EVERGREEN PARK
Community High School

The MUSTANG Countdown

SEPTEMBER 2026 THE COUNTDOWN

EPCHS
FUTURE
MUSTANG
SECTION
FUTURE
MUSTANGS

Dear Future Mustangs:

Excitement at Evergreen Park Community High School is at an all-time high!

Our students, staff and community are raising the bar in every area — academics, athletics, arts and beyond. The Mustang spirit has never been stronger, and we're thrilled to share that energy with you.

We hope you'll join us on the journey and see first-hand what makes EPCHS such a special place to learn and grow.

📜 *Scroll below for a few of the many highlights across Mustang Nation...*

INSIDE EVERGREEN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

SHOWCASING THE TRADES

Industrial Technology Expands at EPCHS: The industrial technology program at EPCHS continues to expand every year as more and more high school students seek a career in the trades.

Among the Industrial Technology advancements at EPCHS are:

- Over the past year, construction was completed on an entirely new room adjacent to the Metals Room that will be used **specifically for teaching HVAC**. Students in Mr. O'Connor's Intro to HVAC class last semester built the ductwork for the room as part of their final project for the year.
- Five Industrial Technology courses are now offered at EPCHS, including Introduction to HVAC, Metals/Fabrication, Intro to HVAC, Tech Concepts, Building & Construction and **a construction internship** offered to seniors who qualify.
- Three full-time Industrial Technology instructors are now teaching at EPCHS. Just prior to this school year, EPCHS welcomed Mr. Bill Merchantz to the staff. Mr. Merchantz comes to EPCHS with more than **20 years of teaching experience** and has already become a favorite among students.
- A **trades forum** is held at EPCHS every February, welcoming representatives from various local unions who highlight the many benefits and opportunities of selecting a career in the trades.

"I feel like welding is my pursuit. Without the (Industrial Tech) programs here, I don't think I would have ever found that passion."

- **EPCHS student Donavan Zachary Herrera** (shown above)

WHY EPCHS?

The Hayes Family

"**EPCHS is family!** It has a tight-knit school atmosphere where students are known, valued, and genuinely cared for. From the moment they become a Mustang, they are surrounded by school personnel who believe in them, encourage them, and celebrate the people they are becoming.

Beyond academics, EPCHS has helped our daughters build confidence, find their voices, and discover new strengths. From day one, this school has felt like home. We are deeply grateful to the top-notch teachers, coaches, staff, counselors, administrators, and the entire EP community for caring so deeply about our girls and investing in their future.

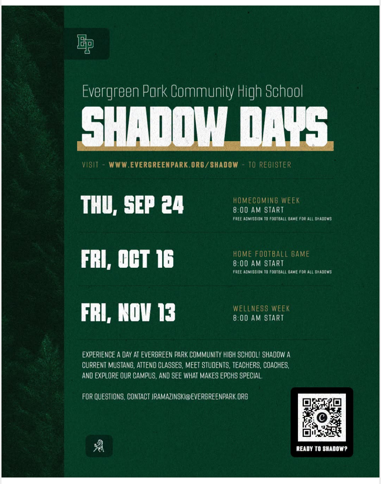
Knowing that our children are part of a remarkable school with premier academic and athletic facilities, where they are safe, encouraged, challenged, and genuinely cared for, is everything we could hope for as parents. We feel incredibly fortunate to have a school of this caliber right in our neighborhood—a place where our daughters are given the opportunity and freedom to grow while always knowing they have people in their corner.

For our family, there is no other choice. EPCHS is the right choice for our girls. We could not be happier or more proud to call EPCHS our family."

~ **Noreen Hayes** *(mother of EPCHS sophomore Brenna Hayes and recent alums Bridget Hayes and Neve Hayes)*

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

🐴**Shadow Days** are open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade Evergreen Park students. This fall, Shadow Days will be offered on the dates listed below. Register here.



Evergreen Park Community High School

SHADOW DAYS

VISIT - WWW.EVERGREENPARK.ORG/SHADOW - TO REGISTER

THU, SEP 24
HOMECOMING WEEK
8:00 AM START
FREE ADMISSION TO FOOTBALL GAME FOR ALL SHADOWS

FRI, OCT 16
HOME FOOTBALL GAME
8:00 AM START
FREE ADMISSION TO FOOTBALL GAME FOR ALL SHADOWS

FRI, NOV 13
WELLNESS WEEK
8:00 AM START

EXPERIENCE A DAY AT EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL! SHADOW A CURRENT MUSTANG, ATTEND CLASSES, MEET STUDENTS, TEACHERS, COACHES, AND EXPLORE OUR CAMPUS, AND SEE WHAT MAKES EPCHS SPECIAL.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT JRAMAZINSKI@EVERGREENPARK.ORG

READY TO SHADOW?

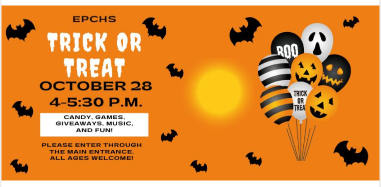
🍕**Youth Nights** will be held during fall, winter and spring athletic seasons as an opportunity for middle and elementary school students in Evergreen Park to engage with current student-athletes and learn a bit about what it's like to be a Mustang.

Future Mustangs enjoyed free pizza during a recent Youth Night held by Evergreen Park volleyball.

🏈 **Home Football Games** always provide Friday night fun for kids in Evergreen Park. The Future Mustangs section is just north of the main stands. Upcoming home football games will be held on **Friday, September 25** vs. Oak Lawn and **Friday, October 16** vs. Eisenhower.

👋**Homecoming Fan Fest** will include food, new vendors, musical and dance performances, fun games and a Chalk the Walk from 3-5:30 p.m. on **Friday, September 25** along Mayor James Sexton Drive. Attendees are encouraged to stay afterward for the Mustangs' Homecoming football game vs. Oak Lawn.

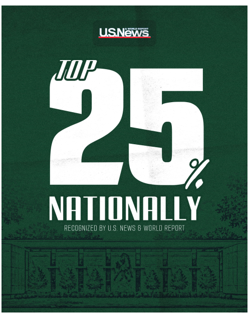
👻**Halloween at EP** is a yearly tradition that turns the entire second floor at EPCHS into a spooky extravaganza complete with candy stations, fun and games. This year's Halloween fun will unfold from 4-5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 28**.


EPCHS
TRICK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 28
4-5:30 P.M.
CANDY, GAMES, GIVEAWAYS, MUSIC, AND FUN!
PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE. ALL AGES WELCOME!
BOO
TRICK OR TREAT

🏠An **Open House** at EPCHS will be held from 5:30-8 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 4**, when all academic, athletic and extracurricular programs will be highlighted. Families of all 7th and 8th grade students in Evergreen Park are encouraged to attend.

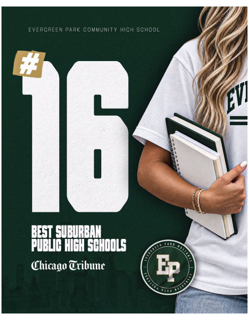
MUSTANG PRIDE HIGHLIGHTS

A few recent items that have made Mustang Nation smile...



Evergreen Park Community High School has been named a Best High School by the U.S. News & World Report. EPCHS was ranked higher than about three-fourths of schools across both Illinois and the United States when the list for the 2026-2027 school year was released earlier this month.

Read more here

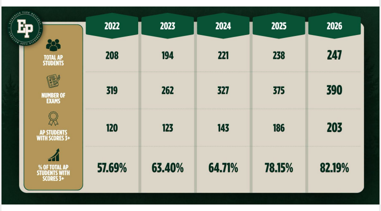

EVERGREEN PARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
#16
BEST SUBURBAN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS
Chicago Tribune
EP

Evergreen Park Community High School has been named the #16 Best Suburban Public High School in the Chicago Tribune's 2026 rankings.

The rankings use Illinois State Board of Education data and consider multiple measures of student and school success, including ACT proficiency, student academic growth, consistent attendance and graduation rate.

This recognition reflects the work happening throughout our entire school community every day. Congratulations to our students, staff and families who continue to make EPCHS a special place to learn and grow.

AP @ EP



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
TOTAL AP STUDENTS	208	194	221	238	247
NUMBER OF EXAMS	319	262	327	375	390
AP STUDENTS WITH SCORES 3+	120	123	143	186	203
% OF TOTAL AP STUDENTS WITH SCORES 3+	57.69%	63.40%	64.71%	78.15%	82.19%

Over the past five years, our Advanced Placement program has continued to grow — not only in participation, but in student success.

In 2026:
🎓247 students took an AP course
📝390 AP exams were taken
👏203 AP students earned a score of 3 or higher
📈82.19% of our AP students earned at least one score of 3+

We are incredibly proud of our students for challenging themselves and of our teachers for preparing, supporting, and believing in them along the way.

STUDENT LIFE AT EP

Senior Sunrise

Art Mural Making

Student Section at Football Games

DID YOU KNOW??

- **57%** of EPCHS students made the honor roll in the spring term
- **158** students had straight A's that term
- **13** members of the EPCHS Class of 2026 and **1** current senior have earned AP Capstone Diplomas
- **78** recent alums and current EPCHS students have been named AP Scholars

EVERGREEN PARK
MUSTANGS