

# District 303 E-NEWS

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## Administration Center

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St. Charles, IL 60174  
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Let's Talk!

December 17, 2021



## East Students Partner with Local Business for the 1st Sundae Showdown

The competition was equal parts sweet and minty on December 9 as St. Charles East students in the Marketing and Advertising II class faced off during the first Sundae Showdown at Kimmer's Ice Cream in St. Charles.

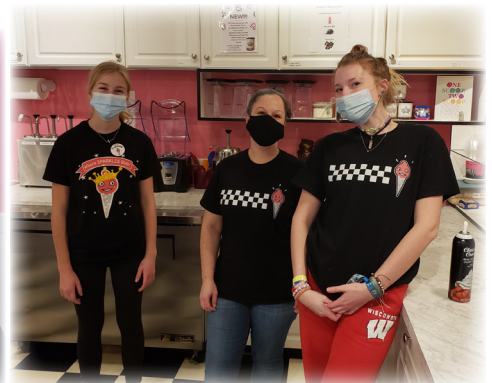
Prior to deciding which flavors to choose for their sundaes, students surveyed their school community to figure out which ice cream flavors were the most popular as well as the best toppings, and additional seasonal ingredients for the desserts. After analyzing their survey results, the teams worked closely with the staff from Kimmer's to figure out the best combinations of ice cream and toppings for the sundaes. As part of their planning process, students also visited Kimmer's for a tasting and to see the sundaes being made.



Reindeer Tracks started with an oreo cookie base, a scoop of delicious seasonal peppermint ice cream drizzled with hot fudge and marshmallow fluff. And, to top it off, whipped cream and crushed graham crackers for that fall and winter blend. The other team's sundae, Hint of Mint, started with a big scoop of the fan-favorite mint chocolate chip ice cream, drizzled with hot fudge, whipped cream, and topped off with crushed Oreos and a tasty cherry on top.



Over 100 sundaes were sold during the showdown, a record-breaking sale of sundaes for Kimmer's. In the end, Reindeer Tracks was named the winning sundae, with 59 sold. Hint of Mint came really close, with 49 sundaes sold. Thank you to all those who supported this sweet competition and a special thank you to Kimmer's for their partnership.



## Davis Students Organize “SOUPer Holiday Soup Drive”

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Davis Student Council and Fuel Up to Play 60 members teamed up this year to find a way to support families in need. Team members decided to hold a soup drive and donate the canned goods to the Northern Illinois Food Bank. To promote the soup drive, students created posters, made daily announcements, and decorated the donation boxes. Between December 6 and 10 the team members challenged other students to bring one can of soup for the drive.



Supporting the students throughout this project were student teacher, Mr. Knautz, PE teacher and Fuel Up to Play 60 leader, Mrs. Mattson, General Music teacher and Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Therrien, and 2nd Grade teacher and Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Thomas.

“Students learned about food insecurity as part of their social studies curriculum and that made them more excited to organize this food drive,” expressed Mrs. Thomas. Through this project, students learn about

the importance of giving back to the community as they develop leadership and collaboration skills.

To help students better understand how their donations support needy families in our communities, Molly Speckman, Development Officer, Peer to Peer & Cause Marketing from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, visited Davis. She shared information about the work they do at the food bank and how important volunteers are as they check and sort all the food and help with distribution. She shared that students can volunteer with their parents at the food bank, if they are 8 years old or older.



On December 15, students counted the cans of soup, from the ever-so-popular chicken noodle soup to veggie, tomato, and even ravioli soup. Together, they collected almost 300 cans of soup for families in need.

“I know the partnership with Student Council, Fuel Up, and the St. Charles community has been one that students have valued and this project will be a reminder for many of our students as they continue to learn the importance of giving back to the community,” said Mrs. Thomas.





## Emergency Day Plans for 2021-2022 School Year



The following is the plan for how District 303 will manage emergency days for the 2021-2022 school year.

- The School Board has approved an e-learning plan that gives the District the option to offer remote learning in place of emergency days
- If we experience inclement weather, the first three days will be "snow days" that will be made up at the end of the school year on May 25, 26, and 27 as needed
- Subsequent emergency days will be remote days so the last attendance day will still be before Memorial Day
- If there is a long stretch of inclement weather (blizzard, polar vortex, etc.), we may split the days into "snow days" and e-learning days so as to not have too many non-attendance days in a row
- Families will be notified via Parent Link when there is a closure due to inclement weather
- Information about any closures will also be posted on the district website, on social media, and broadcast on Chicago TV and radio stations
- Please [log into HAC](#) and make sure your contact information is correct

## Rotary International Recognizes District Staff, Supports Entrepreneurship Program

Rotary International was founded in Chicago in 1905 by attorney Paul Harris. The organization has a long history of humanitarian service and addressing challenges in communities and around the world. The over 46,000 clubs work together to promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, save mothers and children, support education, grow local economies, and protect the environment. The Rotary Foundation created an award in Mr. Harris' name that pays tribute to a community member whose life demonstrates a shared purpose with the objectives of the Rotary Foundation.



*St. Charles Morning Rotary member presenting John Baird (left) with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition.*

On December 7, members of the St. Charles Morning Rotary presented John Baird, District 303 Assistant Superintendent of Operations, with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition. District 303 is proud of the contributions John has made to its students, staff, and families, and to the St. Charles community.



*(L to R): John Kunzer, and Keith Glavan*

That same week, District 303 Director of Learning, Tina King, and Business Education and Lead Teacher at St. Charles East, Keith Glavan, presented at the St. Charles Noon Rotary Club information and highlights about the INCubator program. After the presentation, John Kunzer made a \$100 donation to the District 303 INCubator program to support young entrepreneurs. John is an entrepreneur and engineer, and has a family business in St. Charles, MCC Technology. District 303 is grateful for the donation and for the continued partnership with local businesses and organizations that support students across the district.

## Job Shadow Opportunities for High School Students

This semester, high school students were able to visit City Hall, the St. Charles Fire Department, and the St. Charles Police Department as part of the career pathway job shadow program offered by the City of St. Charles. The program is tailored to students interested in exploring careers in municipal government.

St. Charles North Junior, Alec Mandziara, shadowed Assistant Fire Chief Tony Cavallo to experience a day in the life of a firefighter. He toured the St. Charles Fire Department, learned about the education, training, and certifications required, and asked questions about the different career opportunities available. Alec even had the opportunity to ride along with Mr. Cavallo and see other staff from the Fire Department assist with a call. On December 8, Alec also shadowed Deputy Chief Chuck Pierce to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of police officers.

High school students Lilly Hale and Aaron Naugle also visited the St. Charles Police Department and shadowed Crime Prevention Officer Meghan Kramer. As they toured the Police Department, they asked questions about her training, why she decided to go into law enforcement, and even got to meet K-9 Saint and comfort dog Charlie.

"Through our partnership with the City of St. Charles we can continue to offer our students many more learning opportunities," expressed John Peters, Assistant Principal for College and Career Readiness at St. Charles North.

Interested students should contact the College and Career Readiness Department at their high school for an application. Students may schedule up to three different job shadow experiences per school year.





## Fifth Graders Perform at the Winter Beginning Band Concert

**O**n December 14, fifth grade beginning band students from Munhall, Norton Creek, and Richmond performed live for an audience for the first time since December of 2019 at their Winter Beginning Band Concert. Fifth graders delighted their families and the community with two performances at St. Charles East High School.



Many parents commented how much they loved the performances and noted how much their children had improved since they started, attributing much of that to Mrs. Lydigsen, Director of Bands, and her love for band. One Munhall parent cheerfully expressed how they were incredibly delighted to have had the opportunity to see their daughter not only perform but also give the introduction for her instrument so eloquently and calmly.

"It was so wonderful to see the band students back on the stage performing for a live audience," said Mrs. Lydigsen. "I am overwhelmed with a sense of pride for these students who have shown such resilience, dedication, and enthusiasm. I love being a part of their musical journey and guiding them through the process of becoming confident young musicians," she added.



All fifth grade students in the district are able to join the beginning band program. Students meet for small group lessons once per week throughout the school year and also before school to work as a full band ensemble. The group typically performs two big concerts per year at St. Charles East High School and performs the National Anthem at the Kane County Cougars game in the spring. Students are able to choose an instrument to play, whether it be the oboe, the flute, the clarinet, the trumpet, the trombone, and even the tuba.

### ***Test to Stay Program in District 303***

District 303, in collaboration with SHIELD testing, has implemented a test to stay program for students in our district who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. Participation in the program may decrease the need for students to quarantine if they have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. While the district has made it possible for students to maintain 3 feet of distance in classrooms and 6 feet in the cafeterias, students may be closer than that while riding the bus, which may result in them being quarantined. Students who are enrolled in SHIELD testing prior to possible exposure to COVID-19 or establishing close contact can remain in school as long as they have negative tests and are symptom free on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure.

Visit the [District 303 website](#) or [click on this link](#) to register your child for SHIELD testing.

## St. Charles Education Foundation Grant Application 2021-2022

*"I am not a teacher, but an awakener." - Robert Frost*

**Sixteen innovative grants were funded amounting to \$20,000.00 last year.**

Teachers, have you thought of a new idea to make your students excited about learning? Now is the time to write a grant to help you make a difference.

The goal of The St. Charles Education Foundation is to provide funding that will fully allow talented professionals like you to utilize your abilities to meet the challenges of educating today's students. To facilitate this goal, we invite educators and students to submit proposals for consideration by the Foundation. Write a grant for your great idea and the difference it would make to your students and you. You just might be the one receiving a grant! Please look at the Grant Recipients from last year. You may see an exciting idea you would like to try! Don't forget to team with your colleagues across the district!

We hope to fund projects that may not be able to be funded through conventional methods. Since not all projects can be funded each year, special consideration will be given to innovative projects and to pilot programs that have the potential for expansion throughout District 303. The grant application has been modified to make it easier to apply and to keep the focus on exceptional ideas which enhance learning and teaching in our district. Grant applications are due by January 21, 2022.



**[Making a Difference Application – St. Charles Education Foundation \(stcedfoundation.org\)](https://stcedfoundation.org)**

## High School Students Participate in Voice of Democracy Essay Contest

St. Charles East and North students participated in the St. Charles Local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5036 Voice of Democracy Essay Contest. This year's theme focused on the question "America: Where do we go from here?" which challenged students to think critically about their future, their communities, and the nation.

The following students were recognized for their outstanding entries by their school and by Vietnam War Veteran Rich Zawislak from the St. Charles VFW Post 5036 who awarded them the certificates: 2nd place, North student Kathryn Kadyschuk; 3rd place, East student Alissa Chimienti; and 4th place, East student Allison Ollie. The following students also earned honorable mention: East students Connor Eskeli and Hannah Wojcik, and North students Elizabeth Kadyschuk and Jakelyn Laycock.

In the coming years, the essay contest will become a scholarship program where students will receive scholarship money for four years to use towards tuition, books, and any expenses related to their college education.







# Congratulations 2022 Illinois State Scholars

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Ava Abbott	Isabella Cenani	Kimberly Estrada	Connor Johnson	Emilie McHenry
Elizabeth Anderson	Zachary Chiet	Bradley Filsinger	Julia Johnson	Edward McNally
Caroline Bauza	Alissa Chimienti	Caitriona Fitzgerald	Samantha Kane	Caven Menezes
Jacob Belmonte	Laci Chivari	Nathaniel Foreman	Natasha Keisler	Elena Merrell
Ava Beydoun	Jackson Collalti	Ramsrivatsan Ganesh	Katherine Kempff	Michael Morris
Andrew Biallas	George Cornille	Melissa Gomez	Meghan Kiefer	Sophia Mruk
Michael Biedak	Isabelle Counts	Rahul Gor	Olivia Kiefer	Tyler Nelson
Mason Blenner	Alexandra Cuellar	William Graham	Justyna Lesniak	Shauna Norgaard
Liam Bordoni	Aaron Delaney	Sophie Greene	Isabella Lewis	Allison Ollie
Meghan Brophy	Keira Denker	Chloe Hild	Alexander LoFaso	Bradley Olsen
Claire Burke	Amelia DuCharm	George Holm	Jason Mann	Olivia Olson
Carly Burnet	Allison Edgar	Lucas Hull	Riley McArdle	William Orloff

Daniela Paladino	Anneka Prath	Samantha Sima	Vincent Vitale
Cali Papez	Patrick Rafferty	Gavin Sitarz	Michael Weaver
Bansari Patel	Bronwyn Rigsby	Andrew Skifstad	Brett Webbe
Devam Patel	Tyler Risberg	Emma Smith	Lauren Wells
Jiya D. Patel	Quintin Rivara	Peyton Smith	Madeline Willey
Jiya M. Patel	Joshua Ruiz	Melanie Stathopoulos	Jeremy Wohld
Rohan Patel	Justin Sebahar	Zoe Stobart	Megan Yarusso
Sajni Patel	Benjamin Seltz	Elijah Sutton	Jacob Zolna
Hailey Pedersen	Jonathan Sengstock	Margaret Szerlong	
Addison Petrine	Andrea Shimp	Daniella Taylor	
Faith Piercy	Quinn Sidor	Serena Thakkar	
Mia Possin	Brooke Sieck	William Tozzi	



Shanil Amin	Lillian Dye	Amelia Kabat	Avery Mills	Caitlin Suda
Elizabeth Anderson	Kailiana Engesser	Katherine Kelly	Samantha Mirra	Daniel Surges
Marko Atkins	Emily Fairgrieve	Hailey Kotowski	John Otto	Luke Szady
Erin Baker	Julia Fifer	Nathan Kumar	Alec Palmer	Makenzie Thomas
Jack Barton	Aleksej Filipovic	Skye La Rosa	Rachel Price	Paden Thompson
Maya Bhati	Teagan Fischbach	Kyle Lam	Ryan Reid	Sidney Timms
Quinn Bike	David Fulcher	Benjamin Larson	Laure Schulders	Ashley Treanor
Allison Bollow	Hadley Goddard	Margaret Larson	Coralyn Selig	Sophia Trickle
Will Brizzolara	Colman Gonnella	Charlotte Lewandowski	Joseph Serewicz	Madison Van
Delaney Chesta	Shreya Gustafson	Abigail Lewis	Ashley Seymour	Vincent Vandiver
Celia D'Agostino	Denison Guvenoz	Benjamin Lewis	Eileen Sheetz	Tage Zerby
Haley Davino	Vincent He	Jason Liu	Jacob Shimon	Andrew Zoretic
Samantha de Souza	Sophia Hickey	Eleanor Maloney	John Sommer	James Zuckerman
Michael Depasquale	Justin Hughes	Ryan Martin	Elle Stablein	
James Dicarlo	Katelyn Hulst	Megan McGuire	Lily Stanford	
Lianna Doran	Malyika Hussain	Elizabeth Melton	Jacob Steimle	



## Upcoming School Board Meetings

December 20

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

Learning and Teaching Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

*\* Meeting will begin immediately following Special School Board Meeting, but no earlier than 6:00 P.M.*

January 10

School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

January 13

CAC Executive Team Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

January 18

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

## 2021-2022 Calendar Highlights

December 17

Last Day of School in 2021

Winter Break

December 20-December 31

January 3, 2022

Teachers' Work Day (No Students)

January 4, 2022

School Resumes

January 12, 2022

High School Early Release Day



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# Early Release Dates & Times for the 2021-2022 School Year

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

~~September 1~~  
~~September 29~~  
~~October 27~~  
~~December 1~~  
January 26  
February 23  
March 23  
April 27

## Additional Early Release Dates for High School

~~September 15~~  
~~October 13~~  
~~November 10~~  
January 12  
February 9  
March 9  
April 13  
May 11

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 - 2:10 p.m.

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: 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.

## ***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.

