

District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

Administration Center
201 South 7th St.
St. Charles, IL 60174
331.228.2000
Contact us!



November 17, 2023

A Bright Celebration at Norton Creek

Norton Creek students in Emily Bruneman's 2nd grade class enthusiastically welcomed Dr. and Mrs. Joshi who shared all about the beautiful holiday, Diwali. Also known as the Festival of Lights, it's a five-day celebration that brings families and friends together each year. Students learned about the different ways people celebrate it around the world, what they traditionally wear, how they clean and decorate their homes, and the special meals they share. They learned that the celebration also involves fireworks, which students seemed to be very excited about. Students played Diwali Bingo, learned new words, and also decorated their very own "diyas" or lamps.



Checkmate! Everyone wins at Richmond

The Richmond Chess Club is off to a great start this school year. Recently, the club received a \$1,500 grant from ChessKid.com, which will provide each of the 60 club members access to a "Gold" membership on ChessKid. This gives the students unlimited access to instructional videos, chess lessons, and interclub tournaments.

Every Thursday after school, students gather in the community room to play games with their peers, allowing them to challenge each other, build friendships, and learn cognitive skills, including concentration, pattern recognition, decision making, problem-solving, spatial reasoning, and critical thinking.

"As an avid chess player, I am thrilled to share this wonderful game with the students at Richmond," said Greg Born, Physical Education/Health Teacher and club advisor.



Boundary Informational Sessions *In-Person and Virtual Meetings Nov. 28 and Nov. 29*

November 28: North High School Auditorium @ 6:00pm

November 29: Norris Cultural Arts Center @ 6:00pm

The purpose of these meetings is to inform staff, families, and community members of the boundary scenarios created by our demographer, RSP & Associates. Both sessions will cover the same material, offering a comprehensive overview of the steps leading to proposed concepts, accompanied by a presentation of the data, guiding principles and prioritized boundary criteria.

We want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to view the scenarios and take the survey. Please note you do not need to attend in person in order to receive access to all the information. Should you choose to attend virtually, you will still be able to view the boundary scenarios and receive a link to the survey.

Meeting Structure | In-Person

In-person attendees will begin the evening by coming together to listen to an RSP consultant discuss the process, including how the Board's Guiding Principles and Criteria were used to draft the scenarios. After the brief opening remarks, individuals will move to designated locations to view the scenarios and provide feedback via a survey. The survey will be available through December 10, 2023. It is important to note, that specific feedback about the boundary scenarios will only be gathered through the survey.

Spanish interpreters will be available to assist anyone requiring support. Laptops will be available for guests to use to complete the survey.

Meeting Structure | Virtual

Virtual attendees will join via a link posted to the district and building websites' main page, where they will view the scenarios and receive a survey link. Please note the survey link is open until December 10.

Sesiones Informativas sobre los Límites *Reuniones Presenciales y Virtuales el 28 y 29 de Noviembre*

28 de noviembre: En el Auditorio de la Preparatoria North a las 6:00pm

29 de noviembre: En el Centro Norris de Artes Culturales a las 6:00pm

El propósito de estas reuniones es para informarles a los miembros del personal, familias, y miembros de la comunidad sobre los escenarios de los límites creados por nuestro demógrafo, RSP & Asociados. Ambas sesiones abarcarán el mismo material, ofreciendo una completa descripción de los pasos que han llevado a los conceptos propuestos, acompañada de una presentación de los datos, los principios rectores y los criterios de delimitación prioritarios.

Queremos asegurarnos de que todos tengan la oportunidad de ver los escenarios y responder a la encuesta. Tenga en cuenta que no es necesario asistir en persona para acceder a toda la información. Si decide asistir virtualmente, podrá ver los escenarios de los límites y recibir un enlace a la encuesta.

Estructura de la Reunión | Presencial

Al comenzar la reunión, los participantes en persona escucharán a un consultor de RSP hablar sobre el proceso, incluida la forma en que se utilizaron los Principios Rectores y los Criterios de la Junta Educativa para redactar los escenarios. Tras el breve discurso de apertura, los asistentes se trasladarán a los lugares designados para ver los escenarios y dar su opinión a través de una encuesta. La encuesta estará disponible hasta el 10 de diciembre del 2023. Es importante señalar que las opiniones específicas sobre los escenarios de límites sólo se recogerán a través de la encuesta.

Habrá intérpretes a disposición para quienes necesiten ayuda en español. Habrá computadoras/laptops disponibles para que los asistentes rellenen la encuesta.

Estructura de la Reunión | Virtual

Los participantes de forma virtual se unirán a través de un enlace publicado en la página principal de los sitios web del distrito y de las escuelas, donde verán los escenarios y recibirán un enlace a la encuesta. El enlace a la encuesta estará abierto hasta el 10 de diciembre.

Veterans Day Celebrations Across District 303

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a very special day for the veterans in our community. From the wonderful concerts, personalized videos and presentations, to the delicious breakfasts and assemblies, we hope everyone enjoyed the celebrations.

From District 303, thank you for your service!





The St. Charles North Educators Rising Club participated in the 2023 Read for the Record at Corron Elementary on October 26, joining many others on this shared reading experience.

The high school students read the book "With Lots of Love" by Jenny Torres Sanchez, illustrated by André Ceolin, and led activities for the elementary students who participate in the South Elgin Park District AfterShock program after school. The activities included fun games and crafts aligned with the themes of the book about sharing love and building connections. Additionally, a copy of the book was also donated to the Corron LRC and the AfterShock program.



Jumpstart's Read for the Record® is a national campaign launched 18 years ago that helps address educational inequities that leave too many children unprepared for kindergarten. Since 2006, this 24-hour celebration has mobilized over 26 million people in promoting the importance of literacy.

INTO FOCUS

WITH DISTRICT 303

**A new District 303
Newsletter for the Community
READ NOW!**



Learn more about the attendance boundary process and pending changes to the elementary school day in our latest community publication, ***Into Focus with District 303***. This quarterly newsletter is mailed to all District 303 stakeholders in order to update our community on key initiatives and highlights from our schools, students and staff. In this issue, we preview important community engagement dates to review new boundary scenarios, provide more details on next year's shorter elementary school day, and a timeline for when 2024-2025 start and end schedules will be released for early childhood, elementary, middle and high schools.

It's been an exciting time in the world of music. Recently, St. Charles East hosted the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) District 9 Festival for Jazz Band and Jazz Choir, bringing together talented students from the Western and Southwestern suburbs of Chicago.



Each November, elementary, middle and high schools throughout Illinois host and participate in ILMEA Festivals. Students get selected to participate by submitting a video performance audition in October. This year, many District middle and high school students were selected to take part in these wonderful festivals. They spent time rehearsing with experienced clinicians, learning from peers, and culminated their experience with a performance for family and friends. More information and detailed lists can be found on the ILMEA website [here](#).

Congratulations to all the students who were selected to participate in this year's ILMEA District 9 Festivals (see some photos on the next page):

East Jazz Band students: Tyler Robey, Elli Wifler, Ryan Katz, Jamie Heuser, Arthur Sharaburyak, Hollister Schneider

East Vocal Jazz students: Melody Merrell, Haylee Kaliski, Kirsten Staker, Mary Kate Schoessling, Josh Kennedy, Angie Escarcida

North Jazz Band students: Francesco Alongi, Aidan Rivera, Jack Buratczuk

North Vocal Jazz students: Natalie VanDorpe, Maya Cassell, Abby Potts

St. Charles North Senior Chorus students: Maya Cassell, Abby Potts, Holly Stone, Natalie VanDorpe

North Orchestra students: Anna Gagne, Allison Goade, Derek Hibben

North Band student: Lauren Martin

Thompson Band student: Lilli Farrell

Thompson Orchestra students: Georgia Bowen, Olivia Votaw, Autumn Davis

Thompson Chorus students: Emily Hougland, Ellison Luna, Elizabeth Orals, Sarah Schiltz, Brody Copp, Kai Maxfield

Additionally, Congratulations to the following Wredling Band students who participated in the ILMEA District 9 Honors Band Festival at West Aurora High School. This was the largest number of students selected ever for the Wredling Band program:

Tiara Ching, Piper Oge, Hunter Hayes, Jenna Yeun, Hannah Peterson, Giovanna Turi, Emma Wright, Emily Robbins-Jones, Jonas Pregler, Juan Ramirez, Nathan Berg, Connor Butler

Wredling Orchestra Students: Ellis Amezotchi, Kayla Beu, Isabella Frolich, Quinn Frolich, Sarah Krohn, Kevin Lu, Lili Merrell, Tess Mitrenga, Pahel Patel, Hannah Peterson, Adam Unzeitig



5th Annual Apprenticeship Expo

St. Charles East and North students attended the 5th Annual Apprenticeship Expo in Aurora on November 14. This experience provided students with an opportunity to learn about and explore various trades. The day consisted of engaging conversations with union representatives, lively interactions through real and virtual demonstrations, and job opportunity insights.



Check out the Community Backpack

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

[CLICK HERE](#)

First Navigation Celebration at Compass Academy

Starting this year at Compass Academy, the school will host a quarterly student recognition event as a way to commend those students who have been working hard to meet their goals and contribute to the school and larger community.

Each staff member will nominate one student who has demonstrated outstanding effort in one or more of the areas addressed in the school's Directions to Success: navigating challenges,

embracing opportunities for growth, seeking knowledge, and welcoming others and ideas.

The first "Navigation Celebration" of the year was held on November 8 and the first quarter awardees were in attendance along with parents and Compass staff. After a brief introduction by Compass Academy Director, Sharon Stanley, each staff member shared a few words about the students they selected and presented them with the recognition.



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.

Transition: 7:45 a.m. - 1:10 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.



NOTICE FROM DISTRICT 303

Inclement Weather Procedures

When safety concerns emerge due to hazardous amounts of snow, ice, and extreme cold, the District 303 Superintendent may choose to implement a full-day school closure, delayed start or early dismissal.

When Will a Decision Be Made?

In most cases, decisions are made on the morning of the inclement weather event. To the extent possible based on forecasted or actual weather conditions, an announcement will be made **at 5 a.m. or before** to either 1) Close all schools or select schools, and cancel activities, or 2) Delay the start of onsite operations. Please note, if District 303 does not send a notification about school closings or modified operations, we are operating as normal.

How Will I be Notified?

District 303 will send notifications to families through the Finalsite (formerly ParentLink) system by text message, phone call and email based. Parents/guardians can access the [Home Access Center](#) to view and edit their contact settings. To receive timely emergency communications, we strongly encourage families to enable text notifications. For most people, this is the fastest way to receive and view important messages.

Learn more on our [inclement weather webpage](#).



AVISO DEL
DISTRITO 303

Los Procedimientos en caso de Inclemencias Meteorológicas

Cuando surgen preocupaciones de seguridad debido a cantidades peligrosas de nieve, hielo y frío extremo, el Superintendente del Distrito 303 puede elegir implementar un cierre de las escuelas de día completo, un comienzo retrasado o una salida temprana.

¿Cuándo tomará una decisión el Distrito 303?

En la mayoría de los casos, se toman las decisiones en la mañana del evento con inclemencias del tiempo. En la medida de lo que sea posible según las condiciones meteorológicas previstas o actuales, **el Distrito 303 hará un anuncio a las 5 de la mañana o antes** para 1) Cerrar todas las escuelas o algunas escuelas y cancelar actividades; o 2) Retrasar el inicio de las operaciones en el sitio. Tenga en cuenta que, si el Distrito 303 no envía una notificación sobre el cierre de las escuelas o la modificación de las operaciones, estamos operando con normalidad.

¿Cómo se me notificará?

El Distrito 303 enviará notificaciones a las familias a través del sistema Finalsite (anteriormente ParentLink) por medio de mensajes de texto, llamadas telefónicas y correo electrónico. Los padres/guardianes pueden acceder al [Centro de Acceso para el Hogar \(HAC\)](#) para ver y editar sus configuraciones. Para recibir las comunicaciones de emergencia a su debido tiempo, recomendamos encarecidamente a las familias que activen las notificaciones de texto. Para la mayoría de las personas, esta es la forma más rápida de recibir y ver mensajes importantes.

Puede obtener más información en nuestra [página web sobre las inclemencias del tiempo](#).

Upcoming School Board Meetings

November 27
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:00 p.m.
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

December 11
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

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

December 21
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

January 8, 2024
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

January 16, 2024
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

January 29, 2024
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2023-2024 School Calendar Highlights

November 20-24
Thanksgiving Break (No Students)
- Offices Closed on Nov. 23 and 24

November 28
Boundaries: Community Session - 6:00 p.m.

November 29
All Grade Level (PreK-12) Early Release Day
Boundaries: Community Session - 6:00 p.m.
Parent Education: Early College Credit Information Night
- 6:30 p.m.

December 6
High School Early Release Day
Parent Education - Calming the Storm: Supporting Your Child When They're Feeling Anxious (Morning & Afternoon sessions)
Serie de Educación para Padres - Calmando la Tormenta: Identificando y Apoyando a los Niños con Ansiedad (Sesión en la mañana y en la tarde)

PARENT EDUCATION SERIES PRESENTS

Early College Credit Information Night

Presented by District 303 Staff

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023
6:30pm-7:30pm
St. Charles North High
School Auditorium

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

