

District 303 E-NEWS



St Charles District 303



@StCharlesD303



@StCharlesD303

Administration Center

201 South 7th St.
St. Charles, IL 60174
331.228.2000
Let's Talk!

August 25, 2023



WELCOME BACK

2023-2024



A Message from the Superintendent

Last week, we began a new school year sure to be filled with rewarding work in support of our students. This is always an exciting time to be in education! Please take a moment to share in the joy of our first week by viewing the photo galleries below. Leading up to this school year, the District's Board, Administration and staff have been laying the groundwork for new initiatives that will elevate learning and improve our overall service to students, families and our community.

Strategic Plan

We have begun the exciting work of implementing our new [Strategic Plan](#), which was approved by the Board in June. The plan's Commitment Statement, Core Values, Strategic Priorities and Success Indicators will guide the long-term direction of our District. Administration has developed prioritized action steps to implement this plan over the next five years. We will ground this work in our new school year theme, taken from the Commitment Statement: "Together, Building Pathways to Excellence."

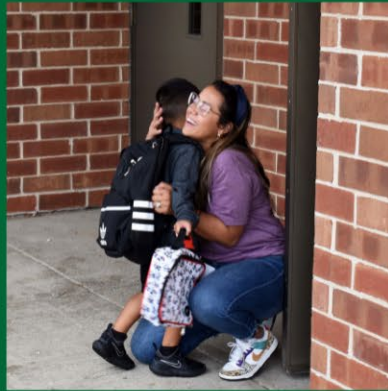
Addressing Facility Needs

Our collective responsibility as a District is to serve students, and we must utilize every resource to ensure they have a safe, equitable and effective academic and social-emotional experience. To commit to this work is to live our Strategic Plan's core values by creating environments where each student belongs, can persevere and achieve. With the right environments, we can execute our strategic priorities through effective collaboration, enable instructional coherence, and foster a culture of dignity.

Most recently, the Board approved a plan to reopen Fox Ridge as an elementary school, move early childhood to Haines, and relocate L&T and Transitions to Lincoln. These changes will be implemented in the 2024-2025 school year. Still to come is a topic that will impact each of our schools: boundaries. In order to fully meet space needs and equitably support students across the District, we must explore boundaries.

We are committed to keeping you informed throughout the facility planning process. This will include reminders and updates on key decisions and engagement opportunities. [View our timeline](#) to see how to engage in this process.





On August 17,
Fox Ridge Early
Childhood staff
welcomed
students for the
first day of school.



Important Information

FROM DISTRICT 303

Standard Response Protocol (SRP)

The District adopted the [Standard Response Protocol](#) (SRP) from the I Love U Guys Foundation last spring. The SRP is designed to provide consistent, clear, shared language and actions among all students, staff and first responders during emergencies. It is a trusted brand for several preK-12 school districts and higher education across the country. Locally, the SRP is utilized in many area school districts and has the support of the St. Charles Police Department and other local emergency response agencies.

Important Bus Route Information



With the new school year comes increased traffic in and around our District. We are asking for your help to ensure the safe travels of everyone to and from our schools.

Bus Transportation and Schedules

Routes are visible through [e-Link](#). If you have not logged into the eLink system before, login using your child's student ID number as the username and password. If you have multiple children in the district, you can use any of their student IDs to login and access their bus route information. Parents should call their student's school if they need their student's ID number.

Driving to School/Personal Transport

- When driving in and near school property, please be mindful of the following safety regulations:
- While students are in session, please observe the posted speed limit signs: 25 mph in residential areas, and 20 mph in school zones.
- Please don't cut through neighborhoods as part of your route to or from our schools.
- Cell phone use is prohibited in school zones.
- Passing a school bus that is stopped and has its stop sign extended is a violation of the law, which can result in license suspension.

We would like to encourage parents to remind their students to practice good bike safety as they travel to and from school, which includes obeying traffic signals, being careful at intersections, and following directions from the crossing guards.



Professional treble ensemble "Giving Voices Collective" held its inaugural concert on August 5 at Baker United Methodist Church under the direction of St. Charles East High School Music Teacher, Monica Bertrand. The mission of this ensemble is to feature soprano and alto voices, foster a positive musical community, and raise funds and awareness for issues that directly affect women. This concert focused on ovarian cancer research in partnership with the University of Chicago's Ovarian



Research Lab. Many District 303 music teachers, students, and alumni performed together at this performance and are now founding members of "Giving Voices Collective," including Adrienne Gallagher-Beetstra, Janel Bach, Michelle Rybski, Rachel Taylor, Kirsten Staker, Olivia Kennedy, Levi Petrine, Sophie Greene, Molly Greene, Parker Hannah, and Angie Escarcedia.

This concert raised \$1,500 for the University of Chicago's Ovarian Cancer Lab. Giving Voices Collective will continue each year to make a lasting impact on both the artistic and social landscapes for the Fox Valley community. In addition, Giving Voices Collective also had a piece commissioned for this event. Marybeth Kurnat, from Dekalb, Illinois, composed a piece titled Dear Madam President...Letter of Hope to an Assertive Second Grader. This piece gave the audience the message that all young women need to hear: "There are ages-old obstacles for women, waiting for her out in the world - but that she has the strength to overcome them."

Applying to College Successfully

Presented by Providence & Toledo Universities

Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023
6:30pm-7:30pm
St. Charles North High
School Auditorium

Visit district.d303.org/parent-education for more information.



Problem Solving with Spaghetti

Wild Rose 4th grade teacher, Katie Fellows, is quick to put her students' problem-solving skills to the test with a fun STEM activity at the beginning of the school year. As a way to help build community among students, she challenged them to build the highest tower using only 5 spaghetti noodles, 1 marshmallow and some masking tape. Students excitedly accepted the challenge and began brainstorming and building, some alone and others with a partner. The trick was that the marshmallow had to be on the very top of the structure. Students then determined that they needed a strong foundation for their structure to work. They all had many interesting ideas and amazed their teacher with their creativity, ability to problem solve and collaborate, and how open they were to support each other throughout the activity.



Early Release Dates & Times for the 2023-2024 School Year



All Grade Levels (Pre-K-12)

Early Release Days

August 30

September 27

October 25

November 29

January 24

February 21

March 20

April 24

High School Early

Release Days

Every Wednesday

AM Early Childhood: 9:00 - 11:05 a.m.

PM Early Childhood: 12:05 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.

AM Kindergarten: 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

PM Kindergarten: 11:40 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Elementary School: 8:00 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Middle School: 8:40 a.m. - 2:52 p.m.

High School: 7:20 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Check out the **Community Backpack**

Learn about local events, community organizations,
and activities throughout the school year.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming **School Board Meetings**

August 28
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

September 5
Special School Board Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

September 11
School Board Meeting - 5:00 p.m.
Meeting will begin at 5pm with closed session. Open session will begin at 6pm.

September 18
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2023-2024 School Calendar Highlights

August 30
All Grade Level (PreK-12) Early Release Day

September 1
Institute Day (No Students)

September 4
Labor Day Holiday (No Students, Offices Closed)

September 6
High School Early Release Day



DISTRICT 303 IS HIRING BUS DRIVERS AND ASSISTANTS!



- **Starting pay:**
Drivers: \$22.86 | Assistants \$18.75
- **All drivers are guaranteed 6 hours per day and are eligible for insurance and pension**
- **Obtain your CDL – District 303 will train qualified candidates who want to obtain their Commercial Driver's License**



**JOIN
NOW**

Apply Online:
district.d303.org/employment

Call: 331-228-5180

Visit our Transportation Office:
901 S. Peck Rd., St. Charles, IL

*The St. Charles East & North Dance Teams
invite you to the 30th Annual Kick-A-Thon*



SEPTEMBER 29TH

at East High School before the Varsity football game

STC NORTH VS. STC EAST



This year's beneficiaries:

- COLETTE'S CREW
- FOX VALLEY FOOD FOR HEALTH

To donate: visit

www.STCkicks.com

or scan the QR code



Food Trucks **At East on 9/26**
At North on 9/28

Restaurant Night

At Chipotle
(on Main St.)
on 9/20

COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 303

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2023-2024 School Calendar

July

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

August

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

September

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

November

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

December

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

AUGUST

Institute Days (No Students)..... August 10-11
First Day of Classes August 14

SEPTEMBER

Institute Day (No Students)..... September 1
Labor Day Holiday September 4

OCTOBER

PreK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Students) October 5
PreK-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Students) October 6
High School Teachers' In-Service (No Students)..... October 6
Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day Holiday October 9
End of 1st Quarter (Middle, High Schools)..... October 13
School Improvement Day (No Students)..... October 20

NOVEMBER

End of 1st Trimester (Elementary Schools) November 10
Non Attendance Days (Offices Open)..... November 20-22
Thanksgiving Break..... November 23-24

DECEMBER

End of 2nd Quarter/First Semester (Middle, High Schools)
December 22
Last Day of School in 2023..... December 22
Winter Break December 25-December 29

JANUARY

Winter Break January 1-January 5
Teacher Work Day 6-12, Institute Day PreK-5 (No students) .January 8
School Resumes January 9
Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday January 15

FEBRUARY

Presidents' Day Holiday (No Students)..... February 19
End of 2nd Trimester (Elementary Schools)..... February 23
K-5 Afternoon Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-5 classes in AM)
K-5 ONLY - No K-5 Students in Afternoon (tentative); PreK - No Classes.
..... February 29

MARCH

Kane County Institute Day / Teacher Work Day PreK-5 (No Students)
..... March 1
End of 3rd Quarter (Middle, High Schools) March 15
Spring Break March 25-March 29

APRIL

School Resumes April 1
School Improvement (No Students)..... April 19

MAY

Last Day for Students if no "Emergency Days" used..... May 24
Memorial Day Holiday May 27
Last Day for Students if 5 "Emergency Days" used June 3

Board Approved 02/14/22

High School Early Release - Every Wednesday

All Grades Early Release - Aug 30, Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 29, Jan 24,
Feb 21, Mar 20, & Apr 24

January

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

March

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

April

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

May

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

June

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28