

District 303 E-NEWS

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St Charles District 303



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August 16, 2019



Summer Project Synergy Students Host Open House for Families



Incoming freshmen students hosted a summer Project Synergy Open House at East High School on August 2, showcasing a variety of design projects they created by applying the Project Lead The Way Engineering Design Process.

"The summer experience for the incoming freshmen is an intensive two-week process spread across the bulk of the summer with an independent project taking place between the two weeks of face to face work,"



said Mr. Ringrose, PLTW teacher at East and one of the instructors of the Project Synergy Summer Program. "The main objective is to prepare the students to by-

pass the introductory level PLTW course, Introduction to Engineering Design, and move directly to the Principles of Engineering Course."

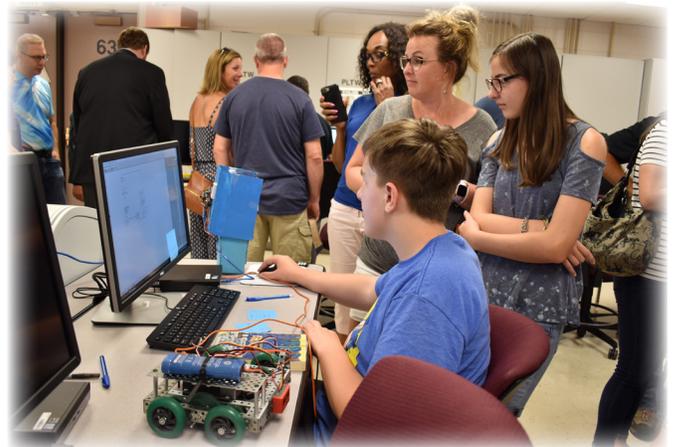
Students researched, brainstormed, tested, and improved their models while focusing on procedural thinking and strategic problem-solving. Then, they showcased their final 3D models, small projectiles, integrated microprocessor projects, and original computer programming.

"We first designed the project, worked through the details and what we needed, and then we applied every step in the engineering design process to create our final designs," said Freshman student, Cole, the

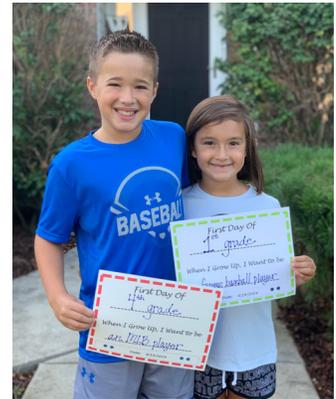
Designated Student Community Liaison Communications Officer for the event. "We made wooden puzzle cubes and wooden board games using the drill stations. We also did a lot of coding and worked with robots, which was really fun," he added.

Parents, family members, and staff circled around the room, exploring the different stations. Some students' siblings took on the wooden cube puzzle challenge, while several parents spent a bit of extra time learning about robots and how coding makes the robot move in different directions.

"This is a great introduction for students. My son is a freshman and this is an exciting experience for him," said Tammy Davis as she learned more about her son's work. "I love the fact that the school has thought of making a program that exposes students to these topics and they get to work at their own pace," she added.



BACK to SCHOOL



See more #D303FirstDay photos on [Instagram @StCharlesD303](#)

THOMPSON OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

705 West Main Street, St. Charles, IL



District 303 invites the entire community to an open house at the newly remodeled Thompson Middle School. The renovation project, which began in the summer of 2017, added air conditioning, 31 new classrooms, 11 new science labs, a new auxiliary gym, an expanded cafeteria, and a new track and field area. In addition, the newly constructed bus drop off and pick-up area behind the school will improve traffic flow on Indiana and 7th Streets.

After a short ceremony at 5:30 p.m., eighth grade students from the Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) program will conduct tours of the new facility. Student performances will be held throughout the building, and historical artifacts dating back to Thompson High School will be on display.



ANNUAL KICK-A-THON

The annual Kick-A-Thon is Friday, October 4, 2019 before the start of the varsity football game between North and East at St. Charles East High School. We hope you will join the St. Charles East and North dance teams kick to fight cancer. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the American Cancer Society, The Living Well Cancer Center in Geneva and Fox Valley Food for Health.



Visit <http://www.kick-a-thon.org> to make a donation, become a community kicker or corporate sponsor, or for more details.

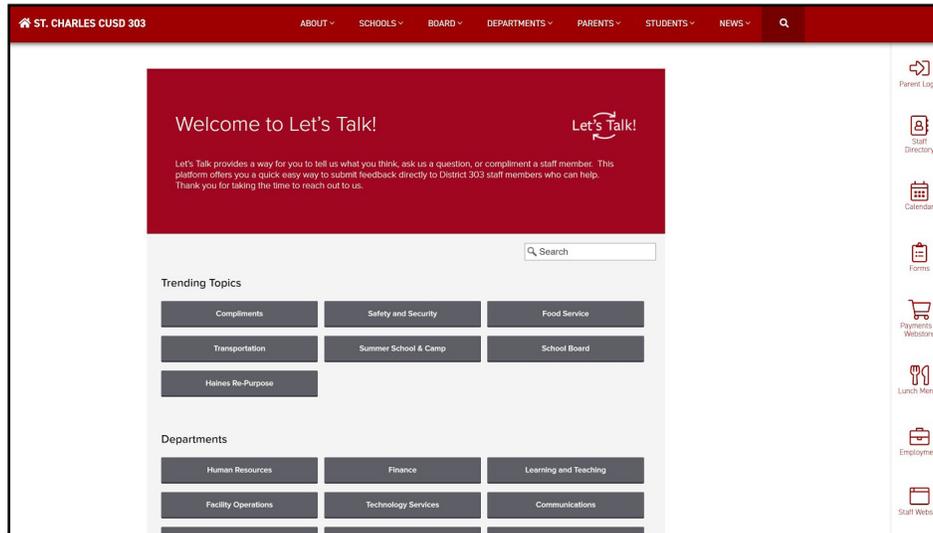
District 303 Welcomes you to Let's Talk!®

The newest customer service tool in District 303 launched on August 1. "Let's Talk!" provides a way for everyone – students, staff, parents and community members – to share their feedback, ask questions, make suggestions, or compliment a staff member.

"Let's Talk!" makes it easy to join the conversation about how to strengthen our schools and better serve our students. This platform offers a quick, easy way to submit feedback directly to District 303 staff members who can help.

You may find the Let's Talk! button on the front of the D303 website (district.d303.org) or on any school's website. At those locations, you will find buttons for hot topics, district departments, and schools.

When you submit a question, comment, or suggestion we will respond to you within two business days. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to hearing from you.



School Improvement Day on August 30

In January, the School Board approved the calendar for the 2019–2020 school year. Each year, there are days set aside that are used to provide our teachers with professional learning time. This year, our calendar includes both full day and half day institutes. We want to remind parents that the first half day institute takes place on **August 30**. While the arrival times are the same, students will be dismissed on the following half day schedule:

➤ **High School:** 7:20am–10:45am

➤ **Middle School:** 8:30am–12:10pm

➤ **Elementary School:** 8:40am–11:40am

➤ **Richmond:** 8:00am–11:40am

➤ **Preschool:** No morning and afternoon classes

➤ **Kindergarten:** No afternoon classes

Important Bus Route Information

On Wednesday, August 14, schools in St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 welcomed over 12,000 students back for their first day of class. While it is an exciting time of the year for students, parents, and staff members, it is also a time when the volume of traffic on roads in and around St. Charles increases. For that reason, we are asking for your assistance in keeping all students safe while they travel between home and school.

The District 303 Transportation Department takes pride in its record of safety and service. Due to ongoing construction on roads within our district, we recommend that you encourage your child to ride the school bus, if that is an option. This will assist with traffic flow around the schools and ensure that students are dropped off in a secure location. Please only drive your student to school if it is absolutely necessary.

We ask that you remember the following items that will help keep our students safe during the school year:

- When you drive in the neighborhoods near schools while students are in session, please observe the posted speed limit signs - 25 mph in residential areas, and 20 mph in school zones.
- Please don't cut through neighborhoods as part of your route to or from our schools.
- Cell phone use is prohibited in school zones.
- Passing a school bus that is stopped and has its stop sign extended is a violation of the law, which can result in license suspension.



During the first week of school, additional student loading time is necessary to ensure that all students are safely on their buses after school. Because of the late departure times, bus routes may run 10-20 minutes late in the afternoon.

The bus routes developed by our Transportation Department during the summer are designed to maximize safety and work as efficiently as possible. During the first two weeks of school, our drivers and transportation department administrators will gather information about the efficiency and timeliness of routes. After that time, any necessary changes will be made and parents will be informed. **We ask that you do not contact the transportation department during those two weeks.**

We encourage parents to check their child's bus route to see if there have been any updates since the routes were released. Parents can access e-link by visiting the District website at www.d303.org. Within the "For Parents" menu choose **Bus Routes e-Link** and login using your Home Access Center (HAC) credentials. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

Lunchroom Supervisors Needed!



District 303 is looking for candidates to serve as Lunchroom Supervisors for the 2019-2020 school year under Organic Life. The application form along with additional information about the required forms can be found online, <http://district.d303.org/employment>.

Contact Patricia Burton at 331-228-5242 or patricia.burton@d303.org to arrange for delivery of completed application. Please do not attempt to apply online, as application forms need to be printed.

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED!

Community Unit School District 303 is currently recruiting bus drivers for the 2019-2020 school year.

Starting pay for the part-time positions that are 4-5 hours per day is \$19.36 per hour. Drivers are responsible for a variety of routes including student pick-up in the mornings and drop off in the afternoons. Special routes for field trips, extra-curricular activities and the Fox Valley Career Center are also scheduled through District 303 transportation.

The District will train qualified candidates who want to obtain their Commercial Driver's License. The process takes about 6 weeks so those interested should apply in the next few weeks to give them time to be trained prior to the beginning of the school year.

Interested individuals may apply online at <http://district.d303.org/employment>, visit the Transportation Office at 901 S. Peck Rd., or call the Transportation Office at 331.228.5180.



Community Backpack



Upcoming School Board Meetings

August 19
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
Special Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

August 24
Special Board Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

August 26
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

September 9
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

September 16
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2019-2020 Calendar Highlights

August 30
School Improvement Day/ Half Day*
(No Students Afternoon)
**See page 4 for more information*

September 2
Labor Day Holiday (No Students, Offices Closed)



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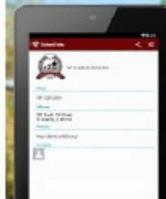
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FREE

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Easily connect with
teachers & staff

Integrate with the
all-in-one calendars



Search St. Charles CUSD 303 to download

The official St. Charles CUSD 303 app gives you a personalized window into what is happening at the district and schools. Get the news and information that you care about and get involved.



COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 303
201 South 7th Street, St. Charles, IL 60174

**2019-2020
 School Calendar**

July

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

August

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

September

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

October

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

November

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

December

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

AUGUST

Teacher Institute Days (No Students) August 12-13
 First Day of Classes..... August 14
 School Improvement/Half Day (No Students Afternoon) August 30

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day HolidaySeptember 2

OCTOBER

School Improvement/Half Day (No Students Afternoon).....October 11
 Columbus Day HolidayOctober 14
 End of 1st Quarter (Middle, High Schools)October 18

NOVEMBER

End of 1st Trimester (Elementary Schools)..... November 1
 School Improvement/Half Day (No Students Afternoon)..November 13
 K-12 Parent/Teacher Conference (No Students).....November 25
 K-8 Parent/Teacher Conference (No Students).....November 26
 High School Teachers' In-Service (No Students).....November 26
 Non Attendance Day (Offices Open)November 27
 Thanksgiving BreakNovember 28, 29

DECEMBER

Last Day of School in 2019.....December 20
 End of 2nd Quarter (Middle, High Schools)..... December 20
 Winter BreakDecember 23 - January 3

JANUARY

Teacher Work Day (Middle, High Schools No students) January 6
 Teacher Institute Day (Elementary Schools No Students).... January 6
 School Resumes.....January 7
 Martin Luther King, Jr HolidayJanuary 20

FEBRUARY

Presidents' Day Holiday February 17
 End of 2nd Trimester (Elementary Schools).....February 21
 Teacher Work Day (Elementary Schools No Students).....February 28
 Teacher Institute Day (Middle/High Schools No Students)..February 28

MARCH

End of 3rd Quarter (Middle, High Schools).....March 13
 Spring BreakMarch 30-31

APRIL

Spring Break April 1-3
 School Resumes..... April 6
 K-5 Afternoon Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-5 in classes in AM)
 (K-5 ONLY-- No students in PM) April 9
 Teacher Institute Day (No Students) April 10

MAY

School Improvement/Half Day (No Students Afternoon)..... May 6
 Last Day for Students if no "Emergency Days" used.....May 22
 Memorial Day Holiday.....May 25

JUNE

Last Day for Students if 5 "Emergency Days" used..... June 1

January

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

February

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

April

M	T	W	T	F
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13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

May

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
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18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

June

M	T	W	T	F
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8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			