



# ETHS DIGEST

**Evanston Township High School  
District 202  
Evanston, Illinois**

*Popular Annual Financial Report  
For the year ending June 30, 2018*

# Welcome to ETHS District 202:

Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent

This *ETHS Digest* is designed to be an easy-to-access annual report with short articles and helpful visuals, providing an abundance of information about Evanston Township High School District 202 (ETHS). Whether you are just becoming familiar with this extraordinary high school district or your family has been part of the Wildkit family for multiple generations, I trust you will enjoy learning more about one of our nation's premier high schools.



No single publication can completely capture the vibrancy, diversity, enthusiasm and energy at ETHS; no single publication can document all the accomplishments of our students and staff; and no single publication can come close to conveying all the op-

portunities and access for all students in this unparalleled learning environment. This is not an ordinary high school. It is, simply, one of the best.

I hope this *ETHS Digest* stimulates your curiosity to learn even more about ETHS. Today's Wildkits enjoy boundless school spirit and, just like generations before them, proudly wear the orange and blue. They excel in academics, in the fine and performing arts, in competitions, and more. But most of all, our students excel in being good human beings who are learning and growing in a challenging and nurturing environment, reflecting on their own mindsets and experiences, developing their skills, and recognizing they are highly valued for their individuality, talents, and aspirations.

ETHS has a powerful story to tell. Enjoy.

## Snapshot of ETHS:

Mary Rodino, ETHS Chief Financial Officer

This 7th annual *ETHS Digest: Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)* is designed to give Evanston/Skokie residents an overview of Evanston Township High School District 202—a snapshot of the district's finances for the prior year, as well as general information that highlights student achievement, academic initiatives, partnerships, and programs.

The selected financial information is taken from statements found in our audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the last fiscal year, a detailed report prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The PAFR, however, is unaudited and summarizes, in an accessible manner, the financial data reported in the CAFR. The PAFR is presented on a non-GAAP basis, which eliminates certain component units and funds to streamline reporting.

For the 6th consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, which reviews this publication, granted last

year's *ETHS Digest* an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. To receive this award, valid for one year, a government unit must publish a PAFR whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal. We believe this new *ETHS Digest*, which reflects 2017-18, continues to conform to those standards.

The ETHS administration and school board firmly believe in public scrutiny and transparency of the district finances. Full copies of the district's financial documents, including the CAFR that contains detailed financial information, are available in the ETHS business office or at the district website: [www.eths.k12.il.us](http://www.eths.k12.il.us). Call 847-424-7100 for more information.



*On the cover: Emma Estberg (at l.), AP Studio Art student, and Tseon Kassie, a member of Students Without Borders, together made posters saying "Oppressions are not Isolated" to post throughout the school. (See related story, p. 8.)*

# ETHS by the numbers 2017-18

## Students and Faculty

- 3, 567 students (as of Sept. 30, 2017)
- Student ethnic distribution: Am. Indian–0.5%, Asian–5.7%, Black/African American–27.8%, Hispanic/Latino–18.3%, Native Hawaiian–0.2%, Two or more races–2.5%, White–45.3%
- Low-income enrollment–41%
- Number of certified teachers – 237 (91% with advanced degrees)
- National Board Certified teachers – 18

- 4-yr. graduation rate – 91.1% (Class of 2018)
- College attendance rate – 77% (Class of 2017) (Percent of students enrolled in college at any time during the first year after graduation)

## ETHS Class of 2018 profile

- 11 Nat’l Merit Semifinalists, Finalists TBA, 33 Commended Students
- 181 Illinois State Scholars

# District goals for 2017-2022

Adopted by the Board of Education, May 23, 2016

### GOAL 1 Equitable and Excellent Education

ETHS will increase each student’s academic and functional trajectory to realize college/career readiness and independence. Recognizing that racism is the most devastating factor contributing to the diminished achievement of students, ETHS will strive to eliminate the predictability of academic achievement based upon race. ETHS will also strive to eliminate the predictability of academic achievement based upon family income, disabilities and status as English language learners.

### GOAL 2 Student Well-being

ETHS will connect each student with supports to ensure that each student will experience social-emotional development and enhanced academic growth.

### GOAL 3 Fiscal Accountability

ETHS will provide prudent financial stewardship.

### GOAL 4 Community Engagement and Partnerships

ETHS will strengthen parent/guardian relationships to create an effective continuum of learning and seamless transitions into and out of ETHS.

## Meet the ETHS Board of Education

(Left to right) Jonathan Baum, Pat Maunsell, Gretchen Livingston, Mark Metz, Pat Savage-Williams (President), Eric Witherspoon (Superintendent), Monique Parsons (Vice President), Jude Laude, and Phoebe Liccardo (Student Member)



# Challenging budget environment

2017-18 was a challenging year financially for Illinois school districts, including ETHS. The Illinois legislature didn't approve a state budget until August 2017, so going into the 2017-18 school year, the school board was still grappling with who should pay for teacher pensions (the state or local districts), the possibility of a mandated property tax freeze, low interest rates that affect district investments, and the grip of tax-caps that don't keep up with increased costs of supplies, energy, services, health benefits, and labor.

Despite these challenges, the ETHS school board adopted a balanced budget—for the 12th straight year—of \$84.3 million in expenditures, a 1.3% overall increase than the FY 2017 budget. The operating budget of \$74.5 million is a 2.9% increase over the previous year, due primarily to higher federal grant revenues, increases in e-rate revenues, and new-development-related property tax increases.

Balancing the FY 2018 budget included cutting over \$200,000 in non-personnel related costs such as contractual services (consultants, staff travel, professional development) and supply budgets across the school. When considering cost reductions, the school board and administration use Value-Based Budgeting, focusing cuts as far from the classroom as possible.

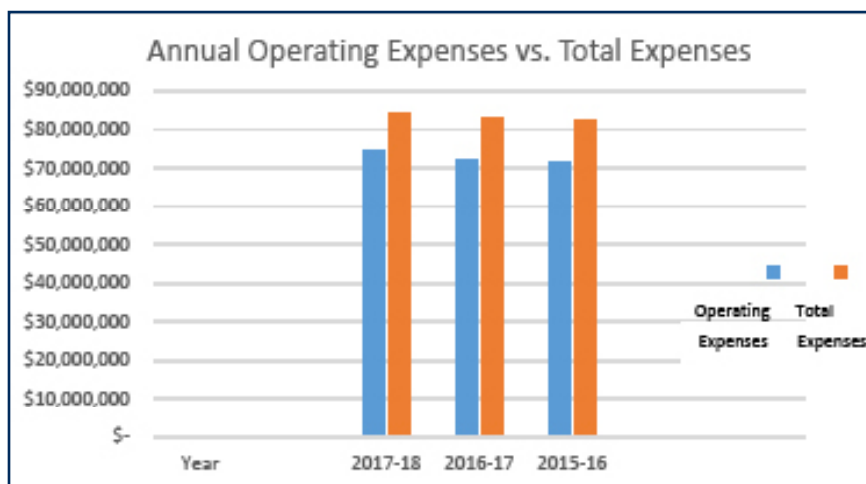
Due to careful planning up front and constant adjustments throughout the school year, the FY 2018 budget reflected an operating-fund surplus of about \$1.8 million by year's end. This surplus can be attributed to two things: careful monitoring of ongoing operating expenses, and a reduction in required reserves for insurance expenses. Because insurance costs have remained relatively flat over the past few years, the District was able to release

some funds held in required reserves. This release was suggested by the District's financial auditors.

While the state had its first approved budget in three years, finances for schools should improve in the short run. The compromise state-funding bill, also approved in August 2017, includes a hold-harmless provision that will allow ETHS to receive a consistent general state aid allotment for now. However, in future years, any additional money will be viewed through the lens of an evidence-based formula that favors the state's neediest school districts, not more prosperous districts such as ETHS.

In addition, initiatives such as teacher pension reform and a potential property tax freeze are still being debated. One proposal, shifting the normal cost of teachers' pensions from the state to the local school districts, approximately 8% of teachers' payroll, could cost ETHS an additional \$2 million per year.

**The revenue and expenditure charts on these next two pages reflect final budget numbers for the 2017-18 school year. For more comprehensive information, see the district's audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) in the Business Office or online at the school's web site ([www.eths.k12.il.us](http://www.eths.k12.il.us) under Business Services).**



# Where does the money come from?

**E**THS District 202 receives funding from local, state, and federal sources. The operating budget includes the Education (General), Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation Funds, as referenced in the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The district's operating budget makes up 93% of all revenues and 89% of all expenditures. The funds excluded from the operating budget are the Municipal Retirement, Debt Service, Capital Projects, and Fire Prevention Funds. FY 2018 operating budget resources from all sources totaled \$103,231,818, a 2.6% increase from FY 2016. General and categorical state aid represented 30% of the revenue (29% the previous year), while the federal government supplied another 3%. The remaining 67% came from local sources, especially from property taxes.

**Property Taxes.** Evanston property owners pay taxes to several entities, including District 202. ETHS's portion of the total property tax bill is just over 25%. This percentage has remained constant or slightly reduced over the past five years. For FY 2018, property taxes represented 85% of the total ETHS operating revenue. In addition, property taxes pay for the Bond and Interest Fund, which covers annual debt service on outstanding bonds, and the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, which pays retirement benefits for non-certified staff.

District 202 is subject to property tax caps, which limit the growth of taxes to 5% or the Illinois Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is lower. The

district fiscal year straddles the current and previous years' levies (2.1% for 2017, 2.1% for 2018), so the dollars available for this budget were a blend of these rates. Property taxes for the operating funds were \$62.7 million.

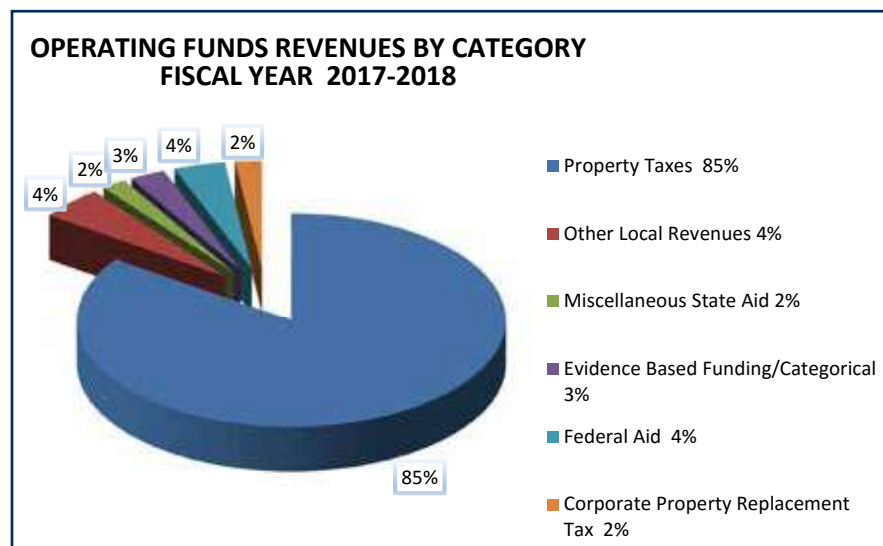
**Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes (CPRT)** are part of the state income taxes and generally reflect the state of the Illinois economy. The CPRT goes into the Education, Operations-Maintenance, and IMRF funds. District 202 received \$1.7 million for FY 2018.

**Other Local Revenues** come from tuition, interest on investments, food-service income, student fees, Tax Increment Financing revenue, and other local sources. ETHS received \$3.7 million in FY 2018 in Other Local Revenues which is about 32% higher than FY 2017.

**Evidence Based Funding** has replaced General State Aid and incorporates general aid along with some former categorical aid payments. The entire amount of this funding (\$2.9 million) goes into the Education Fund.

**State Categorical Aid** is aimed at specific needs and programs, including special-education personnel, transportation, bilingual programs, and others. ETHS received \$31.3 million in state aid, an 8.6% increase from FY 2017. This figure includes state pension costs (an increase of 10% over FY 2017) which are also netted out within the expenditures.

**Federal Aid** goes toward Title I, Title II, student meal subsidies. IDEA, and ETHS Health Center costs. Total funding for FY 2018 was \$3.3 million, which amounted to a 10% increase over FY 2017.



# Where does the money go?

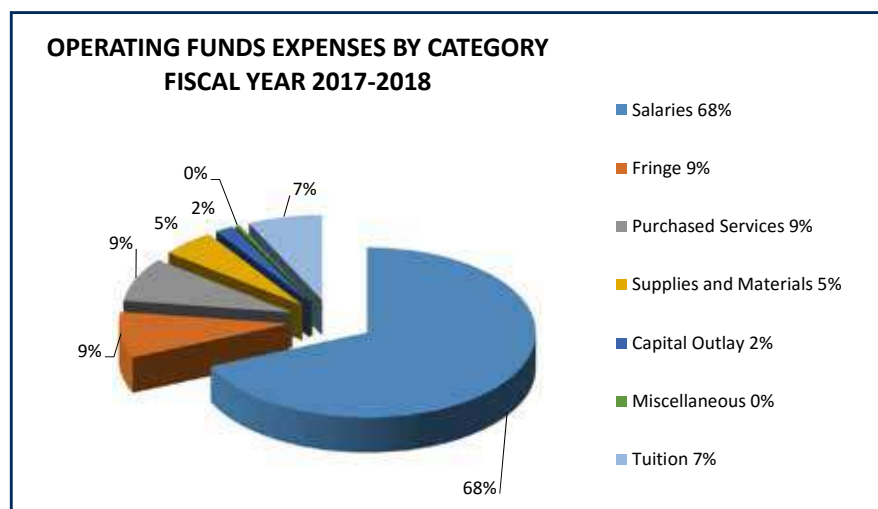
The operating expenditure budget includes the Education (general), Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation funds, as explained in the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The FY 2018 operating expenditures were \$101,477,354, a 4.1% increase over FY 2017. The main increase was due to the increase in state pension costs which are added to revenues and netted out in expenses. Aside from that figure, salaries and fringe benefits continue to dominate costs. Salaries represented 68% of the budget and fringe benefits were 9%—over three-quarters devoted to personnel costs.

**Salaries** are mainly determined by negotiated contracts with the six labor unions in District 202. Total salaries amounted to approximately \$51.0 million, an increase of 4.0% over FY 2017.

**Employee Fringe Benefits** include health, life, and optional dental insurance. Total fringe benefits costs for FY 2018 were estimated to be \$6.5 million, an increase of 7% from the previous year. Health claims vary from year to year.

**Purchased Services.** The district has made a concerted attempt to cut spending in this area. Major efforts have gone to lowering energy costs by entering into future contracts to hedge the cost of electricity, but some costs continue to rise. Purchased Services amounted to \$6.2 million last year, which was slightly below FY 2017.

**Supplies/Materials:** These expenses are for office supplies and materials, and once again ETHS is trying to keep costs down. The total for FY 2018 was \$3.8 million, down 2% from FY 2017.



**Capital Outlay.** Capital outlay expenditures in the operating funds for FY 2018 amounted to \$1.3 million, slightly lower than FY 2017.

**Other Objects.** Expenditures here amounted to \$365,000, a 0% increase from FY 2016.

**Tuition.** Special Education tuition expenses amounted to \$5.3 million for FY 2018, a decrease of 2% from FY 2017.

## Excellence Awards for Financial Reporting

For the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, ETHS received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2017-18 budget, accompanied by a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This is GFOA's top honor in governmental budgeting and is awarded to fewer than 1% of Illinois school districts. These GFOA budget honors are in addition to its renewed award to ETHS for the Popular Annual Financial Report.

Also, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Association of School Business Officials International awarded ETHS its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award for its FY 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (annual audit), an award earned by less than 5% of Illinois school districts.

Last February, for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Moody's Investors Service assigned ETHS its highest "Aaa" bond rating, considered the gold standard in accounting and financial reporting.

# Academic report

2017-18 was an unusual year for charting academic progress at Evanston Township High School. ETHS has reported ACT scores since 1972. Over those 46 years, the school has annually reported its students' progress locally as well as in comparison to students in Illinois and nationally.

Notably, for the past decade ETHS has had its highest composite ACT scores ever with the exception of 1998. Since 2002, all Illinois high-school juniors were required to take the ACT. And while state and national data showed a dip in average ACT scores, ETHS average scores climbed over time.

But, the rules have changed. Beginning in spring 2017, the state education office stopped using the ACT and instead required all Illinois juniors to take the College Board's (CB) SAT college-entrance exam, which is nationally normed. The switch from ACT to SAT leaves 2018 as the baseline year for SAT data reporting for ETHS.

Further, in the 2019-20 school year, the state board will expand its statewide academic performance measures to include "college-and-career-readiness" information for high school students. Some of the criteria students will need to meet to be considered college-and-career ready are:

- GPA of 2.8 or greater, and
- 95% attendance, and
- Proficiency in both English-language arts and mathematics. (ETHS will use SAT/CB college-readiness standards instead of Illinois-developed benchmarks, which are not nationally normed.)

A recent ETHS school board report on student achievement highlighted the following information for the ETHS Class of 2018:

- 65% of the class achieved a GPA of 2.8 or greater, with an average GPA of 3.0.
- Based on four years of attendance at ETHS, the 2018 class had an average attendance rate of 93%. (In fact, the overall average daily attendance for all ETHS students in 2017-18 was 97%.)
- 73% of the 2018 class met the SAT/CB readiness benchmark of 480+ in English-language arts, and 57% met the benchmark of 530+ in mathematics, based on their scores on the SAT taken in grade 11. The average ETHS SAT score in English/language arts was 560, and the average ETHS SAT score in mathematics was 555. (Top SAT score is 800.)

- 91.1% of the 2018 class graduated in four years.
- 77% of the class participated in at least one extra-curricular activity.

Meeting SAT/CB college-and-career readiness benchmarks is an indicator of a 75% likelihood of achieving at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing English-Language Arts and mathematics or related courses (history, literature, social science, or writing, as well as algebra, statistics, pre-calculus, or calculus).

## ***Advanced Placement at all-time high***

Since 1952, when ETHS was named one of seven pilot schools nationally to experiment with five college-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses, ETHS now offers 34 AP courses in the areas of Career/Technical Education, English, fine arts, history/social science, math, science, and world languages.

ETHS is at an all-time high in student AP participation and success. Last spring 976 students took one or more AP exams, a 27% increase in the number of participating students since 2011-12. During this time, there was a 29% jump in the number of students earning a score of 3 or more on their exam(s). (Five is the top AP score.)

Looking demographically at the number of students taking AP exams, the increases are even more impressive, particularly for students of color. In 2018, 606 White students took AP exams, a 17% increase since 2011-12 with a 16% increase in the number of Whites earning a 3 or higher. In 2018, 132 Black-African American students took AP exams, a 33% jump in those same six years with a 91% increase of these students earning a 3 or more. Among Hispanic/Latino students, 134 took AP exams in 2018. This represents a 68% boost since 2011-12, and a 76% increase in the number of Hispanic/Latinos earning at least a 3 on their exam(s).

The AP success is particularly relevant to ETHS graduates who go to college in Illinois. Starting in 2016-17, all Illinois public universities and community colleges must award college course credit to students who earn scores of 3 or higher on AP exams.

# Students use art to express views

It is said that “art saves lives.” According to the Art Saves Lives International charitable organization, “It can engage people by giving a voice to the unheard and by highlighting important issues globally.” That being the case, many ETHS students are currently using art to express their views to educate the school community and create a welcoming climate at ETHS that promotes tolerance and inclusion for all.

In particular, students taking Advanced Placement Studio Art and members of the Students Without Borders Club joined forces to design and print posters, t-shirts, and buttons with messages “that address contemporary social and political topics, along with supportive text and image graphics that promote safety, respect for others, justice, and equal rights,” according to art teacher Amy Moore, who is also the club advisor.



*Grace McHolland’s gun violence posters, made before the Parkland, FL, shooting were a riveting reminder during the March 14, 2017, student walkout.*

Social justice and safety were in the forefront at ETHS last school year. In early September, the superintendent and school board officially declared ETHS a Safe Haven School District to protect, to the fullest extent of the law, its undocumented students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination. On March 14, 3,300 ETHS students participated in the National Student Walkout to protest against gun violence and take a public stand for meaningful gun reform.

Last fall, ETHS principal Marcus Campbell encouraged Moore to apply for a Teaching Tolerance Grant from the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights, anti-hate organization. He felt the grant reinforced

the club’s mission of promoting tolerance and anti-racism. Originally called the Dreamers Club, the name was expanded to Students Without Borders to represent a broader group of undocumented students and support those who have visa and green-card status, and all students who have limited access to financial aid for college.



The grant (\$2,847)

allowed ETHS to purchase screen-printing equipment and supplies to create posters and t-shirts, as well as button-making supplies, equipment that can be used to create a space for long-term production of art reflecting social justice and other contemporary issues. Three professional print-makers from the Evanston Art Center held an all-day screen-printing workshop in January to help jump-start the program and provide guidance to the student artists.

The messages on the posters, t-shirts, and buttons are powerful, and the designs are not easily forgotten. “Build bridges not walls,” “Justice knows no borders,” “Stop gun violence,” “Illegal immigration began in 1492,” “Trans is beautiful,” “Redefine feminine” ...and many more. “The [messages] aim to uplift groups who feel threatened based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, and immigration status,” said Moore, adding, “We are creating a combination of critical art works that address contemporary social and political topics.”

Many of the posters have been put up around the school, and some t-shirts, posters and buttons are for sale on the school’s online store. Proceeds will be used for ETHS Dreamers scholarships, awarded to several ETHS undocumented, visa, and green-card students who are not eligible for many types of college financial aid.



# ETHS names field house for coach, co-athletic director Willie May

Over 200 people trudged through the deep snow the evening of February 9—snow that shuttered every school in the Chicago area that day—to attend the dedication of the newly named Willie May Field House at Evanston Township High School. School and community members, friends, and family came to honor May, who passed away in 2012, and his legendary 45-year tenure at ETHS as an assistant and head track/field coach, assistant football coach, physical education teacher, and co-athletic director.

A celebrated athlete himself, May won the silver medal in the men's 110m hurdles at the 1960 Rome Olympics and was seven-time Big Ten champion hurdler for Indiana University. As ETHS's head track coach from 1975-2006, he led the Wildkits to five state trophies, including the 1979 state championship, 26 Central Suburban League championships along with an amazing run of 24 consecutive titles, and he developed over 50 state medalists. For two years, he coached freshman football to an 8-1 season, and the next year he led the sophomore team to a 9-0 record.



Olympics; Larry Axelrod, Cook County Circuit Court Judge and former freshman and sophomore football player under May; Don Michelin, former track runner under May, former ETHS head track coach, and now assistant track coach; Shirley Nannini, ETHS head badminton coach, now retired, who worked with May as Co-AD to develop gender equity within ETHS athletics; and May's wife, retired ETHS English teacher, Norma May.



May was inducted into four athletic Halls of Fame—by ETHS, Indiana University, the Illinois Track & Cross Country Coaches Association, as well as the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame.

Current ETHS Athletic Director (AD) Chris Livatino, who knew May as a teacher, coach, and AD,

led a program with speakers from several facets of May's career. He read a letter from Dick Fosbury, President of the U.S. Olympians & Paralympians Association, praising May's career, and introduced Evanston Mayor Stephen Hagerty, who proclaimed February 9 as Willie May Day.

Other speakers included Hayes Jones, May's Olympic track teammate and gold medalist in the 1964

Each speaker highlighted the many qualities that defined Willie May—among them his “grace, humility and strength”; his high expectations coupled with support (“There’s no shame in getting knocked down as long as you get up”); and his dedication to the kids (“Always err on the side of the student”). His soft-spoken leadership and mentorship “inspired and elevated” both his student-athletes and ETHS coaches, summarized Livatino.

Every five years, coinciding with landmark ETHS anniversaries such as the school's 135<sup>th</sup> in 2018, a committee meets to look at naming parts of the facility after influential ETHS leaders. Any constituent group may submit names (alumni, community, faculty and staff, students, parents, etc.), and a committee reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the Superintendent, who makes a recommendation to the school board, which makes the final decision.

# Research Center connects ETHS to the world

ETHS's celebrated Chemistry/Physics program took on new energy this past summer thanks to a major physical renovation. Known to all as Chem/Phys, this three-year, accelerated-science course challenges students in college-level chemistry and calculus-based physics that are integrated throughout the year. According to Mark Vondracek, the "Phys" part of the teaching team, "This is a unique program, with no other known high school in the country doing advanced physics and chemistry the way we do."

Research is an integral part of the program, and since the mid-1950s, when Chem/Phys began at ETHS, hundreds of students have earned top honors in science competitions, nationally and internationally, for their innovative, cutting-edge research projects. Chem/Phys alums have forged successful careers in medicine, engineering, science, research, education, and business.

But, despite the brain power that flourishes in Chem/Phys classes, the two third-floor classrooms in part of the original building dating back to 1924, had declined physically over the years. The physics room had immovable tables and the electricity and plumbing were iffy. In the chemistry classroom, said Terry Gatchell, "Chem" teacher, students would blow a fuse if they simultaneously plugged in their stir plates. Aged cabinets wouldn't open. Not to mention issues with asbestos and ADA accessibility. A center room that divided the two classrooms was used for storage...and often socializing instead of quiet research time.



Mark Vondracek shows off his renovated physics classroom. Below, his teammate Terry Gatchell's chemistry classroom was also completely rebuilt. A set of rooms between the two classrooms serve as the new ETHS Research Center.



In September 2017, the Alumni Association organized a Chem/Phys reunion that drew 125 enthusiastic alums and former teachers back to ETHS from all around the country.

"We asked the alums to support a new collegiate-style research center," said Joanne Bertsche, Executive Director of the ETHS Foundation. An initial \$225,000 was raised from alums and parents thanks in part to a challenge gift from **Laurie Wiss Latimer '81** and husband **Henry**, parents of two Chem/Phys daughters, and a large reunion gift from the Class of 1967.

But, despite the enthusiasm to create the Research Center, it was obvious the two adjoining classrooms needed a complete overhaul.

Enter **Leonard Schaeffer '63**, who pledged \$1.2 million for a comprehensive renovation. Schaeffer is dedicated to advancing science at ETHS, previously providing significant challenge gifts for four new STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) labs and a major upgrade of the school's Planetarium.

Vondracek's classroom has been totally rebuilt with new moveable, modular lab tables, generous amounts of cabinetry and white-boards, and direct access to the Chem classroom and the central Research Center. The Chem side now has new lab tables, reliable power to conduct and monitor experiments, and other enhancements. "The kids—Chem/Phys as well as regular chemistry and Special Ed. Chem/Phys—love it and treat it with respect and pride," said Gatchell.

*Continued on next page*

## Research Center, Continued

It's the Research Center that is the program's centerpiece "where kids can get their hands dirty, prepare research for competitions, and collaborate with people all around the world," said Vondracek.

The Research Center is divided into three areas: the front space is for high-end computer computational research; the middle area is reserved for teleconferencing and collaborative projects; and the back area is reserved for physical experimental setups. Over the years, the program has partnered with Northwestern University for limited research and lab space. But, now ETHS has more faculty with research backgrounds, and "we need to present options to all students who want to try real science research," said Vondracek.

Teleconferencing is an exciting addition to the Research Center. In 2015, Vondracek was named

among the "Top 50 Teachers in the World" in the inaugural Global Teacher Prize program sponsored by the Varkey Foundation. He now serves on Varkey's advisory board, which links the growing pool of global educators with the Foundation. And he actively networks with colleagues and policy makers worldwide, contacts he has brought back to ETHS... and to the new Research Center.

Using remote communication, said Gatchell, "Our students can demonstrate experiments for other kids, ask questions of professors, or brainstorm ideas for research." By making the Research Center accessible to all ETHS students, and connecting their inquiry to students around the world, ETHS will be able to strengthen their sense of global citizenship and help them "be aware of the larger world in which they will live, study, and work," said Vondracek.

## New gateway to the ETHS athletic wing

**T**his summer, ETHS added a new, accessible, secure, and welcoming entry to the school's athletic wing.

No longer must athletes, students, and visitors traverse the rear entrance to Beardsley Gym or the field house through a dark, roofless alleyway with meager signage. Nor will students have to dash through rain and snow to get to the second-floor gyms for P.E. class.



The entrance features a covered walkway, an elevator to the second-floor gyms and Beardsley Gym balcony seating, and handicapped-accessible bathrooms on the upper floor. A checkpoint allows

Safety Dept. members to screen visitors and monitor activity in the rear gym wing.

A sunny atrium and commons area at the entrance features tiered benches where athletes, fans, and



visitors can gather before and after games and practices. Orange and blue décor, tiled hallways, and signage speak to school pride and easy wayfinding.

The athletic entryway has not been renovated since it was built in the 1960s, and the renovation cost was over \$3 million. In addition, "The Foundation provided \$100,000, but focused on enhancements to the atrium area," said Joanne Bertsche, Foundation Executive Director. "I think the entranceway is a new gateway to the school that inspires considerable Wildkit pride," she added.

# ETHS kudos in 2017-18

## STUDENTS

Eleven ETHS seniors were named semifinalists and 33 were named as Commended Students for the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 high school students from across the U.S. were named semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

ETHS's Speech & Debate Team was recognized by the National Speech & Debate Assn. and awarded membership in the prestigious 200 Club by earning 200 or more degrees last year. Each year, students in the National Speech & Debate Assn. Honor Society earn points and degrees based on competitive and service-related activities. The ETHS team currently ranks in the top 10% of schools nationwide.

## STAFF



ETHS Band Director Matthew Bufis was named a winner of the 2018 Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award by Quinland & Fabish Music Company. These awards have been presented annually since 1989. Bufis joined the ETHS music faculty in June of 2012 and was later named Director of Bands in

June of 2016. He leads the Wildkit Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Wind Symphony, teaches guitar classes, and is the instrumental sponsor for the YAMO (student revue) pit orchestra.

## ETHS RECOGNITION

The nonprofit organization AMIGOS honored ETHS with its 2018 Global Citizenship Award. The award recognizes exemplary educational organizations that show a commitment to developing global citizens as well as developing students that strive to make an impact in their communities. AMIGOS runs immersive volunteer programs in Latin America. Students live with host families and work with their community on a service project. Multiple students from ETHS have successfully completed AMIGOS programs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service selected three Summer Meals sponsors from Illinois as recipients of the Turnip the Beet awards. In 2017, for the first time, the ETHS Nutrition Services Department supplied nine City-sponsored summer camps with breakfast, lunch and snack options. This May, the City of Evanston received a bronze award for the meals program that provided children attending the summer camps with nutritious meals. Nominations were evaluated on a range of nutrition and meal quality criteria.

## ETHS Community Service, Kiwanis partner on Earth Day

Evanston Kiwanian Jim Wolinski and ETHS Community Service Mary Fifles Collins have organized the Evanston Earth Day clean-up every spring for 10 years. They've had over 400 students and community members collect hundreds of pounds of trash and recyclables from Evanston streets in the last decade. Last April, over 40 ETHS students and staff, Kiwanians, Aldermen Peter Braithwaite and Robin Rue Simmons, Fire Chief Brian Scott, and ETHS parents and siblings braved the cold to pitch in. They plan to hold the event again next year in coordination with the City's clean up, as well—usually on the third Saturday in April from 9-11am.



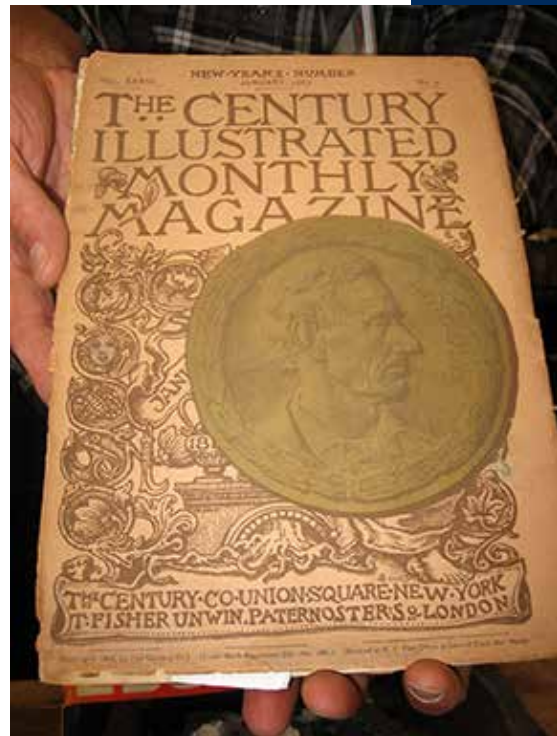
# ETHS library archive to offers “living history”

Evanston Township High School opened in 1883 on the southeast corner of Dempster St. and Elmwood Ave. Forty-one years later, in the summer of 1924, ETHS reopened in a new building erected on 55 acres at Church St. and Dodge Ave. Led by two scholarly principals, first by Henry L. Boltwood until his death in 1906, followed by Wilfred Beardsley until 1928, the school libraries were the repository of many interesting materials that reflect the two men’s classical backgrounds as well as world, Evanston, and ETHS history.

Up until now, those archival materials were stashed away in a back room, unseen by anyone. But, when the school’s main library was remodeled three years ago, William Latham, ETHS Library Coordinator, discovered these historical treasures and yearned to share them with the students, staff, and community. To that end, the ETHS Alumni Association Board granted the library \$2,800 to buy two museum-quality display cases. “[They] would give the Central Library a museum feel and allow visitors to see and appreciate historical books and items,” said Latham.

Among these “definite crowd-pleasers,” said Latham, are 17<sup>th</sup>-century Bibles, books signed by authors Carl Sandburg and Margaret Landon, Boltwood’s Greek Lexicon (dictionary; he spoke 10 languages) from 1826, The Illustrated London News from 1914 with articles and photos from WWI, a 1969 issue of Ebony Magazine, Encyclopedia Britannicas dating back to the early 1900s, a 1953 article about Human Relations in Evanston, and hand-written class and business office ledgers, among many other publications. “No one knows where it all came from, but nobody ever really sees it,” noted Latham.

Adding to the library’s treasure trove, the Alumni Association’s archive includes early 1920s photos taken during the construction of ETHS, yearbooks dating back to 1897, early blueprints of the school, and Oliver Baty Cunningham’s WWI memorabilia (after whom the Outstanding Senior Boy award is named), just to give an idea of the rich history available for viewing.



*The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine, January 1887, is part of ETHS’s archival material.*

“It’s weird, random stuff,” said Latham. “Many of the items tap into both the history of ETHS and the history of Evanston as a community as well as events that were happening in both a national and international context,” he said, adding, “They also fit in nicely with students engaged in research-based projects that require primary source materials.”

The glass display cases—one double-columned six-foot case, one single-columned four-foot case—will give viewers a chance to see the materials on all sides. “With the heavy use of Central Library by the ETHS community, it will provide students, staff, and visitors the opportunity to view (and possibly handle) a number of fascinating works and items,” said Latham.



# ETHS a model school for public safety communication

For years, public safety communication at ETHS, within the 94-year-old building and outside to Evanston's first responders, has been spotty depending on the location of the caller. While cellular coverage in the school's newer wings is fine, radio frequency penetration into the school's central core (first-floor H-Corridor, in particular) has been iffy due to the original building materials. In a crisis situation, direct, universal communication to emergency help is of paramount importance.

Last summer, that all changed thanks to a consortium of business partners that installed a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) which tackles the problem of cell coverage in the older core of the school.

According to Terrence Doby, ETHS Assistant Director of Safety, "Now there is an antenna on the roof of ETHS that can capture unfettered radio communication on the Evanston Police and Fire spectrum (Public Safety), and redistributes the signal down to the first-floor using a series of ceiling-mounted antennas in H-Corridor and to surrounding hallways inside the school."

The design and installation of the DAS was done at no cost to ETHS, with maintenance free

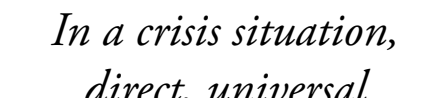
for the first five years. Led by Cobham Wireless, participants in this showcase project, possibly the first hybrid installation in a public high school anywhere, include Advisory 5G, RFS, Graybar, Chicago Communications, and Fullerton Engineering.

AT&T, which despite its cell tower on the ETHS football field still had problems with coverage

in parts of the building, donated cellular and radio equipment to improve in-building connections. Given that staff and students would probably first turn to their cell phones in an emergency, improving overall cellular coverage was important. According to Matt Johnson, VP of Sales for the Americas for

Cobham, "The new DAS supports both UHF and VHF coverage for public safety, four common cellular bands, and is Band 14-ready."

ETHS staff members involved in the DAS installation have been impressed with faster, clearer, and more accurate cellular coverage throughout the high school. "With this implementation, we've been able to surmount a number of wireless challenges as well as take steps to remain at the forefront of the best technology in public safety communications," said Doby.



*In a crisis situation,  
direct, universal  
communication to  
emergency help is of  
paramount importance.*



**ETHS**  
FOUNDATION

# Donations strengthen the ETHS Experience

It's been said that *Education is the best gift you could ever receive, because once you have it, no one can ever take it from you.*

Community members and alumni are giving ETHS students the best gift in the world: Access to extraordinary learning facilities that open doors to unlimited possibilities for their future.

Your support is evident on every corner of the ETHS campus...state-of-the-art Planetarium...functionally designed Ceramics Studio...innovative Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Labs...university-quality Chem/Phys Labs and Research Center...stunning new atrium at the athletic entranceway...and much more.



This year, with your help, the Foundation is setting its sights on transforming the outdated weight room into a new Wildkit Wellness and Performance Center, which will have a new dynamic, a new aesthetic, and a new purpose.

**E**very student uses this facility – students in P.E. classes, afterschool intramural participants, and student athletes training with their sports teams.

**T**ransforming the floor plan and adding adaptive equipment will better serve a diverse student body with varied size, strength, and biomechanical differences. Students with physical and learning challenges will be able to participate more fully.

**H**igher levels of confidence and motivation are added benefits of conditioning.

**S**tudents interested in careers in wellness and fitness fields will be exposed to current best practices.

With growing concerns for the well-being of our 3,600+ students, we recognize that fitness has a positive effect on their minds as well as their bodies, and we strive to foster a healthier school environment.

Most of the Foundation's funding for campus improvements comes from individual donors just like you who want to strengthen the ETHS experience. Thank you for your consideration.

## SUPPORT THE ETHS EXPERIENCE

The ETHS Foundation sincerely appreciates every gift. Visit [supporteths.org](http://supporteths.org) to make your gift online OR call us at (847) 424-7158.

Please accept my gift of (optional recognition available for gifts of \$250 and above):

\$5,000  \$2,500 (Bench)  \$1,000 (theater/planetarium plaque)  \$500 Lg. Brick  \$250 Sm. Brick  \$100  Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, contact me about recognition engraving  Count my gift for the Grad Year Challenge, Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL A CHECK:** ETHS FOUNDATION, 1600 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60201

**CHARGE MY**  Visa  Master Card  AM EX Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

# Evanston Township High School District 202

1600 Dodge Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60201-3449

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit 25  
Evanston, IL 60201

## ***VISIT ETHS ONLINE***

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

*Facebook:*  
[facebook.com/ETHSD202](https://facebook.com/ETHSD202)

*Twitter:*  
[@ETHSWildkits](https://twitter.com/ETHSWildkits)

*YouTube:*  
[youtube.com/ETHSWildkit](https://youtube.com/ETHSWildkit)

**ECRWSS**  
**Residential Customer**