

District 303 E-NEWS

Administration Center
201 South 7th St.
St. Charles, IL 60174
331.228.2000
Contact us!

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

September 22, 2023



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Across District 303

Schools across the district celebrated the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month on September 16 with a variety of fun and engaging learning activities.

Students at Anderson Elementary held their first Spanish read aloud event of the year. Aden, a 5th grader in Dena Leckbee's class read "¡Vuela, Supermosca, vuela!" by Tedd Arnold in Spanish. Students listened attentively as he read and even made funny voices for the characters and expressions. Students also learned new vocabulary and commented how excited they were for their next Spanish read aloud event. These opportunities help raise awareness about the benefits and importance of reading while also exposing students to different cultures through languages.



Students and staff members at Davis Primary were encouraged to wear something colorful that represented them or their culture to kick-off their Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations. Some of the bilingual students also said the pledge of allegiance in Spanish during their morning announcements for all to hear and the classes followed along in their classrooms. Students also created small posters with different pictures, colors, and drawings that represented their culture and shared them with their classmates. In other classes, students had fun playing "Loteria," a card game that helped them learn about Mexican culture while reinforcing their Spanish vocabulary.



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.



Three Students Named 2024 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

St. Charles East High School Senior Chris Souk, and St. Charles North High School Seniors Kathryn Kadyschuk and Tyler Moore have been named Semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring.



Chris Souk



Kathryn Kadyschuk



Tyler Moore

Additionally, the following students were recognized by the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program as Commended students.

St. Charles East: Roshni Dave, Oscar Frontjes, Joseph Gammeri, Andrew Heilers, Blake Heiliger, Andrew Kauke, Connor Lougheed, Om Luhar, Ky McBride, Owen McNally, McGreevy Paul, Lyra Tiffin, Victoria Vogel, and Lucia Wilfong.

St. Charles North: Tommi Bacht, Aya Belhandouz, Maxwell Fang, Keshav Gupta, Sophia Halick, Annabelle Handjojo, William Hubbe, Leslie Lainio, Blake Lewis, Faith Molfese, Cody Nielson, Aaryan Pathak, Priyansha Shah, Holly Stachon, Adam Turner, and Thomas VanDorpe.

Compass Academy: Finn Mulcahy and Jerry Stamos.

Read more about this great recognition [here](#).

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.

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

Haines Center, Room 140

Visit district.d303.org/parent-education for more information.



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 Swimming and Diving Teams Come Together For Scout

The St. Charles East and North Swimming and Diving teams helped raise over \$9,400 for the For Scout Foundation at the crosstown swim meet on September 8. Felicity and Katie Cantrell, mother and sister of Scout, were presented the check with the donation at the event.

The For Scout Foundation was created by the Cantrell Family of St. Charles to honor the life and legacy of their beloved daughter and sister, Scout Cantrell (2004-2014). This foundation has been established to provide charitable grants and financial support to organizations that carry on the legacy of Scout Cantrell.



Through work in the schools and events like the Crosstown Swim Meets for Scout and the Annual Social for Scout, the For Scout Foundation is always looking to spread Scout's message of love, bravery, and inclusion for all. Learn more about the foundation [here](#).

2023-2024 Best High Schools



ST. CHARLES NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

#35 in Illinois High Schools
#815 in National Rankings



ST. CHARLES EAST HIGH SCHOOL

#48 in Illinois High Schools
#1,301 in National Rankings



East and North Earn High Marks in Latest Rankings

St. Charles East and North high schools earned strong national and metro-area rankings in 2023-2024 Best High Schools, released recently by U.S. News and World Report.

Schools are ranked on six factors based on their performance on state-required tests, 4 year graduation rates, AP exam data, and how well they prepare students for college. The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on nearly 25,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[East's U.S. News Profile](#) | [North's U.S. News Profile](#)

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.

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.

Middle School Book-Lovers Gather for their First Meeting

Thompson and Wredling Middle School students kicked off their first student book clubs this week, "Caudills & Cookies. Students gathered in the LRC and played "Guess the Book Character," had their lunch and ate delicious treats, and had great discussions about their books. As a fun activity, they also made a bookmark craft. This was a great way for students from all grade levels to connect, have thoughtful discussions about their favorite books and characters, and have a lot of book-loving fun.



District 303 Recognized for Communications Excellence by National Peers

The District 303 Communications Team was recognized for its exceptional communications efforts, earning two Awards of Excellence and six Awards of Merit by INSPRA, the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association.

The association held its annual Communications Contest Awards Luncheon on September 22, at which it recognized the top communications in the state. Each entry was evaluated by professional school communicators from across the country against a rubric of excellence, with awards given for merit and excellence.

The District 303 Communications Team received an Award of Excellence in the categories of electronic publications and website. The team also received Awards of Merit in the categories of electronic newsletters, website, in-house video, and marketing materials.



*The St. Charles East & North Dance Teams
invite you to the 30th Annual Kick-A-Thon*



SEPTEMBER 29TH

at East High School before the Varsity football game

STC NORTH VS. STC EAST



This year's beneficiaries:

- COLETTE'S CREW
- FOX VALLEY FOOD FOR HEALTH

To donate: visit
www.STCkicks.com
or scan the QR code



Food Trucks **At East on 9/26**
At North on 9/28

Restaurant Night

At Chipotle
(on Main St.)
on 9/20

Check out the **Community Backpack**

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

[CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming School Board Meetings

September 25
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

September 27
Special School Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

October 2
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

October 10
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

2023-2024 School Calendar Highlights

September 27
All Grade Level Early Release Day

October 4
High School Early Release Day

October 5
PreK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Students)

October 6
High School Teacher's In-Service (No Students)
PreK-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Students)



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**



JOIN NOW

Apply Online:
district.d303.org/employment

Call: 331-228-5180

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

COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 303

**2023-2024
School Calendar**

July

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				

August

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	

September

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

October

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			

November

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	

December

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

Institute Days (No Students)..... August 10-11
 First Day of Classes August 14

SEPTEMBER

Institute Day (No Students)..... September 1
 Labor Day Holiday September 4

OCTOBER

PreK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Students) October 5
 PreK-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Students) October 6
 High School Teachers' In-Service (No Students)..... October 6
 Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day Holiday October 9
 End of 1st Quarter (Middle, High Schools)..... October 13
 School Improvement Day (No Students)..... October 20

NOVEMBER

End of 1st Trimester (Elementary Schools) November 10
 Non Attendance Days (Offices Open)..... November 20-22
 Thanksgiving Break..... November 23-24

DECEMBER

End of 2nd Quarter/First Semester (Middle, High Schools)
 December 22
 Last Day of School in 2023..... December 22
 Winter Break December 25-December 29

JANUARY

Winter Break January 1-January 5
 Teacher Work Day 6-12, Institute Day PreK-5 (No students) .January 8
 School Resumes January 9
 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday January 15

FEBRUARY

Presidents' Day Holiday (No Students)..... February 19
 End of 2nd Trimester (Elementary Schools)..... February 23
 K-5 Afternoon Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-5 classes in AM)
 K-5 ONLY - No K-5 Students in Afternoon (tentative); PreK - No Classes.
 February 29

MARCH

Kane County Institute Day / Teacher Work Day PreK-5 (No Students)
 March 1
 End of 3rd Quarter (Middle, High Schools) March 15
 Spring Break March 25-March 29

APRIL

School Resumes April 1
 School Improvement (No Students)..... April 19

MAY

Last Day for Students if no "Emergency Days" used..... May 24
 Memorial Day Holiday May 27
 Last Day for Students if 5 "Emergency Days" used June 3

Board Approved 02/14/22

- High School Early Release - Every Wednesday
- All Grades Early Release - Aug 30, Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 29, Jan 24, Feb 21, Mar 20, & Apr 24

January

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		

February

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	

March

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

April

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			

May

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

June

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