

Welcome to Elm Middle School

INCOMING 7TH GRADE PARENT AND STUDENT
ORIENTATION

This presentation will
be posted on the Elm
website for your future
reference.

Middle school is a new experience for students....

New routines

New building to learn

New teachers

New expectations

New route to school – possibly a bus

Locking lockers, changing classes all day, conference sports, semester grades that count.....

Social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth

Middle school is a new experience for parents....

A student who needs privacy and may be less forthcoming

New social interests and connections

Dealing with a child who is dating/emotional/has sexual feelings emerging

The loss of childhood and complete communication

So much new information!

Today is just an introduction

The transition to middle school takes time and patience

Don't panic!

Tips to help with the academic adjustment

Keep on top of homework and long-term projects.

Set small goals for each day. Avoid the A Day/B Day trap.

Provide lots of structure.

Enforce the use of the daily planner and homework website.

Use the Power School parent portal and set up e-mail notifications.

Students are expected to use the Power School student portal regularly to stay informed of their own academic standing. (We will teach them how to do this).

It's a Google world

EPCUSD 401 is a Google Suite district.

Elm will be a 1:1 school in 2019-20.

Each student will be issued a laptop.

In 2017-18, all Elm teachers will use Google Classroom.

All students have a school gmail account.

They can only email other EPCUSD accounts.

Student accounts are monitored for appropriate use.

They will receive training about the appropriate use of online resources.

This is the letter that came home in the end of year folder with directions about how to use Power School.

Elmwood Park C.U.S.D. #401

Elm Middle School



Student Name: **Cody Huisman**

PowerSchool User Name: **s11111111** (small letter "S" and the student ID number)

PowerSchool Password: **congars**

Log onto PowerSchool at <http://ps.epcusd401.org/public/> or log onto the EPCUSD#401 website at <http://www.epcusd401.org/>, click on the Quick Links located at the bottom right and choose PowerSchool.

- Students will type in their user name and password into the appropriate box.
- Click on a class and then the assignment and you are able to see a description of the assignment, number of points that assignment is worth and the grade the student received.
- Click on a teacher name and you are able to send them an email.
- Important information and announcements will be listed on the School Bulletin also. Any words listed in blue are attachments. If you click on the words you will open the attachment. All attachments are able to be printed.

If you cannot locate the letter, it is still easy to use Power School...

Login is: Lower case “s” followed by the student’s ID number (i.e., s123456)

Password is 4-digit birthdate (2-digit month and 2-digit day)

If you have students in multiple buildings, accounts can be linked

If you need help, contact Danielle Yager (school secretary) at (708)452-3550 after July 26.

Communication between home and school

This is the number one issue that new middle school parents face. Middle school students don't want you to know everything about their day.

They don't bring things home.

The Elm website is the place to find school announcements, printable forms, school calendar, etc.

Papers sent "home" often stay in the locker. There is no "Friday Folder" or printed newsletter.

"News from Elm" is e-mailed approximately once a month.

End of year folder was sent home last week.

We also communicate via...

Power Announcements (automated voicemail or e-mail messages)

Twitter (follow us)

Facebook (like us)

How is middle school is different?

Students change classes every block and have different teachers for every subject. Your student can have up to 15 different teachers during the year.

Teachers meet together each week to discuss curriculum and student needs.

A few teachers teach both grade levels, but most do not.

What the school day looks like

Buses arrive between 7:40 and 7:50 a.m.

Students enter the building at 7:45 a.m.

First bell rings at 7:52 a.m. All students should be in the building.

Class begins at 7:55 a.m. Students are tardy if they are not in class.

Classes end at 3:05 p.m.

After school activities take place from 3:05 – 4:05 p.m.

The late bus leaves at 4:10 p.m. (Stops at both John Mills and Elmwood).

Elm's daily schedule: A "Flexible Block" schedule

"A" Day			"B" Day	
Exploratory	30 minutes		Exploratory	30 minutes
Math	80 minutes		Math	80 minutes
PE	80 minutes	↔	Music	80 minutes
Lunch	30 minutes		Lunch	30 minutes
Advisory	30 minutes		Advisory	30 minutes
Language Arts	80 minutes		Language Arts	80 minutes
Science	80 minutes	↔	Social Studies	80 minutes

What is Exploratory?

The first class of the day

3 week rotations

Mini-classes designed to augment the regular curriculum

Non-graded

Some topics are: Consumer Economics, Robotics, Code-breaking, Chess

Students also receive extra support in Math and Reading during this time if needed.

What is Academic Advisory?

Is paired with lunch time

“Homeroom”

Teachers set academic goals with Advisory students, monitor progress

Announcements, hand-outs, information

Main school/home contact

Students can request help, work on that day’s homework

Wednesdays are PBIS days

Elm is a PBIS school.

What is PBIS?

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

It is a system to establish behavioral supports needed for students in our school to achieve social, emotional, and academic success.

Behavioral expectations are taught, modeled, reinforced and rewarded by all staff in all settings.

Students can earn fun rewards.

All EPCUSD 401 schools use PBIS.

Elm's Expectations

Respect yourself

Respect others

Respect property

Be there; be ready

Athletic opportunities at Elm

Elm is a member of the Leyden-Norwood Athletic Conference.

We offer cross country, softball, volleyball, basketball, Scholastic Bowl, and soccer for boys and girls, as well as cheerleading and pom poms.

Teams are competitive and based on try-outs.

Playing time is not guaranteed if you are on a team.

All students must maintain academic eligibility (passing all classes) in order to play.

Sports physicals are required before a student may participate in try-outs. (Get one this summer. It is good for one calendar year).

There is a \$30 athletic fee for each sport.

Extracurricular opportunities at Elm

We offer CLC (Student Council), Art Club, Math Club, Science Club/Robotics Team, Yearbook, Camera Club, Crypto Club, and National Junior Honor Society.

After-school homework lab meets every day.

Students are highly encouraged to participate in academic activities outside the school day.

Parent involvement opportunities in middle school

PAT

Parent Involvement Form

Field trips, dances, picture days, special events (hot dog lunch, Circus Day)

Parent-teacher conferences

E-mail and phone contact with teachers is encouraged

Middle school students need more – but not complete – independence from their parents.

What middle school is designed to do

Be a transition between elementary and high school

Help students master the tasks of early adolescence:

Academic and brain development

Independence and self-advocacy

Service to others and caring about the world and our community

Develop and maintain positive social relationships

Discovery of new interests and begin to think of college and career interests

Characteristics of the young adolescent

Developing independence and the need for privacy (may lead to “editing”)

Brain stuff: synaptic pruning, pre-frontal cortex development, risk-taking and impulsivity

Confusion about everything (Who are my real friends? What are these feelings? Should I go along with the crowd? What if everyone hates me? How do I open my locker? What should I wear? Where is my bus?)

Friends and emotions are the two most important driving forces.

Confused about pro-social behaviors, how to manage conflict, how to use social media appropriately

Have no fear...

7th grade is a period of adjustment for everyone.

The teachers build in academic, emotional, and logistical supports for all our students as they adjust to middle school.

Everything gets easier as the year goes on.

Even if students are nervous about middle school, they are also excited to begin this new adventure.

Thank you for coming.

We are looking forward to working with you!



Principal: Dr. Kassie Porreca (porrecak@epcusd401.org)

Assistant Principal: Dr. Cody Huisman (huismanc@epcusd401.org)