

# District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

**Administration Center**  
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St. Charles, IL 60174  
331.228.2000  
Contact us!

**October 6, 2023**



## 30th Annual Kick-A-Thon

It was a beautiful night to celebrate a worthy cause at the 30th Annual Kick-A-Thon, held at the cross-town classic football game between St. Charles East and North on September 22.

Thanks to all of our schools, families and community members for their support of this year's event, which benefits Fox Valley Food for Health and the Colette A. Miles Foundation (Colette's Crew).





## Top Finishes for Saints ISO Team

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The Saints ISO team participated in the Region C Bocce Tournament in Northlake, Illinois, and earned top places. St. Charles East Sophomore student Nate Borrico and Junior student Cullen Hand each earned a gold medal, qualifying for the State Tournament next June. Student-athletes Mitchell Hahn and Hayden Haneberg both earned silver medals in the tournament.

For the first time, the Saints ISO entered a Unified Doubles Team in the competition. Senior athlete Nolan Karrick partnered with Junior Sam Tisch and earned a silver medal.

In Traditional Doubles, Vanessa French and Elliott Bordonni earned silver, Mitchell Hahn and Alexzander Hobbs Hernandez earned bronze, and Ola Boniak and Fabian Valinskas earned 4th place. Congratulations to all the student-athletes who participated in the tournament!



Sam Tisch; Nolan Karrick



Nate Borrico



Mitchell Hahn



Cullen Hand; Hayden Haneberg



Vanessa French; Elliott Bordonni



Alexzander Hobbs Hernandez;  
Mitchell Hahn



Fabian Valinskas; Ola Boniak

## Special Olympics Coaches Declared “Enthusiasm Experts”

Congratulations to Special Olympics coaches Shona Fowler (Physical Therapist) and Julie Misner (Wasco PE/Wellness Teacher) for receiving the “Experts of Enthusiasm” award from the Illinois Special Olympics. The “Dynamic Duo” was recognized for their outstanding enthusiasm at the Special Olympics events, cheering and celebrating their athletes’ accomplishments. They also continuously express their gratitude to the Special Olympics Region staff for the countless hours of thoughtful work they do to support and host the competitions.





Compass Academy students in the Neuroscience, Brain, and Behavior seminar recently dug deeper into their learning experience. In this cross-curricular class, co-taught by Social Studies Teacher Janelle VanDeSampel and Science Teacher Andy Head, students explored the brain through the lenses of both biology and psychology.

First, students learned about the parts of the nervous system, as well as the structure and functioning of the brain. After researching one specific part of the brain, the class had the opportunity to dissect sheep brains. This process enabled them to observe the physical structures of the brain, both isolated parts and the interconnected whole. They also identified similarities and differences between the sheep brain and what they've learned about the human brain.

Following this experience, students in this seminar are building on this new knowledge by designing their own research studies exploring the brain's role in a human activity that interests them.



**NEW EPISODE!**  Listen Now!

 **VOICES**  
OF DISTRICT 303

**HOW DISTRICT 303 DEVELOPED ITS STRATEGIC PLAN**

Members of the Strategic Plan Development Committee discuss their involvement with the plan's creation and the impact it will have for District 303.



PARENT EDUCATION SERIES PRESENTS

# Make Kindness Go Viral: Addressing Cyberbullying at Home

Presented by Sameer Hinduja, PhD. |  
*Cyberbullying Research Center*

**Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023**

**7:00pm**

**Virtual Presentation**  
(Register for the link)

Visit [district.d303.org/parent-education](https://district.d303.org/parent-education) for more information.



The Parent Education series (formerly Parent University) includes informational meetings and workshops intended to empower parents and guardians to support their children's academic, social and emotional needs.

Sessions for the 2023-2024 school year will focus on bullying prevention, addressing anxiety, and include film screenings and discussions about the impact of screen time and cultural awareness. The schedule also includes college preparation workshops hosted by our high schools. Sessions were selected based in part on feedback from District 303 parents.

Explore the [full lineup of sessions here](#). Signup forms for each session will be made available closer to the session dates. New this year, you can also [register for Parent Education notifications](#) and receive alerts as new information and session recaps become available.

## ***Serie de Educación para Padres***

La serie de Educación para Padres (anteriormente Universidad para Padres) incluye reuniones informativas y talleres destinados a capacitar a los padres y tutores para apoyar las necesidades académicas, sociales y emocionales de sus hijos.

Las sesiones del año escolar 2023-2024 se centrarán en la prevención del acoso escolar, cómo abordar la ansiedad, e incluirán proyecciones de películas y pláticas sobre el impacto del tiempo frente a la pantalla y la concienciación cultural. El programa también incluye talleres de preparación para la universidad organizados por nuestras escuelas preparatorias. Las sesiones fueron seleccionadas basándose en parte en los comentarios de los padres del Distrito 303.

Explore la [lista completa de sesiones aquí](#). Los formularios de inscripción para cada sesión estarán disponibles cuando se acerquen las fechas de las sesiones. También puede [registrarse para recibir notificaciones](#) y alertas cuando haya nueva información y resúmenes de las sesiones.



# Important Information

FROM DISTRICT 303

## ***Standard Response Protocol (SRP)***

The District adopted the [Standard Response Protocol](#) (SRP) from the I Love U Guys Foundation last spring. The SRP is designed to provide consistent, clear, shared language and actions among all students, staff and first responders during emergencies. It is a trusted brand for several preK-12 school districts and higher education across the country. Locally, the SRP is utilized in many area school districts and has the support of the St. Charles Police Department and other local emergency response agencies.

## **North's Newspaper Wins Grant, Writers Honored**

It's been an exciting start to the school year for the St. Charles North High School newspaper club, "The Stargazer." The group was recently awarded a grant from the Illinois Journalism Education Association, which they will use to buy media equipment to help them build their video news team, podcasts, and photography content.

Additionally, they attended the Illinois JEA Fall Conference last week at ISU with three students earning top places in the Write-Off competition. Congratulations to Tyler Moore, for placing 1st in News Writing; Jadyn Murvine, for placing 2nd in Editorial Writing; and Tess Arendt, for placing 3rd in Features Writing.



Check out the  
**Community Backpack**

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

[CLICK HERE](#)



# Is Your Contact Information Up-to-date?

**Ensure You're Getting Timely District Alerts**



District 303 uses Finalsite (formerly ParentLink) to send mass notices to multiple people simultaneously. Informational or emergency messages are sent to the contact information you have on file. While email is the primary way we send communications, text or voice calls may also be sent. To receive emergency or other timely messages, we strongly encourage families to enable text notifications.

Please note, unsubscribing from ParentLink emails or replying "stop" to text messages will disable all informational messages from your child(s) school and the District. You will still receive emergency communications. [Visit the Home Access Center website](#) for information on how to view and edit your contact settings.

## Early Release Dates & Times for the 2023-2024 School Year



### All Grade Levels (Pre-K-12)

#### Early Release Days

August 30

September 27

October 25

November 29

January 24

February 21

March 20

April 24

### High School Early

#### Release Days

Every Wednesday

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

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

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

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

Transition: 7:45 a.m. - 1:10 p.m.

Elementary School: 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.



## Ferson Creek Students Take Reading to New Heights

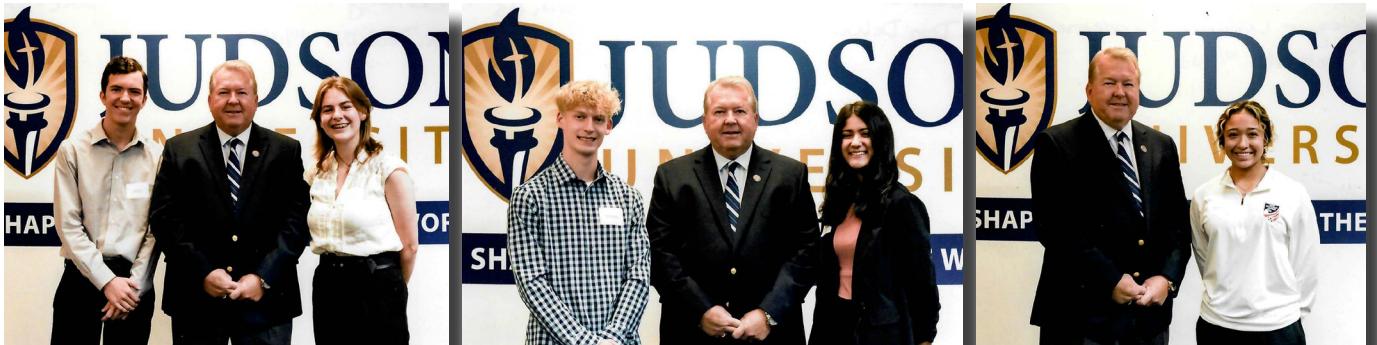
Ferson Creek Elementary was presented with a “Most Minutes Read” trophy by the St. Charles Public Library for logging in the most reading time out of all the district schools. Principal, Kristy McKnight, received the trophy and congratulated the 150 Ferson Creek students who cumulatively read 145,495 minutes during Summer Reading.

“This is a big accomplishment and shows a great love of reading and collaboration between the school district and public library,” expressed Kelly Stulgate, St. Charles Public Library Youth Services Manager.



## High School Students Attend 2023 Youth Advisory Council

St. Charles East, North, and Compass Academy students heard from distinguished speakers and immersed themselves in the lawmaking process during State Senator Don DeWitte’s 2023 Youth Advisory Council event on October 3 at Judson University.



After being welcomed by Senator DeWitte, students heard from four guest speakers: Lora Vitek, Mayor of St. Charles; Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director of LUDA (Large Unit District Association); Dr. Gene Crume, President of Judson University; and Daniel Rich, COO of Meridian Health Plan of Illinois.

The speakers all centered their speeches and Q&A on students aligning their life plans and education around missions they are passionate about. If students can stay true to things that are important to them, their experience, education, and life plans will yield more successful results because they are focusing on the right things.

After lunch, students engaged in small group discussions on legislative issues and worked with their peers to come up with a legislative policy proposal. It was very evident that the students’ ideas aligned with their passions as they proposed legislation around the topics of environmentalism, housing, mental health, education, and health care. The groups then presented their proposals and voted to select one that they would work on together in the spring, selecting a proposal that addresses a required student-to-school counselor ratio in high schools of 200:1.



## 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>



## Upcoming School Board Meetings

October 10

School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

October 16

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

October 30

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

November 13

School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

November 14

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

November 27

Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

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

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

October 9

Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day Holiday  
(No Students, Offices Closed)

October 11

- High School Early Release Day  
- Parent Education - Make Kindness Go Viral:  
Addressing Cyberbullying at Home

October 18

- High School Early Release Day  
- DPTO Meeting  
- Parent Education - Let's Talk About It: Bullying  
Prevention Discussion Series (Part 1)

October 20

School Improvement Day (No Students)



**Apply Online:**  
[district.d303.org/employment](https://district.d303.org/employment)

**Call: 331-228-5180**

**Visit our Transportation Office:**  
901 S. Peck Rd., St. Charles, IL

## **DISTRICT 303 IS HIRING BUS DRIVERS AND ASSISTANTS!**



### ➤ Starting pay:

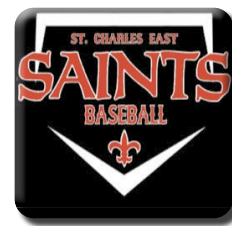
Drivers: \$22.86 | Assistants \$18.75

### ➤ All drivers are guaranteed 6 hours per day and are eligible for insurance and pension

### ➤ Obtain your CDL – District 303 will train qualified candidates who want to obtain their Commercial Driver's License



random  
acts  
matter



# COMMUNITY COAT DRIVE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4th**  
**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**ST. CHARLES NORTH HIGH SCHOOL GRAVEL LOT**  
(Located on the north side of Red Gate Road)

***We Need Your Help Keeping Our Neighbors Warm This Winter!***

Collecting Gently used & Clean or NEW:

- Winter Coats
- Hats
- Gloves
- Scarves
- Backpacks

Women's: Small, Medium, Large

Men's: Large, XL, XXL

Children's: All Sizes

Benefitting: Juvenile Justice Center, Tri-City Health Partnership, CAAN, LightHouse Recovery,  
KC Veterans Assistance, KC Jail Corrections, Tri-City Family Services, Homeless Shelters, Salvation Army

**No Act of Kindness is Too Small**