

District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

Administration Center
201 South 7th St.
St. Charles, IL 60174
331.228.2000
Let's Talk!

August 26, 2022



Building Community at Bell-Graham

Last week, Bell-Graham 4th-grade students had a lot of fun creating colorful grade-level shirts to help build community among all four 4th-grade classrooms. Teachers Ms. Gawenda, Mrs. Vostal, and Ms. Wleklinski started this project last year to help students come together and develop better connections.

"We brainstormed ideas and eventually landed on the idea of tie-dyeing shirts in Bell Graham blue because we thought the kids were going to enjoy it," explained Ms. Gawenda. "It is also a visual reminder that we all belong together and it's a great social-emotional learning activity."



On the tie-dyeing day, students rotated between three team-building activities. As Ms. Gawenda facilitated the tie-dye activity, Mrs. Vostal organized a hands-on collaborative game called "Save Fred," while Ms. Wleklinski led the "getting to know you" activity. The activities allowed students to be creative, work together as they played the game, and ask their peers questions to learn more about each other.

To ensure the feeling of belonging continues throughout the year, the teachers created a fourth-grade-themed schedule full of collaborative activities and projects, encouraging students to learn new skills while developing friendships, including wearing their shirts every Thursday.

"As a grade level, we continue to support 'Be Here. Be You. Belong,' and this is one way we can support this message at Bell Graham and across the district," added Ms. Gawenda.



**Read more
on page 3**





On August 15, Fox Ridge Early Childhood welcomed students for the first day of school.
 Follow us to see all of our #D303FirstDay photos!



We want to hear from you!

Superintendent Dr. Paul Gordon welcomes your feedback during a series of community listening sessions to help determine the direction of our District and the future of our students!



Fall 2022 Dates

Aug 31 | 9-11 AM

Haines Center

Sept 6 | 6-8 PM

Bell Graham

Aug 31 | 6-8 PM

Haines Center

Sept 8 | 6-8 PM

St. Charles East

RSVPs are requested to ensure guest accommodations.

¡Queremos escuchar su opinión!

¡El Superintendente Dr. Paul Gordon da la bienvenida a sus comentarios durante una serie de sesiones de escucha de la comunidad para ayudar a determinar la dirección de nuestro Distrito y el futuro de nuestros estudiantes!



Lugar y Fecha

31 de agosto | 9-11 AM

Haines Center

6 de septiembre | 6-8 PM

Bell Graham

31 de agosto | 6-8 PM

Haines Center

8 de septiembre | 6-8 PM

St. Charles East

Se pide que se confirme la asistencia para asegurar las adaptaciones adecuadas de los participantes.

Recognizing Thompson's Kim Walters

Thompson Middle School Administrative Assistant Kim Walters was presented with the Seven Seals Award on August 26 from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The award recognizes individuals for their support of our nation's service members. She was nominated by Jessica Bribiesca, a member of the National Guard who worked with Walters at Thompson. Now a Family and Consumer Science Teacher at East High School, Bribiesca wanted to acknowledge Walters' encouragement during her overseas deployment in 2020.



"It was as if we had become pen pals. She sent letters, cards, and books. I would have a bad day or something would happen and then at mail call I would get a card from Kim," said Bribiesca. "I want her to know how much those cards meant to me and how they kept me going throughout the year. During one of the most stressful years with the pandemic, she was still writing cards and going to the post office for me. That speaks volumes about the person Kim is. She cares about everyone she works and has worked with."

Walters was also presented a military challenge coin as a mark of camaraderie. The Seven Seals Award is presented at the state and national levels to honor a wide array of support for service members from all seven components of the National Guard and Reserve. It is the only ESGR Award that bridges both the employer and volunteer recognition programs.

Collaboration Challenge at Corron

During Empower, 2nd-grade students at Corron have been learning about the LAUNCH cycle. To put their knowledge to the test, Empower teacher Mrs. Veilleux-Kudernatsch challenged students to create their own tower using KEVA Planks.



After going over the rules and expectations for the activity, students gathered in small groups to brainstorm design ideas. Once they got their materials, the 2nd graders got to work. As some of the students' towers kept falling, Mrs. Veilleux-Kudernatsch used that as an excellent opportunity for the 2nd graders to learn about perseverance and flexibility. When she asked students if it was okay for the towers to fall down, they responded with a loud "Yes!" adding that they could always start over.

Students were encouraged to walk around the other tables, ask questions, and offer their peers suggestions. After the building time was up, students shared their towers with their classmates, described what the building process was like, and how they were able to work together to overcome challenges.

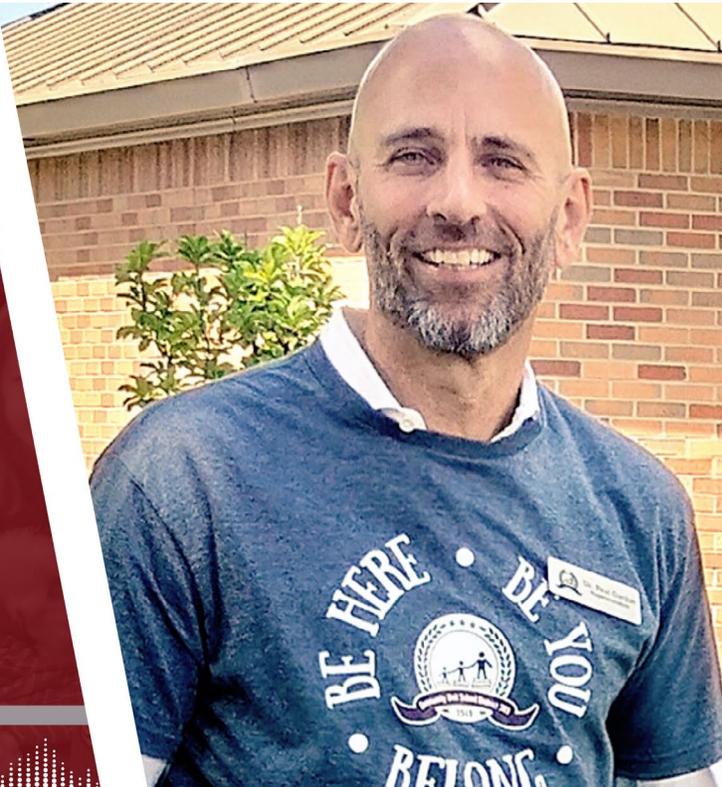
NEW EPISODE!

VOICES

OF DISTRICT 303



MEET **DR. PAUL GORDON**
and learn about the District's
upcoming community engagement
sessions, Listen Learn Return.

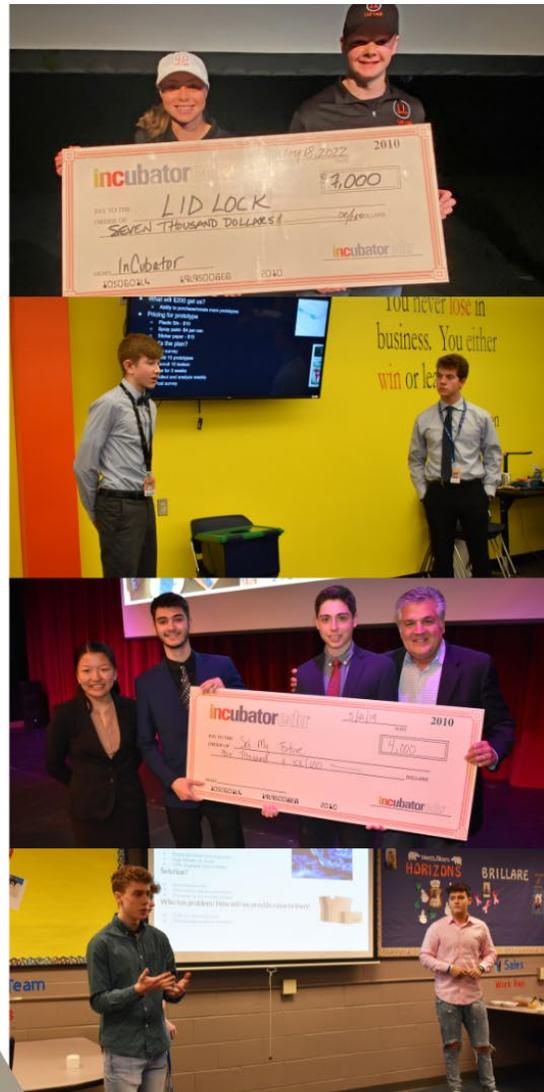


Mentor District 303's ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS!

Share your business expertise by
getting involved with INCubatoredu
and empower students through
entrepreneurship.

**BECOME A
COACH OR
MENTOR!**

Contact
Dr. Christine Warren,
Director of Curriculum
christine.warren@d303.org



incubatoredu.

Superheroes at Anderson

To kick off the new school year, Anderson Elementary hosted its very first Superpower Assembly, where teachers were presented with superhero capes for the students. This year's school theme at Anderson will focus on helping students develop their superpowers. But as Anderson Principal Nate Jarot explained, they are not superpowers like flying or having incredible strength. Instead, they're skills such as leadership, kindness, creativity, and friendship, among others, which they will work on developing each month as a school community.

As part of the learning experience, teachers will incorporate books, videos, activities, and projects to help highlight those skills. As students learn about and apply them to their everyday lives in school, their homes, and the community, they will be presented with gold "superpower" badges pinned to their capes. This school-wide assembly is just one of the many planned throughout the school year to help bring the community together, teach students valuable skills, and engage everyone in fun and unique activities.



Early Release Dates & Times for the 2022-2023 School Year

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

August 31
September 28
October 26
November 30
January 25
February 22
March 22
April 26

Additional Early Release Dates for High School

August 17
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14
January 11
February 8
March 8
April 12
May 10

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 p.m. - 2:10 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.

D303 Holiday Programs

In D303, we value the opportunity to provide a community of care and support to our families, especially those faced with financial hardship.

If your family is currently experiencing a significant financial need, our community partnerships have several supports available for families including: school clothes/shoes, winter coats/accessories, school supplies, toiletries, holiday meals, and/or holiday gifts. If you would like to be considered for any of these supports, please complete the [Family Resource Form](#) by **August 26, 2022**.

Programas de Días Festivos del D303

En D303, valoramos la oportunidad de proveer una comunidad de cuidado y apoyo a nuestras familias, especialmente a aquellas que enfrentan dificultades financieras. Si su familia está experimentando actualmente una necesidad financiera significativa, nuestras asociaciones comunitarias tienen varios apoyos disponibles para las familias, incluyendo: ropa/calzado para la escuela, abrigos/accesorios de invierno, materiales escolares, artículos de aseo personal, comidas para los días festivos, y/o regalos para navidad.

Si desea que se le tenga en cuenta para cualquiera de estas ayudas, por favor, complete [este formulario](#). Para ser considerado, es fundamental que complete esta encuesta a **más tardar el viernes 26 de agosto**.

BUS DRIVERS AND ASSISTANTS NEEDED!



District 303 is currently recruiting bus drivers and assistants!

- **Starting pay for the part-time positions that are 4-5 hours per day is \$21.36 for drivers and \$17.25 for assistants**
- **The District will train qualified candidates who want to obtain their Commercial Driver's License**
- **Interested individuals may apply online at district.d303.org/employment, visit the Transportation Office at 901 S. Peck Rd., or call 331.228.5180**

Upcoming School Board Meetings

August 29

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

September 12

School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

September 19

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

Special School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

September 26

Policy Committee Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

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

October 11

School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

October 17

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

2022-2023 School Calendar Highlights

August 31

All Grade Level (PreK-12) Early Release Day

Listen Learn Return Session - 9:00 a.m. - Haines Center

Listen Learn Return Session - 6:00 p.m. - Haines Center

September 2

Institute Day (No Students)



September 5

Labor Day Holiday (No Students, Offices Closed)

September 6

Listen Learn Return Session - 6:00 p.m. - Bell-Graham Elementary School

September 8

Listen Learn Return Session - 6:00 p.m. - St. Charles East High School

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.



We would like to encourage parents to remind their students to practice good bike safety as they travel to and from school, which includes obeying traffic signals, being careful at intersections, and following directions from the crossing guards.



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

2022-2023
School Calendar

July

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

August

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		

September

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

October

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
31				

November

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		

December

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

AUGUST

Institute Days (No Students).....	August 8-9
First Day of Classes	August 10

SEPTEMBER

Institute Day (No Students).....	September 2
Labor Day Holiday	September 5

OCTOBER

PreK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Students)	October 6
PreK-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Students)	October 7
High School Teachers' In-Service (No Students).....	October 7
Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day Holiday	October 10
End of 1st Quarter (Middle Schools).....	October 14

NOVEMBER

End of 1st Trimester (Elementary Schools).....	November 4
School Improvement Day (No Students).....	November 7
Election Day Holiday (No Students-Offices Closed).....	November 8
Non Attendance Days (Offices Open).....	November 21-23
Thanksgiving Break	November 24-25

DECEMBER

End of 2nd Quarter/First Semester (Middle, High Schools)	December 21
Last Day of School in 2022.....	December 21
Winter Break	December 22-December 30

JANUARY

Winter Break.....	January 2-6
6-12 Teacher Work Day/PreK-5 Institute Day (No students)	January 9
School Resumes	January 10
Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday	January 16

FEBRUARY

Presidents' Day Holiday	February 20
End of 2nd Trimester (Elementary Schools).....	February 24

MARCH

6-12 Kane County Institute Day/PreK-5 Teacher Work Day (No Students).....	March 3
End of 3rd Quarter (Middle Schools)	March 17
Spring Break	March 27-March 31

APRIL

School Resumes.....	April 3
School Improvement (No Students).....	April 7

MAY

Last Day for Students if no "Emergency Days" used.....	May 26
Memorial Day Holiday.....	May 29
Last Day for Students if 5 "Emergency Days" used.....	June 5

- High School Early Release - Aug 17, Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14
Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12, & May 10
- All Grades Early Release - Aug 31, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 30, Jan 25,
Feb 22, Mar 22, & Apr 26

January

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			

February

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			

March

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

April

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

May

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		

June

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

Board Approved 03/8/2021 Revised, Approved 02/14/22

Semesters: S1: 84 S2: 90 = 174 Quarters: Q1: 43 Q2: 41, Q3: 46, Q4: 44 Trimesters: T1: 57, T2: 59 T3: 58