
Principal's Newsletter October 2023



October 2023 Breakfast of Champions



Chris Souk - National Merit
Semifinalist



STCE Jazz Workshop performs at the City
of St. Charles Jazz Weekend

Homecoming 2023



Homecoming 2023





Dr. Michael Blasingame speaks to our students about his experience as a college admissions officer and offered tips on writing a strong college essay



STCE e-Sports Team



Paul Schiltz and Marisa Bryant represent STCE on Senator DeWitte's Youth Advisory Committee



Boys Soccer - DuKane Conference Champions



CCR Senior Meetings

As we close out the first quarter of the school year, I want to thank our school community for the positive and productive start to the school year. We had an early Homecoming Week that was packed with spirit, participation, and enthusiasm that is reflective of the traditions that make STCE such an amazing school. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve such a dedicated school community.

Homecoming - Our students did an amazing job organizing our 2023 Homecoming Week. With having a non-attendance day on Friday for students, we shifted our traditional schedule and held a homecoming event every day, which helped establish an greater level of enthusiasm throughout the entire week. Each class had excellent contributions to the events and although two points separated the top two classes, the Senior Class eagerly celebrated winning the Spirit Stick at the end of the week. Congratulations to our Orange & Black Competition winners: Julian Aguirre, Robert Dawson, Ian Maxfield, Savannah Nazlian, Madison Provost, Nicol Schneider, and Jessika Smith. Photos from our Homecoming Week and other school events can be found on our [Flickr](#) page.

Student Recognition - We are excited to celebrate Chris Souk as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Additionally, we have 14 students who were recognized as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program: Roshni Dave, Oscar Frontjes, Joseph Gammeri, Andrew Heilers, Blake Heiliger, Andrew Kauke, Connor Lougheed, Om Luhar, Ky McBride, Owen McNally, McGreevy Paul, Lyra Tiffin, Victoria Vogel, and Lucia Wilfong. Due to the success of our students in our AP Programs, STCE earned Silver recognition on the 2023 AP School Honor Roll. This is reflective of the rigorous high school experience our students have, with 57% of our 2023 graduating class taking an AP class and 46% earning a passing score and therefore earning college credit! STCE was also ranked #48 in Illinois on The US News and World Report's Best High Schools list! Finally, our student newspaper, *The X-ray*, is up and running! Be sure to check out their [online publications](#)!

Performing Arts - Our students have been hard at work in preparation for the opening weekend of our fall play, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. [Tickets](#) are available via PushCoin for this weekend's performances. The Marching Saints will conclude a successful Fall season with their performance at the final home football game on Friday, October 20th. The band has already performed at three football games, the Homecoming Parade and the annual Marching Band Concert which took place in the stadium on October 3rd. Thank you to all the students for their hard work and thank you to all the parents who assisted throughout the season. Our music students have been working hard to prepare for upcoming performances. All the concerts listed below start at 7:00 PM in the Norris Cultural Arts Center and admission is free.

- Thursday, Oct. 19 Orchestras
- Tuesday, Oct 24 Jazz Band and Jazz Workshop with the Wredling MS Jazz Band
- Thursday, Oct. 26 Vocal Jazz
- Thursday, Nov 2 Wind Ensemble with the Thompson MS Honor Band

The One Act Plays will take place November 4, 5 and 6 at 7:00 in the Black Box Theatre. These short plays are directed and produced by students and are always entertaining. Arrive early as there is limited seating and they often fill up. Additionally, a big "Thank You" to the St. Charles East High School Music Boosters who do so much to [support our music students](#). Please check out their [website](#) for upcoming meeting dates and other information.

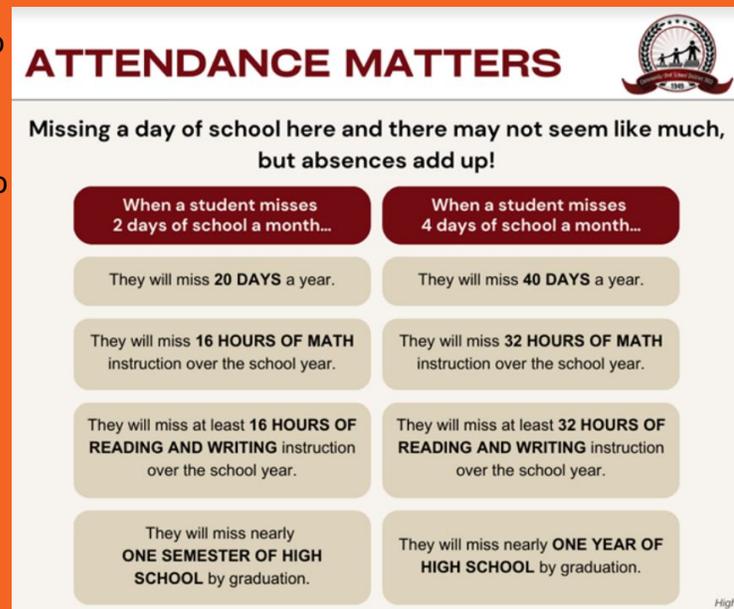
Athletics - Our fall athletic season has been off to a great start. As conference play continues and the playoff season begins, we are looking forward to the Saints earning titles and trips down to state. Our Boys Soccer Team clinched their second consecutive DuKane Conference Championship. Look for updates about our fall sports teams in the December Principal's Newsletter.

The STCE Athletic Boosters are also excited to sponsor guest speaker Coach Mark Potter on November 13 at 6 p.m. for parents and community members and November 14 at 6 p.m. for staff and students in the Norris Cultural Arts Center. This will be Coach Potter's second time speaking to our school community about his story of overcoming obstacles and earning a victory over depression with a message that it is okay to not be okay and that there is help and hope for mental struggles.

Instructional Focus - D303 has adopted an Early Release Schedule for high schools every Wednesday in order for our educators to more frequently engage in professional learning communities (PLCs). Our School Improvement Days are focused on growing the capacity of our staff related to this very important work. Here is an overview of the work we have been doing thus far and how we expect it to translate into greater levels of learning for our students:

- Identification of priority standards that represent the most important skills and concepts for students to learn in a course. These district-wide standards are the foundation for the guaranteed and viable curriculum we commit to each student learning at a deep level.
- Clear learning targets with formative assessments to measure the extent of student learning. Educators evaluate recent evidence of learning to provide students with responsive instruction in accordance with the next steps in the learning progression of that standard. This is done collaboratively in order to identify instructional practices that are evidence-based and therefore most likely to positively impact student learning.

Attendance Matters - We need your help! The research is clear - when students attend school regularly, their outcomes are improved! STCE strives to instill a sense of belonging in our community members by accepting, validating, and appreciating them, and by treating every individual fairly. There are hundreds of adults at East who are eager to invest in our students to help them realize and strive to become the best version of themselves. However, our ability to accomplish all of this is significantly impacted when students are not present. There are reasons why students should be absent from school, but over time, consistently missing days of school results in a significant loss of learning opportunities. We have placed similar posters around our school to remind students that what might seemingly be an insignificant amount of time of school missed adds up over time. Please partner with us to reinforce good attendance patterns that will include opportunities for students to improve their learning outcomes and contribute to a well-rounded high school experience.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

| When a student misses 2 days of school a month... | When a student misses 4 days of school a month... |
|--|--|
| They will miss 20 DAYS a year. | They will miss 40 DAYS a year. |
| They will miss 16 HOURS OF MATH instruction over the school year. | They will miss 32 HOURS OF MATH instruction over the school year. |
| They will miss at least 16 HOURS OF READING AND WRITING instruction over the school year. | They will miss at least 32 HOURS OF READING AND WRITING instruction over the school year. |
| They will miss nearly ONE SEMESTER OF HIGH SCHOOL by graduation. | They will miss nearly ONE YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL by graduation. |

High

Parent Involvement Opportunities - There are also lots of opportunities for parents to get involved at STCE! There are three great organizations that work to make the school and experience for students more exciting. Please consider joining the [STCE PTO](#), [Athletic Boosters](#), and the [Music Boosters](#). In addition, D303 is offering many opportunities for parents to engage in learning through their [Parent Universities](#).

Final Exams - Final exams will be administered in classes at the end of first semester. Please see the [final exam schedule](#) for more information.

East Information - Stay connected to all things STCE by viewing our [Parent Link communication page](#), subscribing to the [O&B Bulletin](#), reading the [CCR Updates](#), following us on Twitter at our handle [@StCharlesEast](#) and on [Facebook](#), and reviewing our [daily announcements](#). All this information and much more can be found through our [East website](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and support!

Jim Richter
Principal
(331) 228-5704
James.Richter@d303.org

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS
d2up

Coach Mark Potter inspires and challenges audiences with his real story of victory over severe depression. He shares his story of overcoming obstacles and even suicidal thoughts. He reminds you that it is okay to get help, it's okay to not be okay, and there is help and hope for mental struggles!!

JOIN US!

PARENTS & COMMUNITY
NOV 13
@ 6PM

ST. CHARLES EAST HIGH SCHOOL
1020 DUNHAM ROAD
NORRIS CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

STAFF & STUDENTS
NOV 14
@ 6PM

ST. CHARLES EAST
FIGHTING SAINTS

SPONSORED BY:
Kayla's Hope
It's OKAY to not be OKAY
kaylahope.org

stceathleticboosters.org

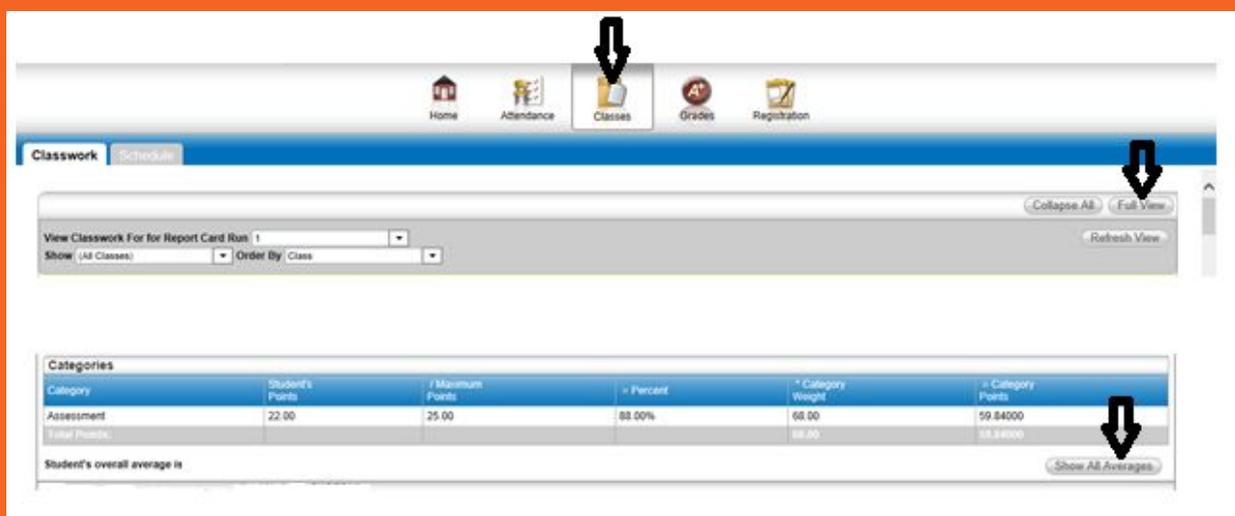
Instructional Programs



Additional Information from our Department of Instructional Programs

Accessing Grades on HAC

The best way to access your child's grade is to click on CLASSES and the FULL VIEW button at the top right corner of the classwork pane. Under each class on the right side will be an option to SHOW ALL AVERAGES. Clicking that button will bring a pop-up that will display the student's overall grade. Some classes use grade categories that report information about student progress but may not impact the grade. Following these steps will ensure the grade you are seeing is the grade your child has in the class. Please refer to the accompanying screen shots as a guide.



The [district website](#) has information about HAC under the FOR PARENTS section of the home page. If you have any questions about your child's assignments or grades, please contact their teacher. If you have any questions about your account or login, please contact Julie Olney at julie.olney@d303.org or (331) 228-5675.

Seal of Biliteracy

D303 is proud to offer qualifying students the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy testing information will be posted on the East High School Website. More information will be coming soon about registration and testing dates.