCHS students to their classes, but experiencing some of the many extracurricular and athletic offerings the school has as well.











Youth Nights: Youth Nights are held at least once a year during home Mustang athletic events in football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball. Kids from Evergreen Park are not only admitted to the games for free, but are given free slices of pizza or hot dogs, in addition to their own Evergreen Park Mustang t-shirts they can wear to show their Mustang Pride throughout the community.



Snowflake Retreat: The Snowflake retreat returned to EPCHS for its second year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. 6th, 7th and 8th grade kids who attended had the opportunity to connect with their peers, engage in team-building activities and learn leadership skills from EPCHS student leaders and a guest speaker.



Trick or Treat: Halloween at EP continues to grow every year as young students throughout the village go trick-or-treating outside the EPCHS classrooms and enjoy fun games set up in the Learning Resource Center.



Summer Theater: The Spotlight on 99th Summer Theater Camp included a show exclusively featuring 3rd through 8th grade students in 2026. *Dare to Dream Jr.* offered Future Mustang drama stars the chance to star on stage alongside their peers.



Kindergarten T-Shirts: A tradition that started back in 2011 is reaching the next generation of Future Mustangs. This past fall, EPCHS Principal Matt Dugan and student members of the Principal's Advisory Council visited all four Evergreen Park elementary schools with special "Future Mustang" t-shirt gifts for every kindergartener. Principal Dugan and the EPCHS students (many of whom were returning to the elementary school they attended) challenged the young ones to hold onto their shirt for the next 12 years and bring it to their own EPCHS graduation. Shown here are the kindergarten students at Southwest Elementary School showing their Mustang pride with Southwest alums Faith Etapa and Jazmin Ayala.

New at EPCHS in 2025-2026





Pack The Place

Pack the Place returned to EPCHS this past January and was bigger and better than ever before! Mustang fans were treated to four exciting basketball games - JV girls, JV boys, varsity girls and varsity boys - all against Argo as fans were called down to the court during timeouts to "Shoot for the Loot" and win prizes. A highlight from the night was when EPCHS pep band member Jamari Jeffries was called away from his musical duties for a moment to sink a shot from beyond the three-point line.

AERO Aviators Exhibition Game



In a first-of-its-kind event at EPCHS, the AERO Aviators softball exhibition game offered AERO Special Education Cooperative students a chance to compete in a few innings of softball, assisted by varsity members of the Mustang softball team. Each AERO Aviator was given an iconic new nickname from the legendary Mustang sports public address announcer Mike Gallagher, which made the new event all the more memorable.



Folkloric Dance Group

The newest extracurricular activity at EPCHS is the Folkloric Dance Club, which made its debut this past year performing at a variety of assemblies, the NHS Talent Show and alongside guest performers like the Frida Community Organization and Collaborative Institute of Cultural Arts during EPCHS' Winter Spirit Week. The Folkloric Dance Club is sponsored by Mrs. Jennifer O'Connor and made in large part possible by the dedication of sophomore student and talented folkloric dancer Alexa Guzman.

Senior Sunset



A few members of the Class of 2026 started a new tradition at EPCHS: watching the sunset on the football field the night before graduation.



Rolling Into Spring

In a blast-from-the-past setting this past April, the small gym at EPCHS was turned into a disco era-like roller rink for the night as students tried their hand at roller skating.

COMING SOON! Bowling Alley to Open at EPCHS Sports Complex

Evergreen Park residents can get ready to lace up their bowling shoes and enjoy a brand-new state-of-the-art amenity right here in the village. A new 8-lane bowling alley is under construction at the EPCHS Sports Complex, 2700 W. 91st St. and is expected to open to the public in the coming weeks.

"We're thrilled to bring bowling back to Evergreen Park and provide our students and community with a new, state-of-the-art facility right here in our Sports Complex," said Mary Zofkie, Board President of Evergreen Park Community High School District 231. "The addition of the bowling alley to our Sports Complex not only supports our athletic programs but also honors a tradition that has long been part of Evergreen Park's history. With the closing of Bleeker's, we saw an opportunity to create something special that connects our school and community through recreation, competition and Mustang pride."

Yearly **Traditions**



Talent Show



Trades Forum



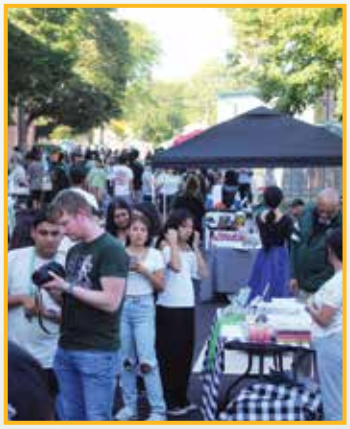
Veterans Day Breakfast



Snowball



Float Your Boat



Homecoming Fan Fest



Senior Citizen Dinner



Sounds From The Stadium



Planting Day



Senior Sunrise



NHS Blood Drive



Movie Night

Staff **Accomplishments**

STAMPEDE AWARD

Staff Members of the Year

The STamPede booster club, a group of Evergreen Park students, teachers and parents who support programs that enrich the student life at EPCHS, annually presents staff awards for both Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year. The winners of these awards are largely determined by a vote among students.

In 2026, the STamPede was proud to recognize math teacher and assistant volleyball coach **Alyssa Migler** as Teacher of the Year and paraprofessional and TMS supervisor **Vernon Estes** as the Support Staff Member of the Year.





STAFF SERVICE AWARDS

Staff Members Reach Milestone Years of Service

EPCHS extends its gratitude to the following staff members who reached milestone years of service at the school following the completion of the 2025-2026 school year.

- **25 Years:** Ree McDonald, Anna Papasideris, Mark Smyth
- **20 Years:** Bridget Heenan, Karen Hewitt, Chris Mikulskis
- **10 Years:** Nick Codiamat, Jason Fundukian, Michelle Kueltzo, Mike Strubin, Jerry Verde, Ron Zimmerman

Happy Retirement, Mr. Estes!

Longtime EPCHS paraprofessional and TMS supervisor **Vernon Estes** retired at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Estes has been a beloved figure on campus for years, and has won the STamPede booster club's Support Staff Member of the Year award four of the last five years the award has been handed out.



Mr. Estes was greeted with thunderous applause and a cake made in his honor during the final staff/faculty Institute Day of this past school year.

Staff **Accomplishments**



Grant Helps Computer Science Teacher Support Students

Mr. David Pierce, a business teacher at EPCHS, attended the Java Content AP Summer Institute provided through the College Board and hosted at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, in June.

Mr. Pierce applied for and received an AP Participant Grant to attend the summer institute. During this summer institute, Mr. Pierce engaged in more than 30 hours of content-rich training designed to strengthen how he supports EPCHS students in the AP Computer Science A course for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year.





Art Show National Winner

Longtime EPCHS art teacher **Mrs. Libby McArthur** received some national recognition this past spring when one of her drawings won the Best in Drawing award at the Art of Education University's annual student art show, Palette Perspectives. Mrs. McArthur's winning artwork is titled *Now, You Are Just a Stranger with All My Secrets* and completed on Prismacolor Fineliners and Bristol paper.

Talented art teachers across the United States "have refined their skills, blending creativity with educational insight in their work" in Art of Education University studio courses. Mrs. McArthur's award-winning drawing represents "the dual spirit of learning and teaching," according to the University.

The drawing was showcased as part of Palette Perspectives after having been selected "through a rigorous process by a panel of jurors, emphasizing the talent and high standards of artistic and educational excellence within our art teacher community."



In an end-of-the-school year tradition, EPCHS teachers line up outside the athletic office in their robes prior to our graduation ceremony to be photographed as a group.

STORIES TO REMEMBER

Scores the Same

Mustang Basketball Teams Win by Same Score on Same Night



It's not unusual for both boys and girls basketball teams in the South Suburban Conference to play the same school on a particular night. Logistically it makes sense, as the boys game will often take place on the floor of one school's gym while the girls game goes on at the other school.

What is unusual, however, is when those two games mirror each other from 15 miles apart. That's what happened on Dec. 11, 2025, when the schedule called for both our boys and girls teams to take on SSC rival T.F. North High School.

"It was a big night for both programs," girls basketball assistant coach Chris Pardek said.

The EPCHS girls team was in Calumet City that night taking on a highly ranked Meteors team that had beaten our Mustangs handedly in Evergreen Park the year before. T.F. North again jumped out to a big lead, but our Mustangs kept chipping away at it, eventually winning in thrilling come-from-behind fashion, 59-57.

Tatum Harris had 23 points to lead the girls in the victory, which was perhaps the most impressive win of the team's program-record 26 wins this past season.

Back at 99th and Kedzie, the boys matchup between the Meteors and Mustangs remained close from the opening tip. An electric atmosphere provided an additional layer of drama as the Mustangs were playing in not only their season home opener, but the first home game for first-year varsity Head Coach Mike Glennon.

The gym was packed, and the student section was as loud as it had been all season long as the Mustangs fought to send the game to overtime. Then, as the score was tied with the seconds winding down in the overtime period and with T.F. North holding possession, the Mustangs forced a Meteor turnover and **Lenear Bolden** raced to the basket to make a game-winning layup as the buzzer sounded.

Mustang Nation went wild. The final score?

59-57. The same tally that was reported from Calumet City just minutes before.

The synchronous wins were more than just a number oddity, though. With T.F. North having sported strong basketball programs for years, the same score wins meant something much more important: *Mustang Basketball is on the rise.*



300! A Perfect Bowling Game

A freshman became only the 3rd bowler in EPCHS boys bowling history to roll a perfect game

EPCHS freshman bowler **Aidan Gerstein** shot his first career 300 game on Nov. 22 at the Oak Lawn Invite.

Gerstein rolled his 300 by throwing 12 strikes in a row in the first game of the day, leading the team to a 1048 pin total. He would go on to finish 8th place overall with a 1229 series.

"Aidan is having a tremendous start to his EP bowling career and we couldn't be more excited for his and the team's future," EPCHS boys bowling Head Coach Ron Pula said.

Gerstein's perfect game is the third in the history of the EPCHS boys bowling program. The others were rolled by Shaun Quinn on Jan. 11, 2014 and Connor Pula on Nov. 17, 2020.

STORIES TO REMEMBER

Student Firefighter Intern Earns EMT Certification While Still in High School



Sean Meierkort, an EPCHS student who is one of the first to participate in the school's firefighter internship program, received his Emergency Medical Technician certification just months after enrolling in the internship program.

Meierkort took his Emergency Medical Technician certification test on Dec. 15 and learned the next morning he passed the exam, becoming certified for EMT-related duties prior to the end of his first semester as a firefighter intern.

"For my whole life, I've had the desire to help people, and that's why I wanted to become a firefighter," Meierkort said. "Taking this test and becoming certified while still in high school is something I do not think would be possible without this internship program offered by EPCHS."

The EMT certification means Meierkort is now included in the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, an organization that verifies the competency, including the knowledge, skills and abilities, to provide safe and effective patient care. The National Registry is a non-profit, non-governmental certification organization serving the emergency medical services (EMS) community. It awards certifications to emergency medical responders, advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics as well through validating the knowledge, skills and competency of EMS professionals and providing a uniform standard across states for emergency medical care.

"Sean's achievement highlights exactly what we hope students gain through the firefighter internship program," said Terence Masterson, a business/technology teacher at EPCHS who heads the internship program. "It's been incredible to watch him fully embrace this opportunity and push himself to reach such an impressive milestone so early in the experience."

EPCHS' student internship program covers a wide range of study areas. In addition to the firefighter internship, EPCHS offers similar programs in social media/marketing, technology, construction, drafting and education. Students who are accepted into the internship program their senior year receive course credit in addition to valuable real-world experiences.

"The internship program offered by Evergreen Park Community High School is all about opening doors for students who want meaningful, real-world experiences that help them grow and turn their interests into real opportunities beyond the classroom, and Sean has shown exactly what's possible when a student commits fully to that opportunity," Masterson said. "His determination sets a powerful example for the firefighter interns who will follow in his footsteps and shows how real-world experience, fueled by a student's drive to learn and serve, can open doors to their future."

Meierkort said the firefighter internship program has allowed him to learn new things every day.

"I'm seeing so many things I've never seen before," he said.

His success "truly reflects what we hope students gain through the firefighter internship program: real-world experience, meaningful mentorship, and the confidence to pursue advanced training and new challenges," Masterson added.

"We're incredibly proud of the hard work he's put in, and we're excited to see how he continues to grow and where this pathway leads him in the future."

Anatomy Table Brings Cutting-Edge Technology to EPCHS Science Wing

Among the most noticeable additions to the EPCHS science department this past year is the Anatomage, an anatomy table that quickly made for good use by students in various science classes.

Science students explored anatomy and biology in a whole new way, thanks to the Anatomage, a state-of-the-art 3D learning tool that turns complex science into an interactive experience.

Located in the EPCHS science wing, the Anatomage allows students to examine real 3D anatomy using high-resolution, life-size digital cadavers. With just a touch, they can rotate, dissect, and explore human systems in vivid detail — from the skeletal structure to organ networks — using real MRI and CT scan data. It's the same advanced visualization technology used in top medical schools across the country.

"This allows our students to see how these different systems are interconnected and how they all work together," said EPCHS Science Department Chair Mike Thomas.

Science teacher Kevin Knapik was among the first instructors to incorporate the table



into lesson plans. Knapik said his anatomy and physiology students used it to examine real CT scans of different systems as his AP biology students were able to use it to test their visual perception using resources from Michigan State University.

By bringing this level of innovation into the classroom, EPCHS is transforming the science experience — making lessons more immersive, reducing lab costs and showcasing the school's commitment to cutting-edge education.

EPCHS All-School Reunion Draws Hundreds of Proud Mustangs



Hundreds of EPCHS alums attended the 2026 All-Class Reunion on Feb. 28 at 115 Bourbon Street, with all graduating classes from 1961 through 2018 represented. It was the first EPCHS All-School Reunion held in nearly a decade.

The fun night was packed with Mustang Pride, with former Mustang students from every decade in attendance. Countless high school memories were shared, and new ones were made. We saw alums from the 1960s connect with those from the 2010s, groups that may have little in common at first glance but share the strong commonality that comes with Mustang Pride.

#OnceAMustang #AlwaysAMustang



Alum David McGrath Inducted into EPCHS Hall of Fame

David McGrath, EPCHS Class of 1967, is the newest member of the EPCHS Hall of Fame after his May 4 induction ceremony during Honors Night. McGrath is an accomplished author and college professor who has brought fame to Evergreen Park with his many tales of growing up in our village.

McGrath wrote about his Hall of Fame induction - and how impressed he is with the current group of Mustang students - in a column published by the Chicago Sun-Times.

Since his EPCHS graduation, McGrath has authored four books and more than 700 essays that have appeared in a few of the most well-known magazines and newspapers across the United States. His teaching career has included roles at colleges and universities throughout the Midwest and southeastern parts of the country.

McGrath has helped put the village of Evergreen Park on the map through his heartwarming stories about growing up, going to school and later raising his own family in Evergreen Park and Chicago's South Side. These stories, which often highlight the values and sense of community that is unique to Evergreen Park, have circulated everywhere in the country - from California to New York - for the past 25 years.

These works have brought McGrath numerous awards including a finalist in the national EdPress awards in 1993, an award for best essay in American Educator Magazine in 199, an award citation in "Notable Essays and Literary Nonfiction" in Best American Essays in 2022 and an award citation for the Chicago Tribune's "Most Heartfelt Op-ed" in 2024 and 2025.

CLASS OF 1975 REUNION

The EPCHS Class of 1975 showed up in full force for their 50-year reunion, which coincided with the weekend of our 2025 Homecoming football game. The group is shown here surrounding a tent they were stationed at behind the end zone area of the football field.



Alumni News

Athletic Anniversaries

Two legendary EPCHS athletic teams were recognized during Homecoming 2025 for reaching milestone anniversaries. The 1975-1976 girls bowling team finished among the top 10 at the IHSA state finals in the inaugural year of the program. The 1986 softball team notched the best state finish in program history, finishing fourth in the IHSA state finals that year.





SAVE THE DATES!

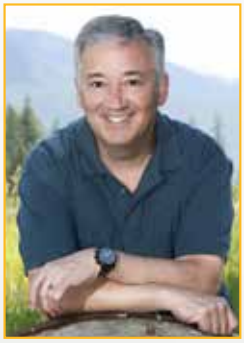
If you are an EPCHS alum from one of the years listed below, make sure you're planning to attend your upcoming class reunion.

Class of 1971: The EPCHS Class of 1971 will hold its 55-year high school reunion from 3-7 p.m. on Saturday, September 26 at Aurelio's Pizza, 9901 Lincoln Highway in Frankfort, IL.

Class of 1976: A 50-year reunion for the EPCHS Class of 1976 will be held from 6-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 3 at the American Legion Hall, 9701 S. Kedzie Ave. in Evergreen Park.

Class of 2006: The EPCHS Class of 2006 will hold its 20-year reunion from 7-11 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26 at Barraco's, 3701 W. 95th St. in Evergreen Park.

To share reunion information, please send the date, time and place to webmaster@evergreenpark.org. We will post the information on the EPCHS website, **www.evergreenpark.org.**



Dr. Ricardo A. Fernandez

ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Ricardo A. Fernandez, '84, was inducted into the Moraine Valley Community College Hall of Fame this past March.

Riannon Buehne, '03, was recently promoted to the role of senior marketing coordinator at Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC.

Ryan Puttkammer, '15 continues to move up the chain at one of the world's largest companies. He's now a safety manager for Amazon.

Dana Kahn, '18, was recently named the assistant village planner for the village of Homer Glen.



Brooke Scanlon

Michael Kportufe, '20 teaches restorative justice at three Chicago Public Schools and has led talks about the subject at Harvard University.

Brooke Scanlon, '20, recently completed a NASA internship as a student at the University of Iowa and is now employed by the Pella Corporation.



Sofie Panatera

Lily Strand, '23, was named the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year as a member of the Saint Xavier University softball team for the second year in a row.

Cecelia Deranek, '25 made the Dean's List in her first semester at Loyola University.

Aidan Bench, '25, was a winner of the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference Scholar-Athlete Award as a freshman football player at Benedictine University.

Sofie Panatera, '25, was a member of the first Loras College softball team in program history to qualify for the NCAA Division III National Tournament.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION ENSURES CONTINUED FINANCIAL STABILITY

EPCHS District 231 has maintained a perfect 4.0 financial profile score earning the highest designation of Recognition per the Illinois State Board of Education for the past 10 plus years. The efforts of Mayor Kelly Burke and Senator Bill Cunningham have allowed the District to take advantage of the property tax relief grant. Over the past five years, the district will have abated more than $8.5 million back to the taxpayers of our community. Due to strong fiscal management, District 231 is one of a few districts that remains completely debt free, carrying no bonded debt.

We are grateful to our stakeholders and community for the continued support!

