

DISTRICT 303



eNEWS



Connect with us!

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September 7, 2018



“What did you do in school today?”



When parents ask their children, “What did you do in school today?” sometimes the answer is, “I don’t know” or “Nothing.”

Students who have Tanya Hernandez for third grade at Corron have a different answer for their parents, “Let me show you.”

Mrs. Hernandez and other elementary school teachers around District 303 are using programs made available to teachers from Microsoft called Flipgrid and SeeSaw. It allows teachers to create “grids” of questions to which students can respond with recorded videos. Flipgrid helps students understand the curriculum, build collaborative skills, and explain their work in detail. Those skills help them gain confidence through academic conversations with peers, teachers, and parents - share their voices and learn to respect others’ voices.

During a math lesson, students at Corron were solving the problem $24+25$, using a variety of strategies that they outlined during “number talks” they shared with classmates, students in other 3rd grade classrooms, and parents during Curriculum Night.



As part of the 90-second video, students discussed the strategy they used and how it helped them get the right answer. Two words the students used when talking about their strategies are efficient and accurate. The strategy may be efficient (fast) because students are figuring out the problem in their heads and using an efficient strategy to deconstruct the problem. The strategy is accurate because students not only get the correct answer, but understand and can explain why it’s right.

From the parents’ perspective, being able to see what their children learned instead of asking, “What did you do in school today?” gives them a way to start a conversation about the learning that occurred.

Tanya Hernandez is inspired by the ways in which students are learning and sharing. This type of learning will carry them through Algebra, Geometry, and higher level math they will be learning in middle school, high school, and beyond.



Explore Classes at Richmond Intermediate



For the last seven years, teachers at Richmond Intermediate School have created Explore classes that encourage students to do just that - explore new things. Classes are taught the week after Labor Day and the week after Memorial Day in areas such as drama, computer coding, story writing, painting, and many other areas. Students experiment with robots, compose music, visit faraway places virtually, author books, and create art from their imaginations. Students choose two subjects in which they are interested and spend an hour and a half each morning learning with other students from all grade levels.

Richmond Principal Rosa Byrd says that having integrated classes builds a sense of community for grades 3 through 5, and provides parent volunteers with the opportunity to be a part of the learning process.

Richmond parent, and long time volunteer, Jennifer Fulkerson is sad that this is her final year as a Richmond parent, but likes the interaction between

students, “The kids are actively engaged and you have all three levels together in the same room so it breaks down a lot of the barriers between the ages.” Mrs. Fulkerson said about her time as a volunteer, “I learned how to take pictures with my iPad and I did an around-the-world session where I learned about food.”

As part of the storytelling class, students use Storybird to write stories and find illustrations that allow them to create eBooks. Some of the stories end up in a published book students have shared in the Richmond library and then taken home at the end of the year.

Richmond’s Explore Week culminates with the accomplishment of multiple goals. Students and teachers get to explore and learn new interests. Students across all grades and classrooms get to work together with teachers and parent volunteers to build community at Richmond. Students practice collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creative thinking.



Safety & Security

The safety and security of our students, staff members, and visitors is a priority in District 303. Please take a look at the [safety and security page](#) of our website so you can become familiar with our procedures. In addition, please watch the [video](#) that provides information about our new entrances.





Parent University Dates-Mark Your Calendars



Safety & Security in D303

Wednesday, 9/26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Thompson Middle School 6th Grade Center Cafeteria

An emergency or disaster can strike a school community at any time and can take the form of natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, earthquakes or fires, as well as man-made accidents or criminal activity. When an event occurs during the school day, it is the responsibility of District 303 to care for and protect our most valuable resource: children.

On a regular basis, the school district works in partnership with local public safety and law enforcement officials on training and appropriate responses to emergency events.

[Click here to register!](#)



As part of this Parent University program, presenters will discuss:

- Secure Building Entrances
- Visitor Management
- Communication
- Weather Alerts
- Drills and Evacuation Plans
- Lesson Plans

In addition, we will show an interview conducted by the Illinois Principals Association with Dr. Seth Chapman on his research related to school shootings.

Presenters:

- Dr. Seth Chapman, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
- Mr. John Baird, Assistant Superintendent for Operations
- Commander Chuck Pierce, St. Charles Police Department



Attain Excellence ■ Learn with Passion ■ Live with Integrity



Showing & Discussion of the film *Angst*

Wednesday, 10/10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the St. Charles North Auditorium

The purpose of the film *Angst* is to raise awareness and have conversations about anxiety. It features candid interviews with kids who have struggled with anxiety, as well as discussions with mental health professionals.

Additional information and registration link coming soon!



Community Backpack



Upcoming School Board Meetings

September 10
School Board Meeting -7:00 p.m. @ Ferson Creek

September 17
Learning & Teaching Meeting -5:30 p.m.

September 25
Community Relations Meeting -5:30 p.m.

September 27
Business Services Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2018-19

Calendar Highlights

October 5
School Improvement Day-NO SCHOOL

October 8
Columbus Day-NO SCHOOL

October 26
End of 1st Quarter (Middle & High Schools)

November 9
End of 1st Trimester (Elementary)

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meeting
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We're Hiring Substitutes!

Did you know?

We are ALWAYS hiring:

- Substitute teachers (college degree required)
- Substitute teacher aides (no college degree required)
- RN certified nurses

NEW this year:

- The pay rate has increased to \$100 daily for teaching. There is also a loyalty bonus that increases the daily teaching rate to \$125 after 31 days.
- The pay rate has increased to \$140 daily for long-term teaching.

Join Our Team!

If you are interested in substituting, please visit <https://bit.ly/2M4dU4Y> to view our substitute handbook or contact our District Substitute Coordinator at Julie.Wenger@d303.org for more details.

