

# Report to the COMMUNITY



## PROJECT Lead The Way

2017-2018 School Year



Project Lead The Way (PLTW) has programming available at all grade levels to help students develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills they can use both now and in the future. District 303 is part of a community of K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. District 303 provides all students in grades K-12 the opportunity to engage in PLTW curricula, which supports preparing students with both career and college readiness as they experience rigorous content and develop career and life competencies.



Elementary Project Lead The Way affords students the opportunity to experience multiple pathways through the science curriculum which includes engaging in content related to engineering, biomedical science, and computer science.

Middle school students have access to multiple Project Lead The Way courses, including Design and Modeling and Automation Robotics through the Explore Wheel and elective courses in eighth grade, which include options such as Energy and the Environment and Flight and Space.

Both Thompson and Wredling Middle Schools have been recognized as Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished Schools for providing transformative learning opportunities and increasing student access, engagement, and achievement through their PLTW programs. They are two of just 110 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor.

Thompson Middle School's 7/8 Grade Center program was named the Technology Education Association of Illinois (TEAI) Middle School Program of the Year, which is an acknowledgment of a superior technology education program that draws its instructional contents from one or more of the following systems: communication, energy utilization, production, and transportation.

High school students have the full engineering pathway open to them which includes courses such as Civil Engineering and Architecture, Aerospace Engineering, and Engineering Design and Development.

### Table of Contents

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Project Lead the Way            | 1 |
| Message from Dr. Pearson        | 2 |
| District 303 by the Number      | 3 |
| School Recognitions             | 4 |
| School Information & Statistics | 5 |
| Students Serving the Community  | 6 |
| Financial Highlights            | 7 |
| Construction Update             | 8 |

### PROJECT LEAD THE WAY RECOGNITION



Technology Education Association of Illinois (TEAI) named Thompson Middle School teachers, Ed Coyle and Rob Harmon, as Co-Middle School Teachers of the Year.

# Message from Dr. Pearson

District 303 believes that we are partners with families and the community to ensure that our students have access to rigorous curriculum, innovation, and opportunities for academic, social, and emotional growth.

The most impactful influence on student learning is the quality of the educator designing the learning experiences. District 303 now ranks third in Illinois for the number of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT). This speaks both to the quality of the educational experience for our students, and the dedication of staff to go beyond what is required to improve their practice. Our staff care deeply about our students and this commitment shows in our classrooms and schools.



We are proud that US News and World Report has ranked St. Charles North 18th and St. Charles East 23rd placing them in the top 25 public high schools in Illinois. The recognition highlights our staff and their commitment to continuous improvement, and the academic achievements of our students.

Responsible stewardship is a third value central to the work in D303. Taxpayers will see a reduction in the District 303 portion of their property taxes due to payoff of bonds in 2018. In total, this translates into an estimated savings of \$569 for the owner of a \$300,000 home.

Completion of the first phase of construction at Thompson Middle School is on schedule, and the second phase will begin this summer. When completed, the middle school consolidation will save D303 approximately \$2.4 million annually.

In March, the School Board voted to repurpose Fox Ridge Elementary School as an Early Childhood Center, and adjust elementary school boundaries. The new boundaries, together, with the addition of elementary school teachers will help lower class sizes at the elementary level. The plan, even with the additional staffing costs, will save the district \$240,000 on an annual basis.

The 2017-18 school year has been an exciting time of change in our district. As we continue to focus on innovative learning, quality staff, and responsible stewardship, we look forward to the future and the continuous improvement of experiences for our students.

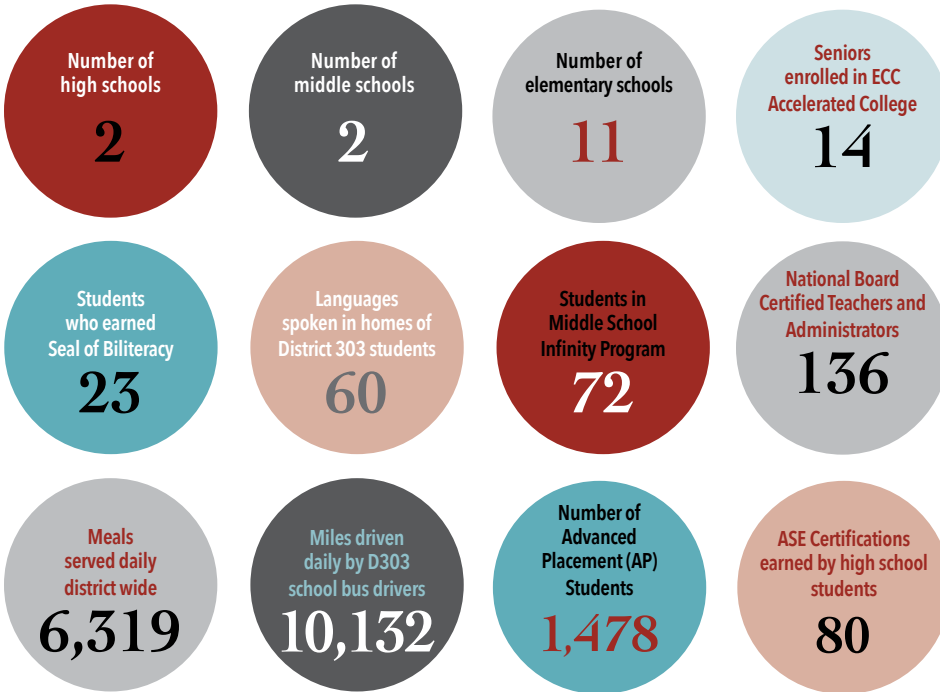
**Dr. Jason Pearson**  
Superintendent

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



**Left to right (Row 1)** Mrs. Heidi Fairgrieve, Member; Mrs. Kathleen T. Hewell, President; Mrs. Lori Linkimer, Secretary  
**Left to right (Row 2)** Mr. Nick Manheim, Vice-President; Ms. Carolyn Waibel, Member; Mr. Edward McNally, Member;  
Mr. James Gaffney, Jr., Member

# District 303 by the Numbers



2018 Graduates  
**1,092**

Amount of money awarded by St. Charles Education Foundation to date: **\$1.3 million**



CONGRATULATIONS!  
**JOYCE SIMKUS**

*Illinois Art Education Association Educator of the Year*



## District 303 Staff

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Elementary Teachers      | 358 |
| Middle School Teachers   | 208 |
| High School Teachers     | 320 |
| Student Support Services | 117 |
| Administrators           | 58  |
| Classified Staff Members | 645 |

## Administrators and Teachers

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Bachelor's degree                 | 188  |
| Master's degree                   | 847  |
| PHD/EDD degree                    | 26   |
| Teachers (Average Years Teaching) | 12.6 |

## 2018 Educators Nominated for Kane County Educator of the Year

- Lindsay Boynton  
North High School
- Lisa Dandre (Supt. Award)  
East High School
- Gina DiPalermo  
Lincoln Elementary School
- Carrie LaFreniere  
North High School
- Kyle Libberton (Winner)  
East High School
- Susan Prigge  
North High School



Kyle Libberton, Lisa Dandre and Dr. Pearson at the Kane County Regional Office of Education Awards Dinner.

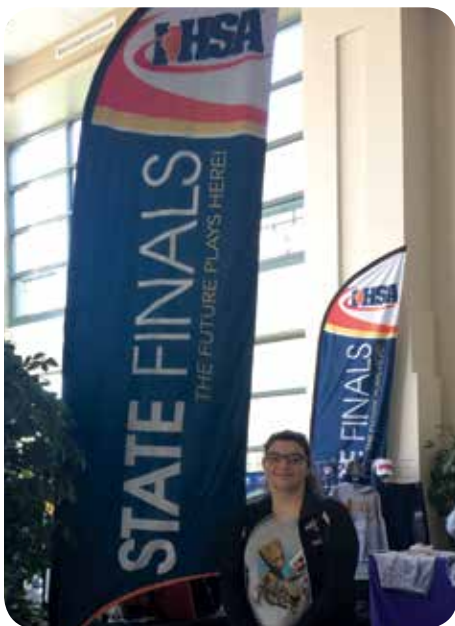


## HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS TO STATE

### East High School

**Activities:**

- 6 Music students
- 6 DECA students
- 2 DECA students to Nationals
- 12 Mock Trial students
- 15 FCCLA students
- 8 Skills USA students
- 7 Math Team students
- Algebra II Team



Carmella Furio took first place for Editorial Writing at the IHSA's Journalism State Finals

**Athletics:**

- Boys Golf
- Girls Cross Country
- Girls Swimming and Diving
- Boys Swimming and Diving
- Wrestling
- Cheerleading Team

### Special Olympics

D303 United Team place third at Illinois Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament

### North High School

**Activities:**

- Chess Team
- 5 DECA students



Mock Trial Team (earned 2018 State Champion in the Illinois State Bar Association State Mock Trial Tournament)



Virtual Enterprises International students took first place at the Illinois Business Plan Competition

**Athletics:**

- Girls Golf
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Soccer
- Football
- Girls Swimming and Diving
- Girls Tennis Doubles
- Girls Cross Country
- Boys Bowling
- Boys Swimming and Diving
- Drill Team
- Gymnastics
- Girls Track and Field
- Bass Fishing
- Boys Track and Field
- Boys Doubles Tennis



## STUDENT RECOGNITIONS



### National Geographic Challenge

The District 303 Infinity Program, located at Wredling Middle School, serves middle school students who are in the top 2% as determined by standardized assessments.

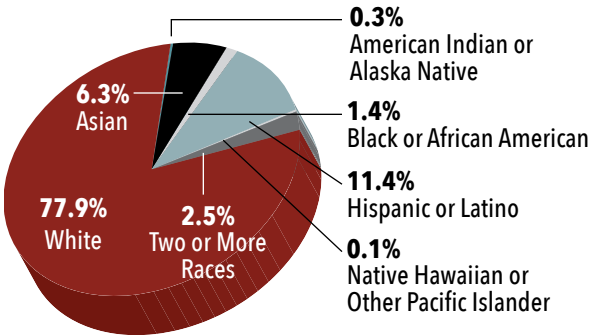
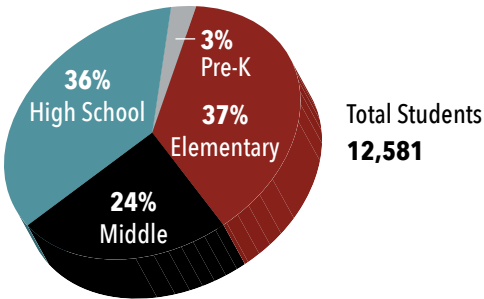
Infinity students participated in the National Geographic Challenge, along with 900 students from around the country as part of six regional competitions. District 303 students represented 10 of the 16 teams that competed and were awarded four of the five top awards, including Most Compelling Call to Action and Best Teamwork.

### Heisman Scholarship Finalist

St. Charles North senior, Audrey Ernst, was selected as one of ten National Finalists for the 2017 Wendy's High School Heisman Scholarship, a program that honors exceptional high school students who have distinguished themselves in academics, athletics and through community service. Audrey received an invitation to the Wendy's Heisman Weekend, including the National Awards Banquet in New York City, a gold medal, a \$100 Wendy's gift card and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

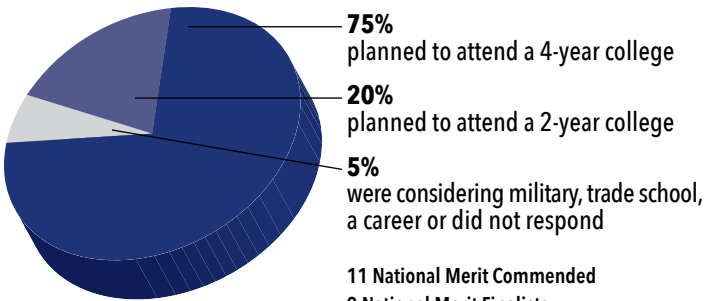


## STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL



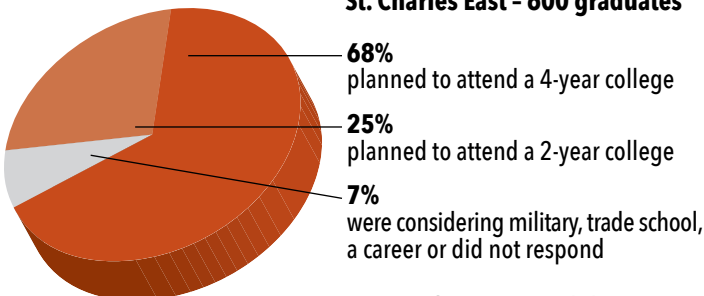
## THE CLASS OF 2018

### St. Charles North - 492 graduates



11 National Merit Commended  
2 National Merit Finalists  
147 Illinois State Scholars

### St. Charles East - 600 graduates



12 National Merit Commended  
108 Illinois State Scholars

## THE CLASS OF 2018 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP MONEY

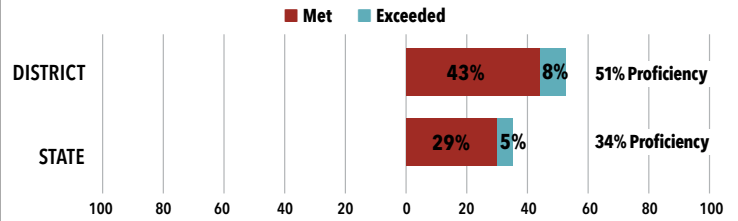
(as reported by families)

East High School - \$4,059,603

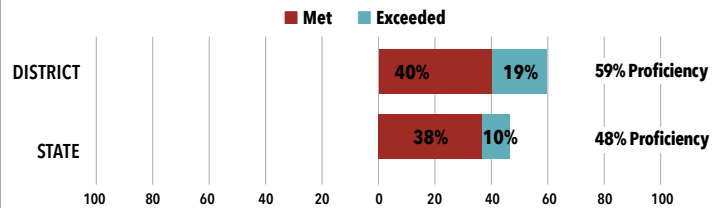
North High School - \$6,977,800

## 2017 PARCC AND SAT TEST RESULTS

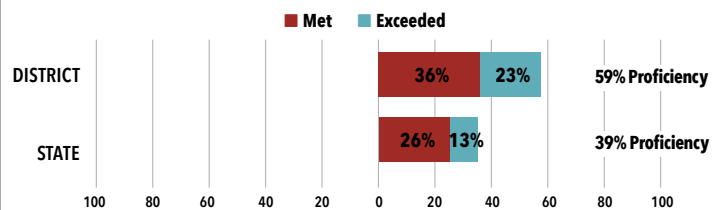
### 2017 PARCC D303 vs State Composite



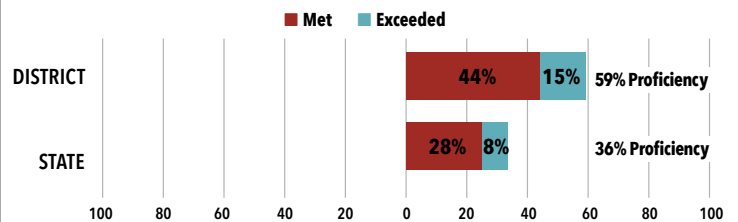
### SAT DISTRICT 303 vs. State



### SAT DISTRICT 303 ELA vs. State



### SAT DISTRICT 303 Math vs. State



## STUDENTS SERVING THEIR COMMUNITY

### High School

#### Kick-a-Thon

The annual Kick-a-Thon is a partnership between the drill teams from St. Charles East and St. Charles North High Schools, and is held as part of the festivities surrounding the St. Charles East vs. St. Charles North football game. During the East vs. North basketball game, the teams announced that, thanks to the generosity of the St. Charles Community, \$101,116.30 was raised. Proceeds benefit the Drill Teams, the Fox Valley Chapter of the American Cancer Society, Living Well Cancer Resource Center and Fox Valley Food for Health.



#### HOPE HUSTLE

On an annual basis, the St. Charles HOPE Club plans activities that promote awareness of suicide prevention and depression as part of the Hope Hustle event. Student committees manage the project by soliciting local businesses for sponsorships, creating fun run booths, recruiting volunteers, and reaching out to elementary schools to make sure that participants from the entire St. Charles community are involved. Student organizers are passionate about using this forum to increase awareness of suicide prevention and depression. During one of the coldest days of the spring, 350 people came out to run the 5K outside, or do the 5K Fun Run in the field house.



### Feed My Starving Children

At the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing Event, St. Charles East and St. Charles North High School students partnered together to bring over 550 students, families and community members together to fight world hunger. They surpassed their goal of packing 120,000 meals for needy families by packing 124,848 meals. Many of the meals went to Haiti and to Puerto Rico.

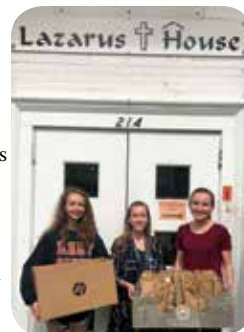


### Middle School

**Middle School students have opportunities to volunteer and give back to their community as part of groups or in their Service Learning Explore Classes.**

#### Thompson Middle School

- Students made lunches and donated them to Lazarus House
- Jazz Band members performed for residents of Autumn Leaves Assisted Living Community



#### Wredling Middle School

- Builders Club members made blankets for cancer patients, lunches for Lazarus House, and volunteered at Fox Ridge helping special education students during their Field Day



### Elementary School

- Richmond and Ferson Creek collected socks for Lazarus House



- Munhall raised money to bring clean water to families in Africa



- Wild Rose collected books and money that was donated to Robinson Elementary School in Houston after Hurricane Harvey (photo)
- Ferson Creek is partnering with Gray Willows Farm to restore an outdoor area that can be used as a classroom
- Wasco had a school-wide fundraiser for Heifer International to purchase livestock for families living in poverty stricken nations
- Anderson collected items for the Midwest Homeless Veterans Shelter



# Financials

## DISTRICT 303 EXHIBITS FINANCIAL STRENGTH ACROSS MULTIPLE LEVELS

### National

- AA+ Bond Rating is among the highest in the nation

### State

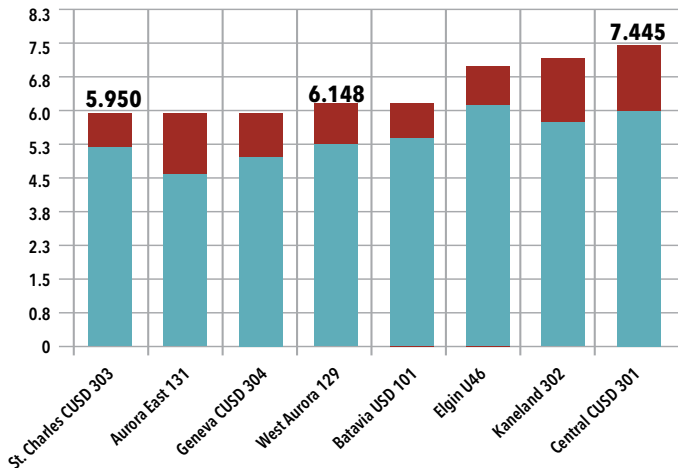
- Five consecutive years of receiving recognition status on the School District Financial Profile\* from the Illinois State Board of Education. Three consecutive years of a perfect 4.0 score
- The ISBE financial profile is compiled based on a weighted average score
- \*More information can be found at: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-District-Financial-Profile.aspx>

### Local

- Lowest tax rate in Kane County
- Reduction in Debt Service payment in 2017 – Paid off approximately 75% (\$16 million)
- Refinanced existing bond debt has saved the District \$5.5 million
- Abatement of debt over the past four years has saved \$6 million

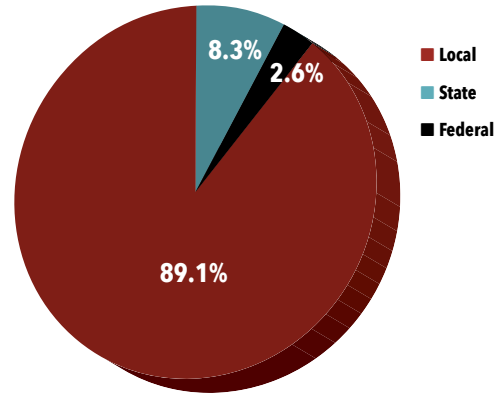
### Lowest Tax Rates - Kane County Comparison

■ Debt 2017 Paid ■ Op 2017 Paid



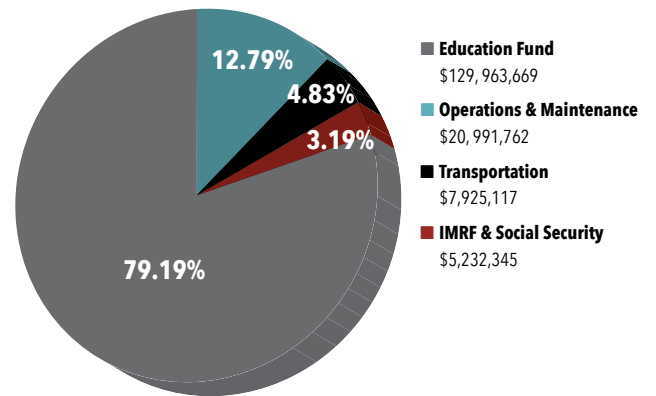
### 2017-2018 BUDGET

#### Operating Revenue Sources



\*State revenue does not include flow through payments for TRS on-behalf.

#### Expenditures - Operating Funds



\*State expenditures does not include flow through payments for TRS on-behalf.



201 S. Seventh Street  
St. Charles, IL 60174

NONPROFIT U.S.  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
ST. CHARLES, IL  
PERMIT NO. 104

## ECRWSS Postal Patron

# Construction Update

Despite a long and damp winter, construction at Thompson Middle School continues to be on time and under budget. While the students will have wonderful new spaces in which to learn, we are preserving some of the traditional beautiful pieces of the old building, as well. The archway in the portion of the building that once housed the auditorium is now a mirror image of the large bright windows that invite sunshine into that common space. Drawings and messages created on the concrete block hallway walls where they originated will remain as a reminder of the children who spent time learning and growing at Thompson.



After the last student has left for the summer, crews will begin to demolish the 6th grade wing on the east side of the building to make room for a new parking and student drop off area. Those spaces, in addition to the bus lanes on the west side of the building will provide safe areas for arrival and dismissal, and alleviate congestion on 7th and Indiana beginning in August 2018.

### District Administration

**Dr. Jason Pearson**  
Superintendent

**John Baird**  
Assistant Superintendent for Operations

**Dr. Seth Chapman**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Business Services / Chief Financial Officer

**Dave Chiszar**  
Executive Director Assessment & Accountability

**Kelley Gallt**  
Assistant Superintendent /  
Chief Academic Officer

**Jan Geier**  
Assistant Superintendent Leadership  
(PreK-5 Education) & School Improvement

**Mark Moore**  
Assistant Superintendent Leadership  
(6-12 Education) & Administrative Services (H.R.)

**Carol Smith**  
Director of Communications &  
Community Relations

**Matt Smith**  
Executive Director of Technology