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Winter 2025 Issue

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It has been a wonderful first semester here at Early College. From fun events like Powder Puff & Spirit Weeks, to academic assistance like Power Hour, everyone benefits from the many activities offered at ECHS.

Everyone has different ideas of how they feel about our school since we started back in August. Let's dive into these perspectives!

"I love ECHS! The students & teachers are super nice and respectful," says 9th grader Kayla Abara. "The atmosphere here is extremely welcoming."

There is definitely a culture of acceptance and kindness that is felt at all levels.

"I love this school," says Leadworthy teacher, Mr. Berry. "I may be just a substitute, but the students here are invested in their education and the teachers contribute heavily to helping their students learn instead of just talking about something & not further explaining it."

It should be noted that even our substitutes, like Mr. Berry play a large role and the word "substitute" does not do justice for the love and support of teachers like Mr. Berry and Mr. Rose.



Left: Mr. Berry looking stellar!

Upper Right: Mr. Young and Mrs. Burke enjoying one of the many spirit weeks.

Far Right: Aditi Bhakta enjoying Team day!

Lower Right: Seniors showing their pride for Color Wars!

"The teachers are nice & supportive towards our career paths & education. I feel like I'm in great hands," says 10th grader Aditi Bhakta. "Student life is decent and the block schedule is super cool."

Even the structure of Early College classes can make a difference in the learning styles of students.

"I love the 1 hour & 20 min classes," says Aditi. "They're very helpful & useful towards fully developing the topic."

When it gets to be too academic, we aren't afraid to break up the work with a chill event. "I like how this school has events like Friday Night Lights & Color Wars," says Mr. Berry.

"Early College is an amazing place for students to be," says 9th grade counselor, Mr. Young. "It gives you more opportunities to explore pathways for life after high school. I'm glad that when I come to the classrooms to give lessons that the students engage with the material & ask valuable questions about the topic."



Early College Lifestyle

First Semester Fun!



Spectator Chill



We Got Spirit!



Giganticon



Homecoming 2024





Journalist: Chance Ma

How does it feel to win? The feeling that half the school is watching you stand atop a throne. The throne of popularity, the throne that people chose to let you take, shamelessly flaunting the power recently given to you. How did I get here, and why did I want to campaign in the first place?

For the last 2 years, as a sophomore and junior, I was previously declared the winner of the Homecoming Royalty, being a proper royal in the eyes of the students. I had the honor of receiving enough votes to win. However, the burning question still plagued my mind, was this enough for me?

You see, normally a generic protagonist of a story would be like "No, I'll let someone else win," but that's not me. I want to win. After my 2nd win, I was feeling the pressure of going again. My introverted lonely nature led me to feelings of doubt, and soon I was overcome with the feeling of being incomplete. I never felt like I belonged since I skipped a grade and was the youngest in my grade level.

If I was going to fit in, I'd have to make my mark and leave a reason to why I'm the Homecoming Royal. I was out to complete the legend, of the introverted, socially anxious, youngest senior, and absolute loner to win the popularity contest for the 3rd time in a row.

My campaign, despite being literally a stick man drawn with a sharpie in 20 seconds on a piece of printer paper with the words "Vote Chance for Homecoming King", was a brilliant move that only the true masters could comprehend.

From then I thought I was good, until my opponent makes their move on social media. Another student who previously was a great ally had decided to run against me (with their friend going for queen) and raising the bar for the competition. I responded with an innovative spin to completely rebrand and refresh my campaign and shouted words of encouragement to get my peers on my side. If I was going to reach for the peak, I was going to climb strong.

The build up to Homecoming included a normal Thursday, Friday's Color Wars, and the Saturday of the dance. I concealed my nerves and despair behind a persona of just having fun. I wanted to show no weakness. A King never shows weakness. I stood my ground, carrying the burden of my nerves.

Then the results...

In a flash, I heard my name and the crowd cheering. I WAS KING! I was there representing our school at the top, thanking the student body around me for showing, and giving a Chance to a lost soul like me. A lost soul who was labelled as one of the best representatives at my school.





2024 Homecoming Powder Puff

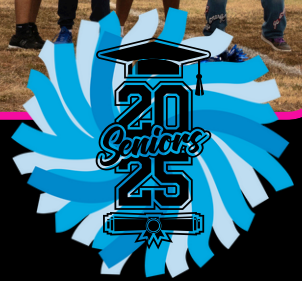


Journalist: Jomeia Robinson

The annual Powder Puff Game is one of the most memorable occasions for a student here at Early College High School. Roaring crowds, concessions, a day of socializing, and of course, a day to show spirit! The first two games of the event left the sophomores and seniors left to compete on the championship.

The most anticipated game of the event arrived: The Championship round. The sophomores put up a tough fight against the competitive seniors, but the seniors took the trophy in the end. When asked how the Powder Puff Game shows school spirit, one of the players, Jazmine Lopez-Lopez responded, "We come together."

Of course we couldn't forget about the cheerleaders! They all stood out dressed in tutus, glasses, leis, and pom poms. One of the cheerleaders, Alexander Harrison, was asked what the most fun part of being a cheerleader was and here's what he said: "It's getting the crowd hyped." The cheerleaders this year sure did hype the crowds up! They brought sass and fun to the competitive field and rallied the crowds to cheer along with them for the hardworking players.



Cavazos Educator Spotlight

 Ms. Anderson 

This Winter, we have the pleasure of spotlighting, Ms. Anderson. One of the most dynamic and energetic English teachers you will ever meet.

Ms. Anderson has been with Early College for quite some time and has always been a charismatic educator that loves a lively classroom and students who aren't afraid to share their thoughts. Her first priority is to create an inviting room and it shows.

"Ms. Anderson is one of the most helpful teachers in Early College," says sophomore Kali'Ani Fejarang. "She always makes me feel safe and heard!"

Ms. Anderson is also a professional at putting a smile on your face. "She always makes me laugh," says sophomore Hannah Zigler. "And is always there when I need a good pick me up when I'm feeling down."

Sophomore Alex Thornton agrees she is one of the most energetic educators but also argues she is very in tune with student emotions. "She helps me a lot when it comes to understanding English," says Alex. "Because I struggled with understanding how to write papers and SCR's for class before she taught me on how to break it down."

Students like sophomores Angeliz Nieves Santana and Zarriyah Forde agree, Ms. Anderson is a wonderful teacher. "Ms. Anderson is an incredibly kind and a great teacher," says Zarriyah. "Who makes the end of my day a lot less boring."



Always up for a great photo with your favorite people, Ms. Anderson and 9th grade AP, Ms. Hernandez show off their holiday spirit.

If you take a minute to watch Ms. Gilliam you quickly notice that her nickname, “Mama G” fits her perfectly. This AVID coordinator and lead teacher is beloved by all at Early College. She is pure sunshine.

“Ms. Gilliam truly cares about every person,” says senior Ester Farmer. “And wants us to have the best senior year we could remember and the best future possible.”

Ms. Gilliam is adamant about creating connections that enable growth at Early College. “I'd like to shout out Ms. Gillam, for being a teacher that I can come to not just for school stuff but for personal things as well,” says senior Kiera Cox. “She will listen and provide great help.”

Ms. Gilliam thrives off her relationships with her “G’sterz”. “Being able to be a part of someone's growth as they are figuring out what kind of person they want to be is incredibly rewarding,” says Ms. Gilliam. “I find joy in teaching students the value of real life skills that will help them for years to come.”

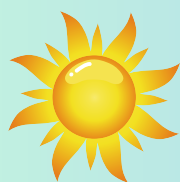


Ms. Gilliam with Senior Kathrin Hernandez participating in HoCo spirit week with that wonderful sense of humor which makes both Lions special.

Seniors Andrea Guevara and Leah Rhome are quick to point out that Ms. Gilliam is an incredibly active leader at Early College staying after school, planning Powder Puff, and making sure her seniors are having the best year.

Even though it may seem to go unnoticed, her hard work is definitely appreciated. Simply put, “Ms. Gilliam, you are truly loved,” says Senior Lauren David. “And appreciated by all of us.”

CTC Educator Spotlight



Ms. Gilliam





Freshman Lajaija Alberty



Sophomore Cullen Bergloff

Winter Luminary Lions



Junior Ysella Santos Cho



Senior Jaden Radhay



"it's"
TIME


class
OF


2025

Senior Superlatives



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