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.
The faculty, staff, students and community of Elm Middle School are devoted to academic excellence. In addition, we feel it is important for students to develop a sense of self-esteem and confidence in order to ensure success in high school and to enable them to make the correct decisions that will guide them later in life. We believe in individual differences, responsible behavior and an obligation of students to serve their community.

Elm’s Mission Statement
So much new information!

Today is just an introduction

The transition to middle school takes time and patience

Don’t panic!
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
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
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 Social Emotional Learning days
Parent/Staff Partnership

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 Google Calendar and Google 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).
This letter is 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:** Danielle Yager

**PowerSchool User Name:** S111999

**PowerSchool Password:** s1220


- 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 and description of the assignment, number of points the the assignment is worth and the grade that 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.
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: Lower case “s” followed by the student’s birth date
(i.e., December 20 = 1220)

Username = s123456
Password  = s1220
It’s a Google world

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.
Chromebooks!!

Your child will receive the following at the beginning of the school year:

- Chromebook
- Case
- Powerchord
- Stylus

It is your child’s responsibility to take care of that Chromebook, Case, Powerchord and stylus.

It is your child’s responsibility to bring it charged to school every day.
IDs and Lanyards

The District requires anyone in the building to be wearing an ID and Lanyard.

Students will receive an ID and Lanyard at the beginning of school for free.

The ID is three dollars to replace
The lanyard is two dollars to replace
Communication between home and school

This is the number one issue that new middle school parents face. Middle school students struggle to tell you about everything.

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.
We also communicate via...

Power Announcements (automated voicemail or e-mail messages)

Family updates emailed at least twice a month

Twitter: @elm401_cougars
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. Students are tardy to school if they are not in the building.

Class begins at 7:55 a.m. Students are tardy to class 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>“A” Day</th>
<th>“B” Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exploratory</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>Exploratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>80 minutes</td>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>80 minutes</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>Advisory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>80 minutes</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>80 minutes</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Notes:**
- "Flexible Block" schedule
- "A" Day and "B" Day alternate throughout the week.
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.
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
Parent involvement opportunities at Elm

PAT
Community Involvement Form (student will bring home in August)
  Field trips, dances, picture days, special events
Parent-teacher conferences
E-mail and phone contact with teachers is encouraged
  Middle school students need more – but not complete – independence from their parents.
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.
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 pons.

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. The first week a student is deemed academically not eligible they are required to attend after school homework club for get their grade up, if a student is deemed academically not eligible for a second week, they will be dismissed from the team.

- 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. If a student plays three sports they will pay for all three sports, a student participating in a fourth sport won’t be required to pay the activity fee for that sport.
Extracurricular Opportunities

We offer CLC (Student Council), Art Club, Math Club, Robotics Team, Yearbook, Camera Club, Crypto Club, Scholastic Bowl, National Junior Honor Society, and Drama Club

After-school homework lab meets every day.

Students are highly encouraged to participate in academic activities outside the school day.
Familiarize Yourself with the Building

Nurse Amy will be in the Basement - If you have any questions about medical issues or Sports Physicals

Mrs. Groeneveld will be located on the Second floor

Ms. Siegel will be located on the first floor
Thank you for coming.
We are looking forward to working with you!

Principal: Ms. Rebecca Siegel (siegelr@epcusd401.org)
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Ashley Groeneveld (groenevelda@epcusd401.org)