

# Saints' Happenings

## Principal's Newsletter

### December 2019/January 2020



Special Night for Special Kids



ISO  
Big  
Game



Winter  
Recognition  
Assembly





# Saints' Happenings

## Principal's Newsletter

### December 2019/January 2020



Band & Orchestra Holiday Concert



December (left) and January (right) Breakfast of Champions Recipients



# Saints' Happenings

## Principal's Newsletter

### December 2019/January 2020



Congratulations to our mid-year grads!

Girls  
Gymnastics



Girls and  
Boys  
Bowling



Girls Basketball



Vocal Music Performance



---

# Saints' Happenings

## Principal's Newsletter

### December 2019/January 2020

---



Trunk Full of Funk



Cheerleaders



All State  
Musicians

Robotics in  
PLTW



Student-D  
irected  
One Acts

# Office of the Principal

---



We had a very successful conclusion to the first semester, ending with our first final exam administration prior to winter break. Feedback from students about the change was overwhelmingly positive. One student told me, "It was great. In the past, I knew I had study guides and review materials in my backpack that I needed to work on. This year, I did not have to open my backpack at all, and I was able to truly have a break." I hope everyone was able to do the same and return to school re energized.

On January 14, East hosted our annual ISO Big Game. I often get asked, "What is the best thing about East"? There are a lot of amazing things about East, but the ISO Big Game is one of my favorite and one that I am extremely proud of. This great night exemplifies the inclusive nature of our student body and celebrates the contributions of the wide variety of students at our school. Thank you to all the students, parents, athletes, and staff members that contributed to this event.

We had nine St. Charles East High School students have been selected to participate in the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference in Peoria. The musicians are: Thomas Edgar (piano), Michael Parchaiski (bass), Lasey Emmerich (violin), Ayu Seiya (violin), Ethan White (violin), Storey Childs (viola), Trudie Childs (cello), Madison Solomon (oboe and English horn), and Andrew Pahadi (oboe).

I am pleased to announce that our autos program at STCE has gone through and passed the ASE Re-Accreditation process, which is in effect until 2030. Our autos instructors must pass rigorous training standards and maintain a shop environment that meets industry standards. This important designation allows our students to seek employment upon graduation from an accredited program.

Our winter play, *Sense and Sensibility*, is set to open on Friday, February 7 at 7 p.m. There will be a performance on Saturday, February 8 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, February 9 at 2 p.m. Come support all our students who participate - both on- and off-stage!

It is hard to believe that we are in the midst of planning for next year already! Students have begun the registration process for the 2020-2021 school year. Course selections will be locked into E-School as students meet with their school counselors at the end of January and beginning of February. While we want students taking a rigorous academic course load that aligns with their college and career goals, we also would like to stress the importance of balance throughout the school day. A well-rounded high school experience includes participation in athletics, clubs, extracurriculars, jobs, volunteering, etc...in addition to the academic commitments they have at STCE. It is important that students consider these while choosing appropriately-challenging classes as well as dedicating time during the day for a lunch, lunch/study, or full period study hall.

I hope the information about vaping provided in our editions of the Principal's Newsletter have been helpful to you as you navigate this epidemic with your children. STCE and D303 are committed to spreading awareness as well as working on prevention and education to our students about vaping. Recently, D303 put together a [Vaping video](#) that highlights the trends in vaping as well as some of the ways D303 is educating our students. D303 also has a [Parent University](#) program that provides education to families on various topics, including one coming up in March titled "Wake Up Call," which is the first of a three-part [series about drug and alcohol prevention](#). I strongly encourage all families to attend!

# Office of the Principal

---



Page 8 of this newsletter has information about student attendance. I wanted to add some perspective about attendance and the importance of attending school daily. The State of Illinois considers the threshold of excessive absence reached when a child misses more than 5% of the total school year. 5% of the school year is a total of 9 days - that is equivalent to missing one day per month. What makes this threshold important? The State of Illinois recognizes that students who have a 95% attendance rate meet one of the requirements to be college and career ready. Certainly, there are instances where students must miss school. However, when students are in school, they are able to access not only classroom instruction, but the myriad of supports we offer at STCE while gaining the skills and behaviors that are indicative of a person who is ready for college and career.

District 303 participates in the annual Illinois 5Essentials Survey that collects feedback from our students, teachers, and parents. Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will give you the opportunity to share your thoughts on important elements of school effectiveness. The responses will help us understand the conditions at your child's school and guide our improvement efforts. All responses are confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. The Parent Survey is currently open and will remain so through February 14, 2020. To take the survey, please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> and select the appropriate survey.

This SAT is right around the corner, and it is never too early to start preparing! Our [College and Career Readiness Website](#) has links to more information about the SAT test, college entrance considerations, and resources/tools for support. One such resource is the [SAT Daily Practice App](#), which provides students with individualized practice questions and is a great way to get started preparing for the SAT, even during Freshman year. Seniors will have a non-attendance day and are encouraged to make college visits, complete college applications or essays, or participate in a job shadow on this day. More specific information about the testing schedule will follow.

Although it is early, I want to remind families that graduation this year will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 4:00 p.m. at NIU's Convocation Center. More detailed information can be found on the [CCR Website](#) under [Graduation Information](#).

Stay connected to all things STCE by subscribing to the [O&B Bulletin](#), 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](mailto:James.Richter@d303.org)  
[Let's Talk](#)

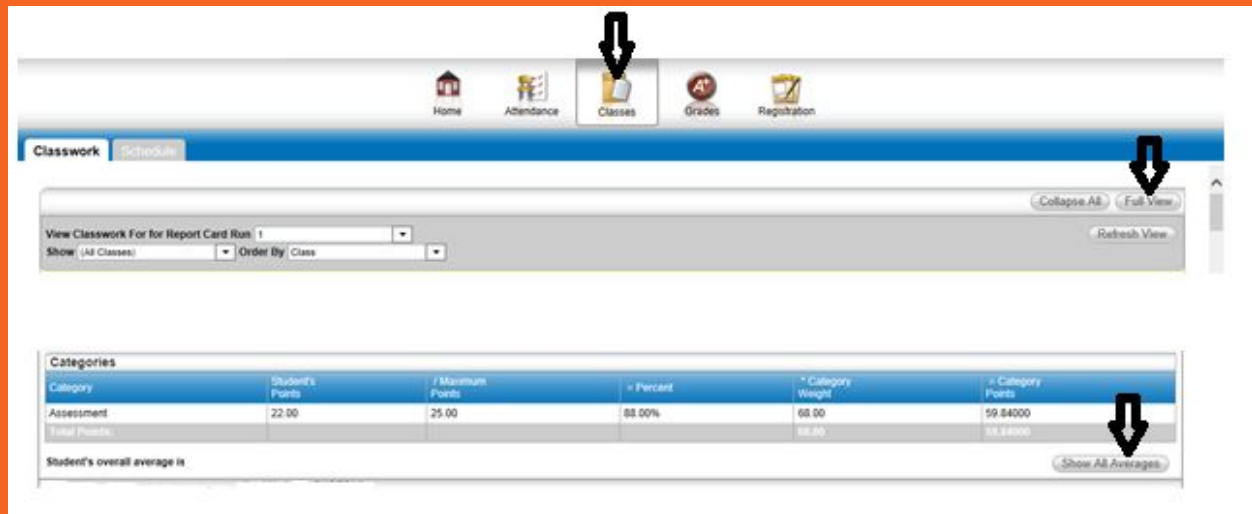
---

# 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 screenshots 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](mailto: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](#).



---

# Attendance



## **Reporting Student Absences at East**

Accurate student attendance is important at St. Charles East! Research shows that there is a direct relationship between regular attendance, punctuality, and school success. Regular school attendance includes arriving to school on time and attending all classes throughout the day. There is no substitute for actual classroom instruction. We notice when your child is not in attendance.

If your child is going to be absent or late, his/her parent or guardian must call the Attendance Office as soon as possible. The Attendance Office number is 331-228-4100. Voice mail is available 24/7. Please leave a detailed message with the date of absence, the child's name, their Id number, and the reason for absence.

We care about attendance. We track attendance. We would like to help resolve any problems that may cause your child to miss school. If your child misses four or more days in the first eight weeks of the school year, a letter will be sent home. The State of Illinois considers the threshold of excessive absence reached when a child misses more than 5% of the total school year (9 school days total – all year).

Thank you in advance for partnering with us to make 2019-20 the best attended school year in East's history!





# Instructional Support Coaches

---



---

# Foreign Language



## **Latin Club Celebrates Saturnalia**

In December, Latin Club celebrated the Roman holiday of Saturnalia! The officers dressed up for the occasion. There was food, learning about the holiday, and carol singing in Latin. Lots of fun was had by all. Io Saturnalia!

*Latin Club officers Erika Denker, Skyler Purvis, Keira Denker, Gabriel Alonzo, and Gabriel Delaney.*



## **French Honor Society held its annual Bûche de Noël competition**

On December 16th, FNHS members baked Christmas logs (*les bûches de Noël*), a holiday tradition in France. At the December meeting, bakers were able to show off their creations and members were able to taste and vote for the winning log! Winning logs were chosen based on either uniqueness or which most resembled a traditional log. This year, we had eight entries into the competition, the largest number that we've ever had.





---

# Fine Arts



## Music

9 St. Charles East High School students have been selected to participate in the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference which will take place in Peoria from January 30<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Senior pianist Thomas Edgar and junior bassist Michael Parchaiski were selected for Instrumental Jazz. Senior violinists Lasey Emmerich and Ayu Seiya, junior violinist Ethan White, senior violist Storey Childs, and senior cellist Trudie Childs were selected for orchestra. Senior oboist and English horn player Madison Solomon and sophomore oboist Andrew Pahadi were selected to participate in concert band. For these students, the All-State conference will conclude a four month process that began in early October with ILMEA district-level auditions. The students then participated in district festivals in mid November where they rehearsed and performed with the top high school musicians from the west-suburban area. The students listed above were a small number that were then selected from the district groups to continue on to the state level. At the All-State Conference they again audition for placement in the state-level ensembles. They will then rehearse for two days with the best high school musicians from the state under the direction of top music educators and professional musicians. The conference culminates with performances by these ensembles on Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

Senior Thomas Edgar, besides being selected for jazz piano, also placed first in two categories in the Illinois Music Education Conference Composition Contest. His *Symphony No. 2 in E Minor* won the Instrumental Large Ensemble Division. This is the second consecutive year that he has won this division. He also won the Jazz Instrumental/Vocal Ensemble Division with his composition entitled *Kazakhstan*. While it is not unheard of for a student to place in more than one division, it is very rare to see one student win in these two vastly different categories.

Congratulations to these 9 students on their musical accomplishments!

---

---

# Fine Arts



## Drama

The Drama Department will present *Sense and Sensibility* on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. in the Norris Cultural Arts Center. Following these performances, the drama students will immediately begin rehearsals for this year's spring musical, *Guys and Dolls*, which will be presented April 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Fine Arts Events:

February 7 & 8	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	7:00 PM
February 9	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	2:00 PM
February 11	Wind Ensemble Concert with Wredling Band	7:00 PM
February 13	Orchestra Concert	7:30 PM
February 20	Solo Vocal Recital	7:30 PM
February 24	Freshman Band Concert	7:30 PM
February 25	Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band Concert	7:30 PM
March 5	Choir Concert	7:30 PM
March 10	Jazz Band Concert	7:30 PM
March 12	Wind Ensemble Concert	7:30 PM
March 17	Chamber Orchestra and Small Ensembles Concert	7:30 PM

All performances take place in the Norris Cultural Arts Center.

---



# Math

---



## Math Help

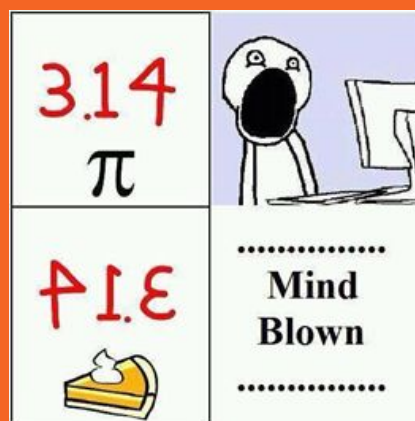
Math Honor Society students offer Peer Tutoring in the LRC Studio immediately after school for an hour on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Bring your problems, we are here to help!

The Math Resource Room is open periods 4, 5, 6, and 7 for math help. Students should get a pass from their math teacher, show their pass to their study hall teacher and go to B205 during their study hall.

Students can also make an appointment with their math teacher to get extra help outside of class.

## Math Team

The math team practices in B126 after school on Mondays. The team competes in the North Suburban Math League. Fifty five of the top schools in the Chicago area compete in the NSML. Currently we are also practicing for our DuKane Conference Math Meet. We will be competing in the regional math meet at Northern Illinois University on Saturday, February 22nd. Students will be competing to earn a spot at the state math meet.



---

# Science



Standard physics classes are using mouse trap cars as an introduction to the Energy Unit. Students first learned how to use power tools and saws to engineer a mouse trap car in the style of their choosing. Students will be assessed on their design of the mousetrap car to convert elastic potential energy to kinetic energy by how far their mousetrap car travels.





---

# Science



Astronomy students learn how to determine the distance to stars that are light years away by using simple Geometry. They modeled parallax by creating right triangles in the hallway with foam and string and measured the angles of the triangle between the Earth, Sun, and the distant stars. Understanding and applying methods that astronomers use to measure and model distances in space, is one of the learning targets Astronomy students master in this elective course.

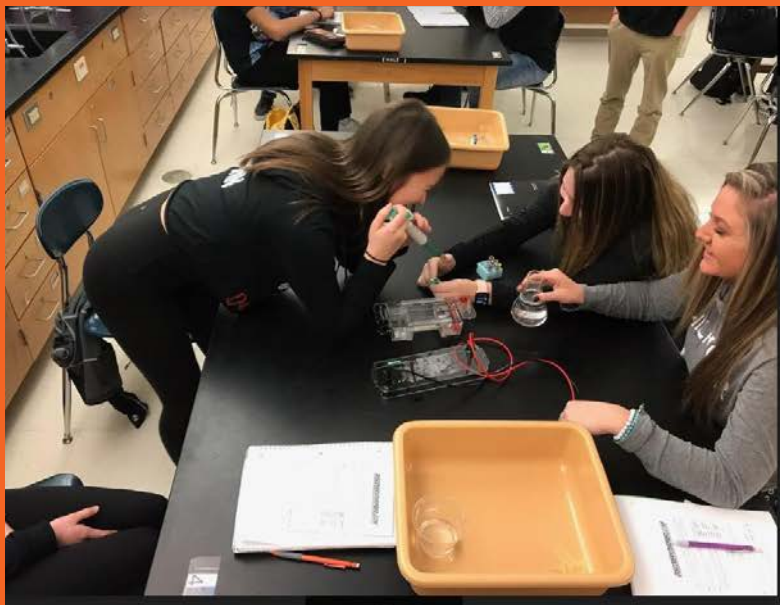


---

# Science



Biology students model the process of gel electrophoresis to collect and analyze data. Otherwise known as DNA testing, it is used across numerous disciplines as a strong source of evidence and information including legal, medical, forensics and in people's personal lives.



---

# Social Studies



Sign up for classes for next year is in full swing! Even entering freshman year, students have a lot of choices, including the first AP courses students can take at the high school. Here are a few highlighted courses for which we frequently field questions:

**American Studies:** This Junior course fulfills two graduation requirements - United States History and English 11. Students study history and literature together for a two-hour block every day, working with two teachers.

**American Agenda:** This Senior course fulfills two graduation requirements - Civics and Economics. Students study Civics and Economics together for one period a day, working with two teachers. The course is offered at both the Standard and Honors level, and challenges students to use their learning to understand current issues.

**Social Studies Seminar:** This one-semester class allows students to conduct in-depth inquiry into a variety of subjects. While there are specific course titles presented, students are generally able to focus on personal areas of interest. This course helps students develop their research and presentation skills, and can be taken for elective credit.

Information on all Social Studies offerings can be found at [our website](#), or you can contact Lead Teacher Bill Stepien at [william.stepien@d303.org](mailto:william.stepien@d303.org) or 331-228-5730.





# Wellness

---



Driver's Education students have started their training on the simulators. The simulators, which are a bonus when enrolling in a high school drivers education course, allows students additional realistic practice behind the wheel.

Alane Church from Heart Smart EKG came in and spoke to every Wellness Class about Sudden Cardiac Emergencies in young people and described how a simple EKG screening can prevent them.

*The Wellness Department offers a number of electives for students thinking about entering the Medical Field. Athletic Training, Intro to the Medical Field, and Advanced Healthcare Concepts are enrolling NOW for next school year!*



# Career & Technical Education

## Business Education



Business students in Virtual Enterprise have been hard at work preparing for the Great Lakes Trade Show taking place February 20th at the Donald E. Convention Center in Rosemont. Our three firms: Clever Contraptions, Electric Avenue, and Xtreme Comfort will be competing in various business events against schools from all over the country. Many of these events take place live in front of judges such as a sales pitch, elevator pitch, and presentations of our current/projected company finance, marketing/branding strategies, and overall business structure. We also have competitions based on our company commercial, radio ad, and business plan. We also are working hard to make a trade show booth to sell product to other businesses within the virtual economy. The competition is fierce, but our students are ready!



# Career & Technical Education

---

## Business Education

**incubator**edu.

BY UNCHARTED LEARNING



### Accelerator Featured Company:

Have you ever burnt your tongue taking that first sip of coffee?

What if there was a low-cost, effective way to tell if your hot coffee or tea was ready to drink, without burning your tongue? Well, let us introduce **Dip N' Sip**.

What is a **Dip N' Sip** you ask.....well it is a temperature sensitive stirring stick that changes colors within seconds of being dipped into a hot beverage. This color change lets you know the range of temperature your hot beverage is. Depending on the temperature you prefer to drink your beverage at, you will determine which color is represents your optimal temperature preference. You will never have a burnt tongue again!



**Dip N' Sip** was founded by four students in the 2018-2019 school year, including junior **Chelsea Campagna**. Chelsea has taken over the business and works daily on developing the product and the brand.

This year Chelsea, along with her mentor, **Jonna Sawicki**, has worked with a marketing executive to develop a logo, determined the packaging and labeling as well as creating a website and social media. With grant money from the school store, Chelsea hopes to have her product in a local coffee shop near you!

---



# Career & Technical Education

---

## Business Education

*Is your student looking  
for a part-time job?*



*Is your company looking  
for part-time help?*

## Introducing East's digital Job Support Website!

<https://sites.google.com/d303.org/stcejobboard/home>

**New jobs are being added each week!**

Our digital Job Support Website serves as a way to connect students looking for jobs with local businesses looking to hire. Each job opening lists the job description, any needed skills or experience, how to apply and days/hours needed. In addition, age requirements are also posted. Currently we have some job openings for students as young as 14 and 15 years old (with a work permit).

<https://sites.google.com/d303.org/stcharleseat--collegecareer/career/work-permit>

The Job Support website also offers students tips about how to fill out a job application, create a resume and ace the job interview!

Employers: If you are a business looking for part-time help, or know of a business who could benefit from this website, contact Shannon Stone at [shannon.stone@d303.org](mailto:shannon.stone@d303.org) for more information.

Juniors and Seniors can earn school credit for  
having a part-time job?

Register for **Cooperative Education** for the 2020-2021 school year!  
You can find more information on the Job Support website, ask your  
counselor or see Ms. Stone in B216!



# Career & Technical Education

## Business Education



## SkillsUSA and DECA Support D303 Special Needs

Over the past two months, members of the business-related clubs have been supporting our special needs students across the district. On December 4, club members provided fun and games at *A Special Night for Special Kids*, then on January 14th sold signs at the ISO vs. Varsity Basketball event. Thank you to everyone involved.



# Career & Technical Education

---

## Business Education



### DECA - Sectionals

East Business students recently competed at the West Suburban DECA Sectionals event held in Rosemont. The students listed below qualified for the state competition held in March.

- **Sam Belmonte and Matt Clancy**-1st place Entrepreneurship Team Event
- **Tristian Keene and Jaden Nelson**, top 10 Travel and Tourism Team Event
- **Isabel Panek**-top 10 Restaurant and Food Service Management
- **Nikhil Jain**, top 10 Business Services Marketing
- **Sarah Hydar**-top 10 automotive services marketing
- **Parth Shah**- top 10 Quick Serve Restaurant management
- **Jeff Sharko** - top 10 Business Finance Services





# Career & Technical Education

---

## Business Education

### Featured Course:

## Marketing and Advertising 2

**The Marketing and Advertising 2** allows students to apply their skills and knowledge from Marketing and Advertising I to real-world scenarios and projects outside the classroom! Students have already have been busy collaborating with outside “clients” and creating marketing materials specifically for their business!

**Marketing 2** students collaborated with INCubator businesses and created company logos and business cards for them to use in their future endeavors as their business grows. Each INCubator business worked directly with multiple Marketing II student designers. Each designer chose their own custom color scheme, created a unique logo and business card using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Students communicated about their progress daily and received feedback and direction from Incubator students.

The students in both classes enjoyed this opportunity to collaborate, develop their skills and showcase their talents!



# Career & Technical Education

---

## Family & Consumer Sciences



### **Fashion Design & Apparel Production 2**

The fashion designers at East started the semester with an unconventional materials challenge... design a mini wedding dress using only tissue paper, coffee filters, and string. Students incorporated the elements and principles of design to make a realistic garment. Check out some of the designs below!



### **Fashion Marketing & Merchandising 2**

We are hard at work learning about different types of visual merchandising displays. Stay tuned...we are currently building full scale window displays in the halls at East. Check out the next Principal's Newsletter to see how they turn out!

### **Baking & Pastry**

Students are back in the kitchen! We are wrapping up our first unit on the Baking Profession. Most recently, students were able to apply their skills from Culinary Arts to bake *anything* they wanted! The halls smelled of brownies, pie, and other baked goods. The popular choice in 1st Hour....Red Velvet Cupcakes!



# Career & Technical Education

---

## Family & Consumer Sciences



### EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTICUM

These educators in training are geared up to start teaching! Ten preschool aged children will be attending Little Saints Preschool, our student run program. High school students rotate through planning, teaching and observing as they gain experience working with three, four and five-year-olds.



### TEACHING & LEARNING PRACTICUM

The high school interns are busy working in our local elementary and middle schools. They are assisting students and teaching school age students in the classroom setting. As they look at a pursuing a career in education, interns are writing resumes for a teaching position.





# Career & Technical Education

---

## Technology & Engineering



### STCE Automotive Tech News:

On January 2, 2020, we were informed by National Institute for Auto Service Excellence that our Automotive program meets the strict industry standards required for ASE Program Accreditation in Maintenance & Light Repair. Our accreditation has been renewed until 2030! ASE recognizes our commitment to providing a quality automobile training program.

We have seen over the years how our students have been able to add industry credentials to their resume while here at East. Our students are finding work in the automotive industry in St Charles and beyond. Additionally, our community auto leaders have become active participants in our program development. Students benefit and our community benefits!



### Also...

#### Car donations accepted here...

Our Auto Tech program is in need of practice vehicles for our students. Can you help? If you (or someone you know) have a 2005 or newer vehicle that you would consider donating to our automotive program, please contact Auto Teacher, Tom Straiker at (331) 228 - 5736 or [thomas.straiker@d303.org](mailto:thomas.straiker@d303.org). The value of the vehicle at the time of donation is tax deductible (check IRS rules at IRS.gov or consult your tax specialist).

#### Congrats are in order..

Congratulations to multi-talented CTE teacher **Thom Ringrose** on earning ASE certification in the areas of Maintenance and Light Repair, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Braking Systems, and Suspension and Steering Systems last fall. Awesome news for our D303 community!

---

# Career & Technical Education

---

## Technology & Engineering



### Auto Club News:

Auto Club students had the opportunity to bring our Mustang project car to a local performance shop for dyno testing in December. The car is a 1995 Mustang GT, and students have rebuilt the engine, disassembled and repaired the transmission, and rebuilt the brakes and suspension systems. Dyno testing was especially interesting, because students did all the planning and installation of their planned performance upgrades to the engine. A dynamometer is used to test the performance output of the engine and drivetrain under the load of moving the car forward. The result was a 17% increase in horsepower and 4% increase in max torque. It was a great after school event.



A big thanks to alumni Hans Anderson, owner of Dean's Performance for inviting us in and donating the dyno time..

---

# Career & Technical Education

---

## Technology & Engineering



### Engineering Design and Development

There are two PLTW events happening in April.

All of the engineering design and development teams are busy completing their final projects and getting ready for competition. On April 23rd East will be hosting the play down to see who will represent D303 at the EDD showcase being held at North Central College on April 28th. The event at East will start at 4:30 with student displays until 6. You will have an opportunity to vote on the displays for best/most unique idea, best presentation, and best prototype/representation of the final product. At 5:30 a Shark Tank type contest will start in which the three top teams from East will take on the top three teams from North to see which teams will advance to the competition at North Central College.

On April 28th at North Central College we will follow a similar schedule and format. The competition is expected to be held in Wentz Engineering hall starting at 4:30 with winners announced at 7:15.

Both of these competitions are an excellent chance to come see student work as well as to show your support for the student, program, and East!

Please contact Michael DeWees at [michael.dewees@d303.org](mailto:michael.dewees@d303.org) with questions or if you would like to help.

**Breakfast of Champions Nominee** -- Audrey Schero was celebrated this month as our Breakfast of Champions Nominee. Audrey received this honor due to her commitment to Engineering as a career and all of the work put in by her the first semester. Audrey is recognized by her peers as a leader and trusted as someone the can count on. Thank you and congratulations Audrey!



# Career & Technical Education

---

## Technology & Engineering



### PLTW Aerospace Engineering

PLTW Aerospace Engineering designed and tested their Mars Rover robots to accomplish a set of tasks on a simulated Martian surface. Rovers were navigated remotely using a camera attached to the rover (just as a real rover would need to be navigated). Teams then put together engineering reports to summarize their findings and reflections.

More recently the Aerospace Engineering class fabricated fiberglass samples as part of their study on material properties, such as moment of inertia and modulus of elasticity. Each group created a set of samples that included a unique design of their own choosing. In the next few weeks groups will test the strength of their samples and compare results!

Coming up in the spring: Gliders, flight simulator practice, and RC planes!

