

District 303 E-NEWS

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St Charles District 303



@StCharlesD303

Administration Center

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St. Charles, IL 60174

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Let's Talk!

October 8, 2021



Anderson StoryWalk

When you wander around in the little forest behind Anderson Elementary, you will come across the school's new StoryWalk, a deconstructed book placed in display cases throughout the forest for individuals to enjoy while strolling.



LRC/Media Specialist Mrs. Majewski had the idea after coming across a StoryWalk one day while out exploring. A StoryWalk combines the love of reading and the outdoors. After much research and finding resources

to help guide her on how to create their own StoryWalk, she brought the idea to Anderson's Principal, Mr. Jarot, who fully supported the project.

With a partial grant from the St. Charles Education Foundation, Mr. Jarot and Mrs. Majewski began working on the installation aspect of the project with support from Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Baird. Eagle Scout Caleb Bolster, a former District 303 student, also became involved with the project after contacting Mr. Jarot as he was looking for a way to serve the St. Charles community and Anderson Elementary.

During the summer, he helped prepare the posts and, once the displays were ready, he helped install them at the beginning of the school year. "He truly did an amazing job

on this project, and I am so proud of how he made this dream become a reality for us," said Mrs. Majewski.

On September 21, Anderson staff and Caleb welcomed parents for the grand opening of the Anderson StoryWalk during their Open House, inviting everyone to enjoy the first book, *All Are Welcome*. Parents commented how much they liked the idea and enjoyed learning about the project. Many are also looking forward to visiting the school again to read the next book.

"I hope to bring an appreciation to reading and the great outdoors, and involve the community by creating a safe and enjoyable place," said Mrs. Majewski. With this project, she also hopes to support the curriculum with STREAM choice board activities for teachers that will allow students to dive deeper into the books.

All displays feature bonus bubbles to encourage readers to discuss the pages and think more critically about the lessons they can learn from the books.



The book displays will be updated on a monthly basis to keep readers engaged and excited for what will come next. During the month of October, the book *Skulls!* by Blair Thornburgh will be on display which will help integrate Halloween and *Dia de los Muertos* activities for all students.

Residential Maintenance students at St. Charles East have been hard at work building a small house, complete with all the working elements of an average home. This course provides students with the opportunity to learn basic maintenance processes and practices frequently encountered in the home as they develop a working knowledge of carpentry, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems.

First, Woods & Residential Maintenance Teacher, Mr. Gutesha, introduced students to the essential components needed to build a home, from the materials and permits to the tools and equipment used. To start the project, each group had to measure and cut pieces of two-by-four to build each individual wall and, in this case, their foundation. Students learned how to hold and swing a hammer properly, drive a nail, and use the circular saw. Mr. Gutesha even commented how several students were getting better at using those tools, especially those using them for the first time.

Once they had all four walls, they assembled them to get the basic framing of the house, which included the opening for the door and a window. Effective and clear communication between each group member was essential during this part of the project as they had to work together to hold the wall upright, align it perfectly and nail it together. The tricky part for many students was making sure the nails were at the correct angle while also nailing them without them bending.

As students saw their small homes taking shape, they expressed how fun the process had been and how proud they were of what they had learned. For the next part of the project, they will learn about the basics of plumbing and electrical, including all the safety precautions. To conclude the project, students will then add the drywall and use a drywall joint compound, or “mud” to fill any holes and strengthen and smooth drywall joints.

Many students expressed how excited they were to finally have a better understanding of how to fix things around their own homes, and some even commented on how they were considering a career in a similar field where they get to use their hands.



Life-Size Art Gallery at Davis

The Davis Primary hallways have been filled with color and unique artwork thanks to Mr. Lundquist and the very creative first graders. As part of their art lesson, students learned about the artistic style of Keith Haring, which focuses on strong black lines to outline objects to add a sense of movement. Inspired by his artwork, students created life-sized drawings of human figures, implementing that same style of strong black lines for the outline and vibrant colors to fill their drawings. The pieces were hung next to one another around the hallways of the school, making students feel like they're part of a moving parade with the figures jumping around and dancing. "I enjoy getting art out into the halls that the students are proud of and also has a strong visual impact," said Mr. Lundquist.

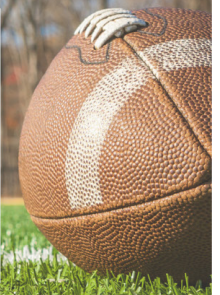


Test to Stay Program in District 303

District 303, in collaboration with SHIELD testing, has implemented a test to stay program for students in our district who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. Participation in the program may decrease the need for students to quarantine if they have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. While the district has made it possible for students to maintain 3 feet of distance in classrooms and 6 feet in the cafeterias, students may be closer than that while riding the bus, which may result in them being quarantined. Students who are enrolled in SHIELD testing prior to possible exposure to COVID-19 or establishing close contact can remain in school as long as they have negative tests and are symptom free on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure.

Visit the [District 303 website](#) or [click on this link](#) to register your child for SHIELD testing.

We are excited that football season is here and would like to remind parents that elementary and middle school students who attend the games must be accompanied by an adult. Please do not drop your children off at the games unsupervised.



Guard the Cookie Jar

Bell Graham students in Mrs. Goodfellow's 2nd grade class designed their own game, "Guard the Cookie Jar," to conclude their Get Out and Play Empower lesson. For the game, which is similar to tag, students had to develop class rules and guidelines before playing it. Students first brainstormed in small groups and came up with different scenarios, applying their problem-solving skills to develop those rules. Some of the scenarios included what to do if two or more individuals touched the "cookie jar" at the same time, or what to do if the "guardian" (the person guarding the cookie jar) stepped out of the boundary.

Students then shared those rules with

the rest of the class, making sure they were being respectful of their classmates' ideas. Occasionally, they would propose modifications and vote on the final rules. Once outside in small groups, a leader guarded the "cookie jar" while the rest of the team tried to "steal" it. Using the rules they established, they developed strategies together to steal the cookie jar from the leader through the power of teamwork.



Early Release Dates & Times for the 2021-2022 School Year

Early Release Dates for all Grade Levels (Pre-K-12)

~~September 1~~

~~September 29~~

October 27

December 1

January 26

February 23

March 23

April 27

Additional Early Release Dates for High School

~~September 15~~

October 13

November 10

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 11

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

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

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

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

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: 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.



FRESHMEN CURRICULUM TO CAREERS SHOWCASE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

October 27, 2021, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

REGISTER

Sponsored by the
Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System Region 110
and the Alignment Collaborative for Education





2021-2022 PARENT UNIVERSITY OFFERINGS

September 30, 2021 - Virtual Event in Spanish

Jueves 30 de Septiembre del 2021 - Evento en español

➤ MÉTODOS MODERNOS Y PRÁCTICOS PARA INICIAR A LOS NIÑOS EN LA LECTURA... EJERCICIOS PARA HACER EN CASA

Por: Ferney Ramírez

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Hacer click para abrir el enlace Zoom

ID de la reunión: 821 6678 3096

Contraseña: 473552

El hábito de leer debe ser una sana costumbre que todos los padres debemos infundir en los hijos a temprana edad. Esta cualidad trae muchos beneficios mentales e intelectuales que le ayudarán a tener Éxito en la escuela y en la universidad donde seguramente, los queremos ver. En este taller haremos actividades para estimular y fomentar la lectura en casa de una manera divertida; de tal modo, que los niños se motiven a tener una rutina de lectura diaria.

District 303 is offering 3 sessions in October based upon Debbie Reber's work. Mrs. Reber is a parenting activist, New York Times bestselling author, podcast host, and speaker who has been inspiring and sparking conversations for parents, women, and teens for twenty years.

October 6, 2021

➤ SOS for Parents in the Trenches

Zoom - 6:30 p.m. (Recording to be posted)

Click here to register!

When parents are feeling exhausted, overwhelmed, and burned out, it's hard to show up in a way that best supports their child's development, especially if/ when our kids are struggling, too. In this practical and actionable talk, Ms. Reber shares ten powerful "tilts," a.k.a. practical ideas to help parents shift their thinking, responses, and actions in a way that will help them feel more confident and peaceful as they parent their unique children.

October 13, 2021

➤ Supporting Kids Who Learn Differently: Back-to-School Edition

Zoom - 6:30 p.m. (Recording to be posted)

Click here to register!

School always presents certain challenges for students who learn and think differently (kids with ADHD, dyslexia, giftedness, autism, anxiety, or other neuro-differences). But the COVID-19 pandemic has created even greater obstacles. Debbie shares ideas on how parents can best prioritize and plan in the pandemic-era school landscape. She also offers advice on how to support differently wired children's cognitive, social, and emotional needs during this atypical time, while also taking care of one's own emotional health and well-being.

October 20, 2021

➤ Facilitated Book Talk: Differently Wired by Debbie Reber

Zoom - 6:30 p.m.

Click here to register!

Dr. Cindy Ruesch, Director of Staff, Family and Student Services, and Dr. Patti Palagi, Director of Instructional Interventions will lead a discussion about the book and how it can help parents embrace and accept their children who think differently. As part of the registration, you will receive a free copy of Ms. Reber's book you may pick up at Town House Books.

December 9, 2021

➤ Empower: Innovative K-5 Learning Experiences in D303

6:00-7:00 p.m.

More information coming soon!

McKinney-Vento Children– Who are they?

McKinney-Vento eligible children are those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime abode. In general, children or youth living in motels, transitional housing, shelters, the street, cars, abandoned buildings, and other inadequate accommodations may be considered eligible for McKinney-Vento services. This includes, but is not limited to, the following groups:

Doubled-up Children	living with another family due to lack of a permanent residence
Children in Shelters	including transitional living programs
Children Living in Motels	due to lack of alternative adequate living situation
Migratory Children	if accommodations are not fit for habitation
Runaways*	children who have left home and live in a shelter or inadequate accommodations, even if parents are willing to provide a home
Lockouts*	children whose parents or guardians will not permit them to live at home

- *These two categories are Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY), child not in the physical custody of their parent or court-ordered guardian and lack a fixed, regular and adequate abode.*

McKinney-Vento Children– What are their rights?

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, as part of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures eligible children have the right to:	
Choice of School	McKinney-Vento Eligible children may attend their school of origin (school last attended or school attended when child lost permanent housing) or attend the school that serves their temporary living situation. Their Caregiver makes the choice.
Immediate Enrollment	even if medical or other records, birth certificates, transcripts, cannot be produced at time of enrollment
Transportation	if requested, transportation must be provided
Preschool	priority consideration to preschool programs for eligible youngsters
Free Lunch & Fee Waivers	categorically eligible for free lunch
Access to remote learning	including meals, devices and WIFI access
Supplemental tutoring	if needed

If you think you might qualify for McKinney-Vento services please contact your school social worker or the district McKinney-Vento Liaison, Dr. Cindy Ruesch at 331-228-6738, cindy.ruesch@d303.org.

For more information you can access the contact information for your local Regional McKinney-Vento liaison at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Subgrant-Liaison-Contact-List.pdf>

Niños McKinney-Vento – ¿Quiénes son?

Los niños elegibles para el McKinney-Vento son aquellos que carecen de un domicilio nocturno fijo, regular y adecuado. En general, niños o jóvenes que viven en moteles, en hogares de transición, en refugios, en las calles, en los carros, en edificios abandonados, y cualesquiera de otras acomodaciones inadecuadas pueden ser considerados elegibles para los servicios de McKinney-Vento. Esto incluye, pero no se limita a, los siguientes grupos:

Niños duplicados o agrupados	<i>viviendo con otra familia debido a la falta de una residencia permanente</i>
Niños en refugios	<i>incluyendo los programas de transición de vivienda</i>
Niños viviendo en moteles	<i>debido a la falta de una situación de vida adecuada alternativa</i>
Niños migrantes	<i>si los alojamientos no son aptos para ser habitados</i>
Fugitivos/Que han abandonado su hogar*	<i>niños que han abandonado su hogar y viven en un refugio o alojamientos inadecuados, incluso si los padres están dispuestos a proporcionarles un hogar</i>
Bloqueos/Cierres*	<i>los niños cuyos padres o guardianes no les permiten vivir en casa</i>

- *Estas dos categorías son jóvenes sin hogar no acompañados (UHY por sus siglas en inglés), niño(a) que no está en la custodia física de su padre o guardián ordenado por la corte y carecen de un domicilio nocturno fijo, regular y adecuado.*

Niños McKinney-Vento – ¿Cuáles son sus derechos?

El programa de educación para niños y jóvenes sin hogar, como parte de la Ley de Asistencia a los Desamparados de McKinney-Vento asegura que los niños elegibles tienen derecho a:

Su elección de escuela	<i>Los niños elegibles para el McKinney-Vento pueden asistir a su escuela de origen (a la última escuela que asistieron o la escuela a la que asistieron cuando el niño(a) perdió su hogar permanente) o asistir a la escuela que sirve a su situación de vida temporal. Su cuidador toma la decisión.</i>
Inscripción inmediata	<i>incluso si los records médicos u otros records, actas de nacimiento, expedientes, no pueden ser producidos en el momento de la inscripción</i>
Transporte	<i>si se solicita, se debe de proporcionar transporte</i>
Preescolar	<i>consideración prioritaria a los programas preescolares para los jóvenes elegibles</i>
Exención de cuotas y almuerzo gratuito	<i>categoricamente elegible para el almuerzo gratis</i>
Acceso al aprendizaje a distancia	<i>incluyendo alimentos, dispositivos, y acceso a internet</i>
Tutoría suplementaria	<i>si lo necesita</i>

Si crees que calificas para los servicios de McKinney-Vento, por favor, contacta al trabajador(a) social de tu escuela o a la persona de contacto del Distrito para el programa McKinney-Vento, la Dra. Cindy Ruesch al 331-228-6738, cindy.ruesch@d303.org.

Para más información, acceda a la información de contacto de su enlace regional local de McKinney-Vento en <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Subgrant-Liaison-Contact-List.pdf>

Upcoming School Board Meetings

October 12

School Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

*Tuesday due to Columbus Day Holiday

October 14

CAC Executive Team Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

October 18

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

October 21

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

October 25

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

2021-2022 Calendar Highlights

October 11

Columbus Day Holiday

(No Students, Offices Closed)



October 13

- High School Early Release Day

- Parent University - Supporting Kids Who Learn Differently: Back-to-School Edition (Via Zoom); 6:30 p.m. [Click here to register!](#)

October 20

Parent University Facilitated Book Talk: Differently Wired by Debbie Reber (Via Zoom); 6:30 p.m.

[Click here to register!](#)

Submit to the Community Backpack

District 303 distributes information electronically from non-profit organizations, intergovernmental agencies and business partners for which it grants approval. Information can be posted on this Community Backpack webpage throughout the school year. Those wishing to submit information to be posted must do so electronically by emailing a completed [CB Flyer Request Form](#) and a PDF of the requested posting to the District 303 Administration Center, in care of [Janelle Magana](#) at least ten days in advance of the desired posting date. Additionally, when submitting the first posting request of the school year, a completed [Certificate of Not-For-Profit Status Form](#) must also be completed and submitted with a copy of the groups 501(c)3 certificate.

Prior to submitting, please [read details regarding our distribution guidelines](#). The decision to post is at the discretion of District 303 administrators, based on these guidelines.



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