

# WHAT I WISH I'D KNOWN . . .

## ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF INCOMING ETHS STUDENTS

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

#### **ETHS Parents Engaged Yahoo Group (e-mail list)**

Ask questions, get answers, and take part in conversations with other ETHS parents. To join, send an email to:

[ETHSParentsEngaged-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:ETHSParentsEngaged-subscribe@yahoo.com)

#### **Parents Engaged Website ETHSParentsEngaged.com**

#### **ETHS Parents and Guardians Facebook Group**

[www.facebook.com/groups/ethsparents](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ethsparents)

#### **ETHS Parent Groups**

[www.eths.k12.il.us/parentinvolve/ment](http://www.eths.k12.il.us/parentinvolve/ment)

#### **ETHS Website**

[www.eths.k12.il.us](http://www.eths.k12.il.us)

#### **ETHS Sports Portal**

[il.8to18.com/evanston](http://il.8to18.com/evanston)

#### **ETHS E-Alert emails/calls**

Keep your contact information updated in **HAC**.

#### **Daily Bulletin**

Important announcements for students and parents. Subscribe to **Daily Bulletin** and other calendars using the calendar subscription link.

<https://www.eths.k12.il.us/Page/1106>

#### **ETHS Mobile App**

The **ETHS Mobile App** is free and available for iPhone and Android devices. Search for "ETHS" in the App Store or Google Play Store or see <https://www.eths.k12.il.us/Page/431>

## Staying on Track

**The Pilot** is the student handbook, which outlines school rules and expectations. It is distributed to all students and parents, and is also available on the school website. Parents are encouraged to read it through and refer to it when questions arise.

There are two Student/Parent Portals. **Home Access Center (HAC)** is for schedules, grades, homework, and attendance, and **myETHS** is for detentions/discipline, progress towards earned honors credit (eg, Freshman Humanities and Biology), electronic device/bike registration, and student accounts. These are the best ways to keep up with your students' progress. Pay fees and lunch accounts on the **Webstore**.

**Class absences** add up. A maximum of only 8 absences in each class each semester are allowed before risking no credit for the class.. Call the Attendance Office (847-424-7800) in advance if your child is going to be absent or leave early. Submit the **Planned Absence Form** for more than one day. Automated letters let you know the class and the date of absence. Unexcused status may change after letters are sent. The student should follow-up with the teacher if a mistake was made. Parents must call in absences within 24 hours to avoid being unexcused. Staff can correct erroneous data until grades are finalized. Phys. Ed. absences may be made up running laps. More than 8 absences in a Phys. Ed. class may require taking 2 Phys. Ed. classes the next semester or in summer school. More info on the **Attendance Office** webpage.

**SOS (Systems of Support)** is a three-tier system of academic and behavior supports, including departmental study centers, homework assistance and one-on-one tutoring. **Wildkit Academy** is a FREE Saturday academic support program for all current ETHS students. Students get breakfast, tutorial assistance with course work, and are able to clear detentions. **Freshmen Advisory Study Hall (FASH)** meets Mondays with weekly skills/topics.

**Questions about classes? Contact the teacher.** Teachers answer emails and return phone calls. Email the teacher's last name, then first initial, then @eths.k12.il.us (eg, [smithp@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:smithp@eths.k12.il.us).) **AM Support** is a great time for all students to meet with teachers with no stigma.

**Parent/teacher conferences** are held in October and February. Online sign up opens about 2 weeks in advance. With 6-8 teachers to see in 5-minute slots, expect to spend at least an hour in the school for each student. Schedule a longer follow-up meeting if needed. Consider **Open House** and follow your student's schedule if you don't need an individual conference.

**Counselors** are assigned for all four years to help with course selection and post-secondary planning. Try to establish a relationship with the counselor as early as possible.



**PARENTS**  
*engaged*

## Safety/Security

Students should take care with valuables, not leave backpacks unattended, and make sure lockers and gym lockers are locked. (Spin the dial after the locker is closed). Street lockers are safer than gym lockers.

Register bikes and electronic devices in [myETHS](#). The [Safety Department](#) will notify families if registered items are recovered.

If an item is stolen at the school, report it to the [Safety Department](#) (open 24/7) AND file a police report.

## Extracurricular Activities

There are many and they allow students to pursue interests, learn skills, make friends, and impress colleges. See the [Clubs & Activities](#) webpage. Check the [Daily Bulletin](#) for meeting times and places. Look for signs in the halls. Check out Activity Fairs.

Sign up for sports physicals and concussion baseline tests early and get contact information from other parents at parent meetings. If you don't come to practice you won't play. There are many no-cut sports (particularly for Freshmen) and club sports.

Falling grades do not preclude participation in sports or clubs. Team and club based study tables are common. Uncleared detentions can affect participation in clubs, sports, prom and graduation. [Sports follow IHSA eligibility rules.](#)

## Community Service

There is a [Community Service Office](#) in [The Hub](#) and opportunities for service are included in the Daily Bulletin. Community service is a requirement for admission to honor societies and colleges prefer it.

## Moving Forward

**Homework** varies from class to class, and may be significant in many AP classes. An early drop in grades may make bringing up a GPA difficult. Class grades and GPA for each semester appear on transcripts. Semester exam are worth 20% of the final grade. More information calculating GPA is in [The Pilot](#). ETHS does not rank students by GPA. [HAC](#) contains grades, assignments, and attendance.

**Testing.** SAT assessments have replaced the PSAT as the state accountability measure. PARCC tests replaced ACT in 2014-15, and SAT replaced PARCC in 2016-17. Juniors must take the [required SAT in April](#) to graduate, and can choose whether to send scores to colleges. Freshmen take the [PSAT 8/9](#) and Sophomores take the [PSAT 10](#). In October, many juniors take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#), which determines eligibility for the National Merit/Achievement/Hispanic Scholarship programs.

Most colleges accept either the ACT or SAT (and many require neither). ETHS offers **free preparation for the SAT** through Khan Academy and at [Wildkit Academy](#). The law is evolving about whether results from the state-sponsored SAT may appear on a student's final transcript.

AP classes are encouraged for all students. ETHS offers many opportunities for support for students taking AP classes, including [TeamASAP](#), summer boot camps, and Saturday prep classes. Don't register for too many and burn out. [AP exams](#) are in May per a nationwide schedule.

More information on [testing](#) is available on the ETHS website under: [About ETHS: Research Evaluation and Assessment: Testing Programs](#)

**College planning.** The [College and Career Center](#) offers post-secondary planning including college and career counseling. Attend info sessions offered for every grade for students and parents, and start using [Naviance](#) early for interest surveys, career exploration, and college data. Keep an eye on your student's [Individualized Career and Academic Plan \(ICAP\)](#).

Students may be excused from classes for college representatives who visit the school, usually during Fall semester. Dates of college visits are in the [Daily Bulletin](#) and in [Naviance](#).

Students often visit colleges during Spring Break junior year or Columbus Day weekend. Visiting during the summer allows you see the campus, but classes are usually not in session. Older classmates and team members can be a great source for college ideas.

College essays should be started in the summer prior to senior year. Senior English classes include college essay writing.

Students should plan to complete applications at least 3 weeks before the college application deadline because counselors require verification that college applications have been sent before they will release transcripts.

**More Questions?** Join the [ETHS Parents Engaged Yahoo Group](#) or the [ETHS Parents and Guardians Facebook Group](#) and learn from the ETHS parent community.

[ETHSParentsEngaged.com](http://ETHSParentsEngaged.com)