

# District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

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**March 15, 2024**



## D303 United Athletes Win Big at State

Congratulations are in order for the D303 United athletes who competed in the Special Olympics Illinois State Basketball Skills Competition in Bloomington on Saturday, March 9.

Lincoln Elementary student Myra placed 1st in the F4 Division, earning the title of State Champion. Thompson Middle School student, Joshua, took home 3rd place in the M6 Division. They competed against other athletes in Illinois in shooting, dribbling, and passing stations, and demonstrated great skills, determination, and sportsmanship.



## 17th Annual Fiddle Fest Brings Music Enthusiasts and Professionals Together

Over 600 performers participated in the highly anticipated District 303 Fiddle Fest on March 1st at St. Charles East High School. All came together for this wonderful event, from orchestra students in 4th grade through high school to parents, staff, and community members.

Performances included lively fiddle and folk music, rock and roll, the professional group Big Sky Ensemble, bagpiper David Johnston, dancers from Weber Irish Dance School, and many more. With this and other events, the District 303 orchestra staff seeks to enhance students' musical experiences by connecting them with professionals in the music field and nurturing their creativity and enthusiasm for lifelong music-making.

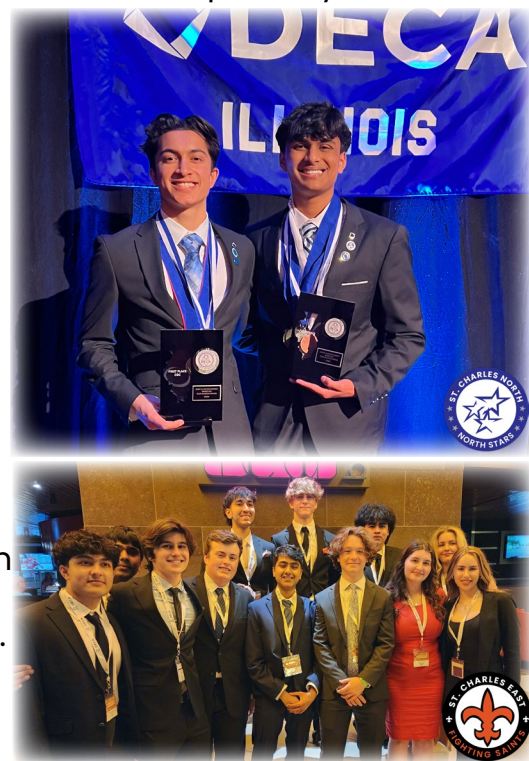


## North Marketing Team Takes 1st at Conference

Earlier this month, St. Charles East and North students attended the 2024 Illinois Career Development Conference in Rosemont, sponsored by DECA. The competition drew over 1,800 students and consisted of role-play scenarios and competency and economics tests.

The Sports and Entertainment Marketing team of Keshav Gupta and Dylan Varghese from St. Charles North won 1st place to become State Champions in their respective team event, qualifying for nationals later this spring in California.

All of the 23 North state qualifiers who attended the event received a competency award in at least one part of their event, a historical achievement for the team. Additionally, the following students placed as overall winners in their events and were awarded the following: Renesh Arcot, 3rd place in Business Finance Series Individual Role Play; Ryan Baby, Silver iConnect SCN Team Award; and Ava Hoecker and Eva Weyman, 1st place in Buying & Merchandising Team Decision Making Role Play. The St. Charles East DECA team demonstrated great effort during the competition and was recognized as a Silver Star Chapter. Congratulations to all the students!



### **EAST:**

Valerie Barrett  
Ryan Cassady  
Delia Connelly  
Uriel Cruz

Lillian Dirickson  
Ozy Farooq  
Nolan Franzetti  
Om Luhar  
Sri Vatsav Pedarla

Sebastian Semenek  
Aayush Shah  
Alex Sternowski

### **NORTH:**

Luke Anderson  
Renesh Arcot  
Ryan Baby  
Aliya Clayton  
Ishan Dhingani  
Katelyn Dorn  
Alanna Gupta

Keshav Gupta  
Ava Hoecker  
Daniel Hokr  
Aryan Kalani  
Ayaan Khan  
Reagan Klug  
Ettoile Luna  
Tristan Melton

Tristan O'Dowd  
Ella Petersen  
Noah Plumb  
Soham Sampat  
Camryn Sieloff  
Dylan Varghese  
Camden Vine  
Eva Weyman

District 303

## **BOUNDARY UPDATE**

During the March 11 Board meeting, District Administration provided an [update](#) on its boundary communication and implementation plan. With boundaries approved starting with the 2024-2025 school year, communication is shifting from Districtwide to school principals, who are beginning to engage with their new boundary families.



## 2024 Annual BIG Game at East



It was a tightly contested game, with the Hotshot Ravens edging out the Slam Dunk Sharks by a score of 27-20.

"It's much bigger than the game," said Donna Wisely, Saints ISO coach. "This event unifies our students and staff and shows the surrounding communities what it truly means to be all in."

Recently, the Saints ISO basketball team competed in their annual BIG Game alongside the boys' and girls' varsity basketball squads. During the contest, which serves as a fundraiser for Saints ISO, all of the athletes were divided into two teams in order to play in a unified format.

The evening included t-shirt sales, concessions, and a 50/50 raffle, as well as performances from Team Polaris and the school's Cheerleading and Dance teams. Prior to the game, senior athletes Vanessa French, Mitchell Hahn, Nolan Karrick, and Phillip Waln were recognized along with their parents.

## New Robotics Team Brings Unique Opportunities for Students

It's the first full year for the Vex Robotics Club at St. Charles East, and they're off to a strong start following a recent competition. In late February, the Saints split into two teams for the Great Lakes VRC Tournament at Batavia High School. One team's robot made it into the elimination round, while the other team's robot won the Judge's Award for perseverance and effort.



VEX Robotics, which is designed to teach students STEM skills, has been met with "tremendous support" at East according to club advisor and technology education teacher Anthony Cerqua. Much of their startup cost was covered by a sponsorship with Navistar, and a grant provided by the St. Charles Youth Commission.





## River Erosion Prevention Project at Thompson

Thompson 6th grade students in Dr. Elizabeth Thomas' class had the opportunity to engage in a hands-on science project where they modeled the phenomenon of sediment movement in a river using a stream table that provides evidence for how geoscience processes, like erosion and deposition, change the Earth's surface.

Students applied the scientific and engineering practices of asking questions and defining problems as they designed and redesigned a system to prevent river erosion. Within their groups, students worked collaboratively to develop their models using only 10 Lego pieces, 1 mesh tube, rocks, 90 mL of "cookie dough" sand, and 50 mL of water. During two class periods, they followed a multi-step procedure to carry out the experiment, from designing their models to redesigning them based on their trials and observations.



Students developed a better understanding of how water's movements under the force of gravity contribute to the formation of landforms, such as canyons, channels, and deltas. Additionally, the students applied scientific knowledge of how the Earth's systems interact over varying time scales to consider the natural and human impact of stream control.

## Tropical Escape at Davis

To cap off their One School, One Book reading program, Davis hosted a Family Learning Night based on their book of choice, "High Tide in Hawaii."

Students participated in educational activities with a Hawaiian theme, such as building sand castles in their Empower classroom or learning about equilibrium by placing seashells on a balance scale.

District 303 staff and Administrators volunteered to be guest readers for the I Lava Good Book portion of the night, helping students engage with other stories with hopes of fostering a continued love of reading.





**M**unhall students explored the wonders of science through a variety of hands-on activities, demonstrations, and exploration during the Science Night on March 8, 2024.

This year's event featured 28 activities facilitated by St. Charles East High School students from the Science National Honors

Society and parent volunteers. The activities incorporated many different scientific concepts and disciplines, including Newton's Laws of Motion, engineering and design, sound, light, optics, reflection/refraction, chemical reactions, magnetism, electricity, pressure, the law of conservation of mass, and weather.

Local community organizations also took part in the event, hosting activities to help students learn and explore how science is applied in the real world. The organizations included American Science Surplus, Cosley Zoo, Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Kane County Health Department, Kane County Recycling/Sustainability Department, NIU American Meteorological Society, the St. Charles Fire and Police Department, the St. Charles Public Library, and University of Illinois Extension Program. Thank you to all those who participated and contributed to this amazing night.

### Local Vietnam Veterans Share Stories, Experiences with Students

**O**n March 5, a panel of six local Vietnam veterans visited St. Charles North to share their stories with students in American Studies and Modern American History classes. The high schoolers have been learning about the Vietnam War this semester, and the panel gave them an opportunity to hear testimonials from people who experienced the conflict first-hand. After a brief presentation from each veteran, students engaged in a Q&A session to engage further with the speakers.

Since 2019, St. Charles North U.S. History educators have been partnering with Vietnam veterans from the St. Charles community to help students make more authentic connections with their learning. Thank you to Duane Buttell, Mike Johns, Joe Morgan, Mike Pikulyk, Ron Sassano, and Jake Wyatt for visiting and for giving District 303 students a deeper insight into the Vietnam War. A special thank you to Rich Zawislak for his support and partnership.







# Kindergarten Enrollment

Complete the kindergarten enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year online!

**Feb. 26 – March 22**

*For more information, visit the New Student Enrollment & Registration page on the District 303 website.*

# Inscripción de Kindergarten

¡Completa la inscripción para kindergarten para el año escolar 2024-2025 en línea!

**26 de febrero – 22 de marzo**

*Para más información, acceda a la página web de Inscripción de Nuevos Estudiantes (New Student Enrollment & Registration) en el sitio web del Distrito 303.*

## View Upcoming School Board Meetings

Note: District 303 Board and Board Committee meetings will be held at Thompson Middle School in the LRC (705 West Main Street, St. Charles, IL). A permanent meeting venue will become available later this year.

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

**March 21**  
Policy Committee Meeting - 4:30 p.m.  
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

**April 8**  
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

**April 15**  
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

## **2023-2024** School Calendar Highlights

**March 20**  
All Grade Level (PreK-12) Early Release Day

**Spring Break**  
March 25 - March 29  
School Resumes: April 1, 2024

**April 3**  
High School Early Release Day

**April 10**  
High School Early Release Day

**April 17**  
High School Early Release Day

**April 19**  
School Improvement Day (No Students)