

# District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

## Administration Center

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Contact us!

February 2, 2024



## Bear Down On Bullies Assembly at Norton Creek

**N**orton Creek students enthusiastically welcomed Staley Da Bear, the official Chicago Bears mascot, for the Bear down on Bullies assembly.

Through a series of fun lessons and examples, students were encouraged to celebrate their differences and be supportive of one another. Staley shared five important tips on how to combat bullying: Stop and Walk; Stick up for what's right; Include don't exclude; Adults can help; and RESPECT. Students laughed, cheered, and most importantly learned how to help make their school a welcoming and safe space for all.



## Heart Adventure Challenge Course at Bell-Graham

**E**lementary students across the district are taking part in the Heart Adventure Challenge Course (HACC), a larger-than-life health lesson to help them better understand the cardiovascular system.



At Bell-Graham, students first watch informational videos and discuss as a class what they learned, reviewing new vocabulary and learning about the heart and the body. Then, students go through the fun obstacle course as blood cells, learning first hand how blood travels through the body. They started in the superior vena cava, moved through the arteries, learned about the aorta, and even answered math questions to mimic how blood reaches the brain.

The HACC is traveling equipment used by all elementary schools. While there have been new additions to the course throughout the years, the most recent addition was a replacement of the central mat used as the aorta thanks to a grant received from the St. Charles Education Foundation.

"This is a fun learning experience for students and every year they look forward to it," stated Rebecca Seidling, Wellness and PE teacher at Bell-Graham.



# BOUNDARY UPDATE

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At the January 29 Business Services Committee meeting, the Board received presentations from RSP & Associates and District Administration that analyzed elementary boundary concept maps.

District Administration analysis shows that elementary Concept 2 is best aligned to the Board's selection criteria with respect to projected enrollment and building utilization. The Board expressed interest in examining elementary Concept 2, with minor revisions, at the February 5 Special Business Services Committee meeting.

Final votes on the concept maps at each level; elementary, middle and high school is expected by the Board at its February 12 meeting.

## [Read Full Meeting Summary](#)

### January 16, 2024

*Learning and Teaching; 5:30 pm*  
Board determines middle and high school concepts to move forward for final vote Feb. 12

### January 29, 2024

*Business Services; 5:30 pm*  
Board receives additional elementary concept map from RSP. District recommends one elementary concept map for the Board to move forward, pending minor revisions.

### February 5, 2024

*Special Business Svcs; 5:30 pm*  
Board seeks consensus on revised elementary concept map to move forward for final vote on Feb. 12

### February 12, 2024

*School Board; 6:00 pm*  
Board takes final vote on concept maps for elementary, middle and high school

## Career Speaker Series at North



**S**t. Charles North High School students recently met with a local animator who has worked on some immensely popular childhood films. Brian Ferguson, a long-time Disney employee and current animation professor at DePaul, visited the school to discuss his professional journey.

Ferguson talked about his years in school, getting started in animation, and how being involved in small assignments led to some

great opportunities. He talked about the role he played in many films, such as "The Lion King," animating a mouse and Timon, his involvement in "Pocahontas," "Hercules," "Aladdin," and even "Tarzan" and "Fantasia." He answered student questions about the future of animation, how long films take to animate, and discussed some of the important lessons he has learned.

The event was part of the school's ongoing Career Speaker Series. Organized by the College and Career Readiness Department, community members from different occupations can sign up to share their stories, information about their careers, and answer questions from students. The goal is to provide exposure to a wide range of possible jobs, welcoming guests in the psychology, marketing, and STEM fields. Later in the spring, they hope to connect with city employees and have them share about their jobs and careers.





# Kindergarten Enrollment for 2024-2025

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

**February 26 – March 22**

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



# Inscripción de Kindergarten para 2024-2025

¡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.*





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.

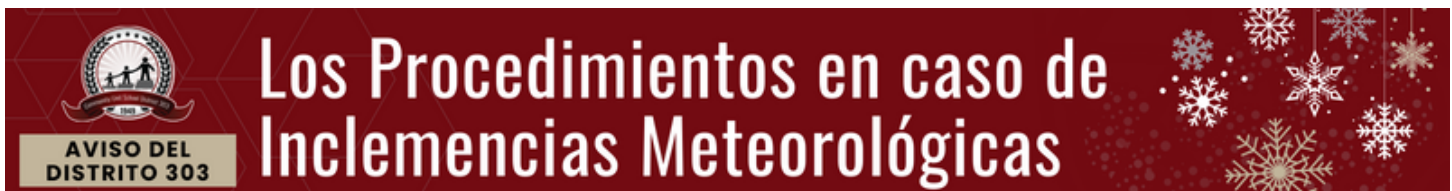
### When Will a Decision Be Made?

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 Finals site (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](#).



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 Finals site (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](#).



PARENT EDUCATION SERIES PRESENTS

# Let's Talk About It: Race to Be Human Discussion Series

*Presented by Impactful, LLC & District 303 Staff*



- **January 31, 2024:**  
How Can I Help My Child Learn About and Appreciate Other Peoples' Ethnic and Cultural Identities?
- **February 7, 2024:**  
How Do I Talk to My Child about How Identity Affects People's Lived Realities?
- **February 21, 2024:**  
What Can We Do in Our Communities and Beyond to be More Inclusive?

All Sessions:  
**6:00-7:00pm**  
**Changed to VIRTUAL**

Register at:  
**[district.d303.org/parent-education](https://district.d303.org/parent-education)**

## Upcoming School Board Meetings

- February 5  
Special Business Services Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- February 12  
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- February 20  
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- February 26  
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- March 11  
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

## 2023-2024 School Calendar Highlights

- February 7
  - High School Early Release Day
  - Parent Education - Let's Talk About It: Race to Be Human Discussion Series (Part 2)
- February 14  
High School Early Release Day
- February 19  
Presidents' Day Holiday (No Students, Offices Closed)

Check out the  
**Community Backpack**

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

**CLICK HERE**

# 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:

<b>Doubled-up Children</b>	living with another family due to lack of a permanent residence
<b>Children in Shelters</b>	including transitional living programs
<b>Children Living in Motels</b>	due to lack of alternative adequate living situation
<b>Migratory Children</b>	if accommodations are not fit for habitation
<b>Runaways*</b>	children who have left home and live in a shelter or inadequate accommodations, even if parents are willing to provide a home
<b>Lockouts*</b>	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:	
<b>Choice of School</b>	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.
<b>Immediate Enrollment</b>	even if medical or other records, birth certificates, transcripts, cannot be produced at time of enrollment
<b>Transportation</b>	if requested, transportation must be provided
<b>Preschool</b>	priority consideration to preschool programs for eligible youngsters
<b>Free Lunch &amp; Fee Waivers</b>	categorically eligible for free lunch
<b>Access to remote learning</b>	including meals, devices and WIFI access
<b>Supplemental tutoring</b>	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](mailto: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:

<b>Niños duplicados o agrupados</b>	<i>viviendo con otra familia debido a la falta de una residencia permanente</i>
<b>Niños en refugios</b>	<i>incluyendo los programas de transición de vivienda</i>
<b>Niños viviendo en moteles</b>	<i>debido a la falta de una situación de vida adecuada alternativa</i>
<b>Niños migrantes</b>	<i>si los alojamientos no son aptos para ser habitados</i>
<b>Fugitivos/Que han abandonado su hogar*</b>	<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>
<b>Bloqueos/Cierres*</b>	<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?

<i>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:</i>	
<b>Su elección de escuela</b>	<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>
<b>Inscripción inmediata</b>	<i>incluso si los records médicos u otros records, actas de nacimiento, expedientes, no pueden ser producidos en el momento de la inscripción</i>
<b>Transporte</b>	<i>si se solicita, se debe de proporcionar transporte</i>
<b>Preescolar</b>	<i>consideración prioritaria a los programas preescolares para los jóvenes elegibles</i>
<b>Exención de cuotas y almuerzo gratuito</b>	<i>categoricamente elegible para el almuerzo gratis</i>
<b>Acceso al aprendizaje a distancia</b>	<i>incluyendo alimentos, dispositivos, y acceso a internet</i>
<b>Tutoría suplementaria</b>	<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](mailto: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>