

District 303 E-NEWS

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Let's Talk!

September 4, 2020



Back to School Update

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year. Whether your children are learning in-person or remotely, we are happy to have them back.

As school resumed on August 19, our students embarked on an historic school year with learning taking place both in-person and remotely. In-person students in kindergarten, first, and second grades came into the schools and quickly learned the routines. Students experiencing remote learning saw friends both old and new on their screens. Remote teachers are creating communities and helping students build relationships with students from across the street or across town. In-person 3-5th grade students joined their peers in the buildings on August 24.

Fox Ridge Early Childhood Center is off to a great start with both in-person learning and remote learning. As much as preschool feels a bit different this year, students are excited to explore intentional play-based learning activities. Exploration of choice interest areas, teacher facilitated small groups and sharing whole group experiences are part of each daily routine.



Bringing middle school students into the buildings in small groups created an atmosphere that supported a smooth transition for students to a new building or grade-level, provided students the opportunity to learn processes and procedures that are new and different, and began to build a learning community that will set students up for success throughout the year.

The sequence of our in-person learning plan is aligned with ISBE recommendation, "We strongly encourage prioritizing in-person learning for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), English Learners (EL), and students under the age of 13."

Like nearly all high schools in northern Illinois, we started the year with all high school students in full remote instruction. We are using a modified block schedule (ALL/ODD/EVEN) to deliver synchronous instruction to students on a daily basis. Some of the benefits we have already realized include:

- Students receive 180 minutes of synchronous instruction per week per course
- Students have access to nearly all of the courses they selected in the spring
- Classes can accommodate students who chose in-person or remote learning instruction

Currently, we are serving two groups of students via in-person instruction:

- Students in our RISE special education program
- Students in our Fox Valley Career Center program at Kaneland HS

In mid-September, we will welcome back additional student groups for in-person instruction:

- Students in our STRIVE special education program
- Students in our Bilingual and EL program

Next, we will invite groups of students, by grade level, back to campus to participate in SAT and PSAT testing.

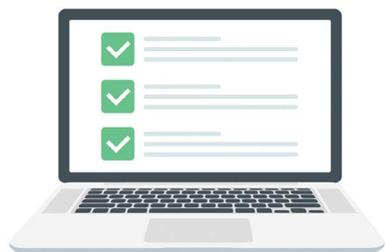
With successful implementation of the phases above, we hope to expand in-person instruction with a gradual implementation model with the aim to return high school students to in-person instruction during the second quarter. A team of district and high school staff are meeting regularly to design and adjust the details of this plan and we hope to share it with families in the next few weeks. All plans are dependent upon COVID metrics in Kane and DuPage Counties at the time of implementation.

We appreciate how parents have prepared their children for school. You created unique learning environments at home, been diligent about completing the COVID-19 screening questions each day, sent words of encouragement to staff members, and helped your children navigate what school looks like this fall. Your partnership is invaluable.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Resources and Information for Families

Please visit the [District 303 website](#), or [click on this link](#) to get the most updated information on District 303's response protocols for COVID-19 positive cases.

Un mensaje para las familias: Por favor, visite la página web del [Distrito 303](#), o haga clic en [este enlace](#) para obtener la información más actualizada sobre los protocolos de respuesta para casos positivos de COVID-19.



Use this link to access the daily self-certification form that needs to be completed prior to your child attending school in-person.

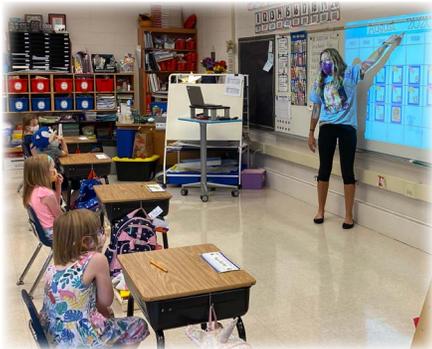
Food Service Update

The USDA extended the Summer Food Service Plan (SFSP) waivers until December 31, 2020. All families in District 303 are eligible to receive free meals under this plan. In addition, the district has expanded pick up locations

to include Cumberland Green Cooperative and St. Charles Place. [Please use this link](#) to access specific information about dates, times, and available meals.



A live chat service (<https://helpdesk.d303.org/chat/>) is available for device and system support. This is the best way for families to receive fast technical support for district devices and services. The virtual IT team will be available to assist Monday-Friday between 8:00am - 4:00pm, but if you leave a message, support staff will follow up the next business day.



Remote Learning Expectations

Over the summer, members of the Instructional Task Force, including staff members, parents, and administrators, developed expectations for all stakeholders relative to remote learning. This document has specific expectations for all members of the learning community that, when followed, will contribute to student success.

	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Instruction/Assessment</i>	<i>Procedures</i>	<i>Support</i>
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Check District 303 email throughout the school day and respond when necessary (students in grades 4-12) •Participate in small group chat with peers •Participate in 1:1 conferencing with educator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engage and complete all assignments and assessments in the assigned time frame •Engage in regular synchronous class sessions •Demonstrate and provide evidence that learning occurred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maintain a routine to organize and keep track of synchronous sessions •Demonstrate appropriate online learning etiquette as established by the teacher/district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reach out to teachers, counselors, or administrators for additional support •Seek support and communicate with family regarding work being completed in remote learning
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Communicate any absence through the school's attendance lines •Review messages from the district, school, and teachers to understand the available support and expectations for remote learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engage in conversations regarding student learning •Check Home Access Center weekly for missing assignments and provide support for your child's work completion •Assist student transition between synchronous and asynchronous learning (at primary grades) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review the District 303 Reopen Schools Plan •For technology support, first restart your device. If unsuccessful, contact Live Chat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Notify the school staff with any concerns about your child's progress or additional support needed •Establish a daily routine and provide an appropriate space that supports your child's learning •Provide encouragement without limiting your child's independence
Certified Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Connect with students and families using District 303 platforms: District 303 email, phone, Schoology, Google Classroom, Seesaw, Zoom, Google Meet •Be available to students & families during agreed upon hours •Communicate weekly schedules to families on Monday prior to 8:00 am •Reply to students/family inquiries within 24 hours on school days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deliver diagnostic assessments using iReady (K - 8) in reading and math •Use iReady and other formative data to personalize instruction •Engage students in remote learning by using a variety of synchronous and asynchronous strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Take student attendance daily •Follow the established building/district protocols when students are not engaging in remote learning •Update gradebook in Home Access Center weekly •Ensure lessons follow ISBE and district guidance on asynchronous and synchronous instructional minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assist students in developing resiliency, perseverance, and empathy •Collaborate with the support team to plan and implement assistance for students with identified needs •Engage in targeted professional learning remotely as assigned by the district
Support Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maintain communication with appropriate stakeholders •Correspond with students under the teacher's direction, via the approved digital platform (Google Meets, Google tools, Schoology, Seesaw, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assist certified staff by preparing, gathering, and compiling materials (digital and non-digital) and participate in synchronous or asynchronous learning •Collect data during video sessions when instruction is provided by the certified staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Follow the established building/district protocols when students are not engaging in remote learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engage in targeted professional learning remotely as assigned by the district •Support students with practicing acquired skills with a focus on maintenance and generalization •Maintain and support tasks specific to role at the building
Admin-istration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Communicate the District 303 Reopen Schools Plan to families •Consolidate communication between teachers, families, buildings, and district •Monitor family contact and address issues as they arise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Create school-based plans for making connections with every student •Support the implementation of curriculum and assessment •Identify and problem solve teacher and family needs related to connectivity and devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Implement virtual collaboration protocols for certified and support staff to receive and share information, celebrate success, and jointly problem solve •Provide breakfast and lunch for students in need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to care for the extended safety, health, and welfare of students, families, and staff •Remove barriers for staff, students, and families as they implement remote learning •Engage in professional learning

Upcoming School Board Meetings

September 14
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Thompson Middle School

September 17
Citizen Advisory Committee - 6:00 p.m.

September 21
Policy Committee Meeting - 5:00 p.m.
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
Thompson Middle School

September 28
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
Thompson Middle School

2020-2021 Calendar Highlights

September 7
Labor Day Holiday (No Students, Offices Closed)

October 8
K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences (No Students)

October 9
K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences (No Students)
High School Teachers' In-Service (No Students)



Friendly Reminder!

Let's Talk! provides District 303 community members, parents, staff, and students a chance to use their voice.

Use Let's Talk! to share your questions, compliments, comments, and suggestions by visiting the District website.

Want to stay current with D303?  *There's an app for that!*

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.