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Dr. Todd Stirn
Superintendent

Dr. Esther Mongan
Assistant Superintendent

Central High School Expansion Update

As we reflect back over the past year, it's exciting to think of all the many changes that have occurred at Central High School. In August 2017, the district unveiled a state of the art modernized library area that includes print materials, online materials and media. Housed in the library is our broadcast journalism lab that features the same broadcasting equipment that you would find in any modern production studio. The addition of this lab has allowed the high school to add a journalism production course as part of our English strand of courses. Other renovations included in this year's construction is an expanded and modernized band and chorus room, a living skills classroom for special education, a new athletic trainers room, strength and conditioning room, cardio room, and four additional classrooms. A new parking lot between Howard B. Thomas and Central High School was also constructed.

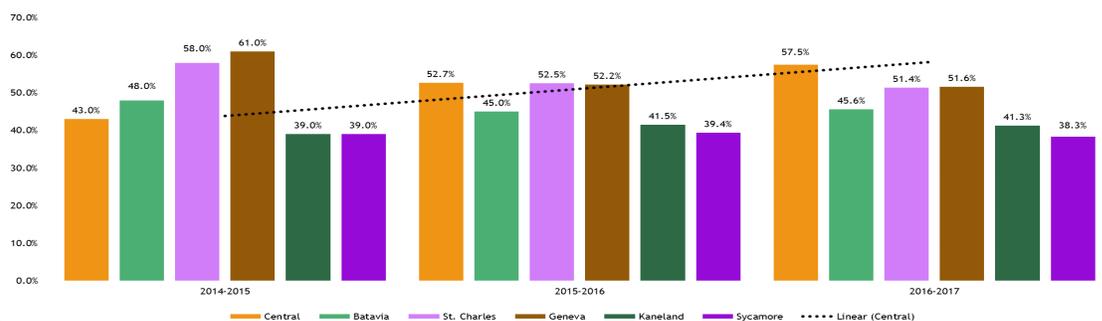
The new year will bring additional changes to CHS. The Phase 2 expansion (which is funded by last year's successful referendum) features a 12-classroom addition, new locker

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Central Earns Top Spot In Achievement

The Illinois School Report card for the 2016-2017 school year is out and we are proud to share that Central District 301 outperformed all Kane County schools on the spring PARCC exam given to students in grades 3 through 8! We are very proud of this accomplishment and congratulate staff and students on their hard work to earn this level of achievement. In addition to being the top district in the county, we also are the only district in our comparative group, which includes Batavia, St. Charles, Geneva, Kaneland, and Sycamore school districts, to demonstrate a strong growth trend. The graph below represents the percentage of students who earned a meets/exceeds on the PARCC exam over the last three years. Here you can see that the other area districts stayed pretty level, even regressing, while Central 301 had a nearly 5% growth in achievement over the previous year. We are excited to see this trend continue in coming years!

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District Contact Information

District Office

847.464.6005

Central High School

847.464.6030

Central Middle School

847.464.6000

Prairie Knolls Middle School

847.717.8100

Country Trails

Elementary School

847.717.8000

Howard B. Thomas

Grade School

847.464.6008

Lily Lake Grade School

847.464.6011

Prairie View Grade School

847.464.6014

Transportation Office

847.464.6052

Food Services

847.464.6043

Athletic Department

847.464.6038



5Essentials Survey—We Need Your Help!

Each year the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) conducts a survey of learning conditions in public schools. The 5Essentials Survey was developed by researchers at the University of Chicago and provides schools with data on five leading indicators for school improvement: effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment, and ambitious instruction. The survey is open to teachers, parents, and middle school and high school students. This year, we will be piloting the survey with our fourth and fifth grade students, as well. Survey results will be released to principals and superintendents in June, and a summary of the results are reported on the Illinois School Report Card website at <https://illinoisreportcard.com>.

This year, the window for taking the 5Essentials Survey is December 6th through December 22nd. We are asking all parents and guardians to visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent> to take the brief survey during this window. This is a great opportunity for our families to communicate with the District what they feel are our strengths as well as areas where we can improve. The results are carefully considered each year and changes are made in each building based upon the feedback we receive.

Thank you for taking the time to help us improve the educational experience for our students, teachers, and families!



Central Earns Top Spot In Achievement

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Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, Illinois adopted the SAT as the state test for high school students in their junior year. Prior to last school year, students took the ACT as the state exam. Central's high school was in the top 10% of Illinois high schools and Central students ranked #64 of 706 schools. The average composite score of 1092.3 reflected 55% of our 2016-2017 juniors met or exceeded Illinois' college readiness benchmark. It is important to note that Illinois' standards are higher than those set by the College Board, the creator of the SAT, whereby 67.9% of our students were considered ready for college. These scores reflect that we are closing the gap with some of our comparative schools. In the 2015-2016 school year, Central students trailed Saint Charles East in English and reading by 11%, but in 2016-2017, we narrowed the difference to only 2.2%. In math, we went from trailing Saint Charles East by 6% in 2015-2016 to surpassing them by 1.4% in 2016-2017.

Also impressive is that Central has achieved this success while remaining fiscally responsible. We have maintained the lowest instructional and operational spending per pupil of all our benchmarking districts, while continuing to provide quality instruction for our students.

Congratulations to the staff and students of Central 301. Keep up the great work!

The winter break begins after school on Friday, December 22nd, and continues through Friday, January 5th. School will resume on Monday, January 8th. Have a safe and enjoyable break!

Did You Know?

- The Northern Kane Regional Career Vocational partnership is looking for business partners to work with our Veterinary Science, Welding, and Precision Manufacturing students. Contact Dr. Esther Mongan at 847-464-6005 if you have a business that can partner with any of these programs.
- PKMS has a food pantry available to district families in need. Contact principal Matthew Haug at 847-717-8100 for more information. Donations of gift cards to local grocery stores are always accepted and appreciated!
- CHS offers a journalism sequence of courses for students in grades 10 - 12. Journalism students learn about industry jargon, how to write different types of news stories, and develop skills in editing, newspaper management, layouts, and advertising.

did you know ...

Central High School Expansion Update

Continued from page 1

rooms, a dedicated wrestling room, and a field house that will include a 200-meter indoor track and four full size practice courts. In addition to the facility expansion, the district will launch three new career pathway programs. The new programs include INCubator, Mobile Maker, and Veterinary Science. INCubator is an entrepreneur and enterprise course that prepares students for today's world economy. Mobile Maker is a coding class in which students will develop future-ready skills building mobile apps that can be used on any Apple iOS device. In August 2018, Central High School will open a Veterinary Science lab. This lab setting is the first of its kind in Illinois and will allow our students the opportunity to graduate as certified Veterinary Medical Technicians.

A modernized kitchen and cafeteria seating area, along with ongoing modernization of learning spaces, will round out the high school expansion/renovation efforts. The district is planning a Grand Opening Community Open House the same weekend as the Burlington Days Festival in September 2018. We will publicize additional details as we move closer to the date of the event. As a school community, we have much to be excited about. Thank you for making it another great day to be a Rocket!



Artist rendering of CHS field house

Upcoming Dates

Dec. 18

BOE Meeting

Dec. 25 - Jan. 5

Winter Break

Jan. 15

MLK Day - No School
for Students

Jan. 17

BOE Meeting

Feb. 16

SIP Day - Half Day for
Students

Feb. 19

President's Day - No
School for Students

Feb. 20

BOE Meeting

Mar. 1

SIP Day - Half Day for
Students

Mar. 2

Teacher Institute Day
- No School for
Students

Mar. 19

BOE Meeting

Mar. 26 - 30

Spring Break

2018-2019 School Registration

While it is only December, before you know it we will be preparing for the 2018-2019 school year. Registration for the next school year will begin in the spring. As in past years, parents and guardians will register returning students online through the Skyward Parent Portal. Guardians will need to contact their designated school building to complete paperwork for students new to the district. Watch for more detailed information in upcoming school newsletters.

Please remember that residency must be proven prior to new student enrollment, and those families who rent or live with another family in district boundaries (host) must prove residency every school year. Additionally, student boundary transfer requests must be submitted annually. For more information on registration, residency, or boundary transfers, please contact your school office.



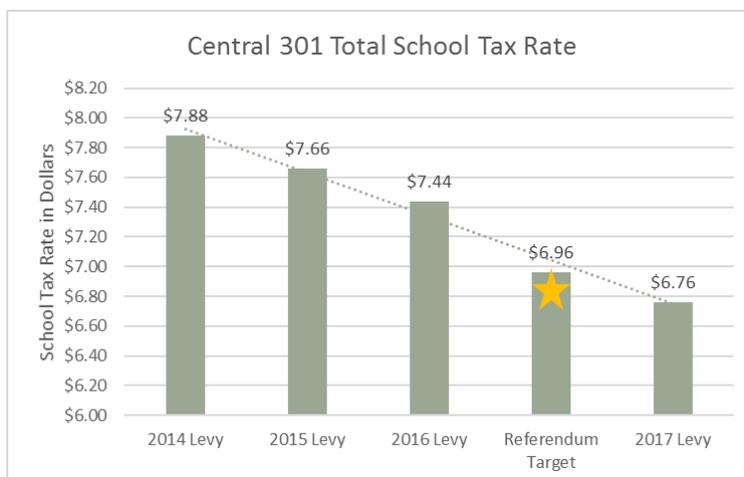
Erin's Law Presentation for Parents

Central District 301 is excited to offer to our community the opportunity to hear first hand from a survivor of childhood sexual assault. Erin Merryn, author, speaker and activist for this cause, will be speaking at Country Trails Elementary School on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. We encourage you to come out to learn more about Erin's Law and meet Erin.

Central 301 School Tax Rate Continues to Drop

Central is excited to report that the overall total school tax rate will come in lower than originally predicted. While preparing for the referendum, Central was predicting the total school tax rate would be approximately \$6.96; however, it actually came in lower than expected. The total school tax rate will be approximately \$6.76, which is a \$0.68 rate decrease over the last year.

Central is anticipating approximately \$1,540,000 in new operating dollars from the 2017 levy. This represents a 3.9% increase over last year. The debt service extension will see a 27.9% decrease due to our bond payments dropping from \$9,310,423 to \$6,775,850. Overall, we are anticipating all combined funds will see a decrease of 2.24%. Many variables contribute to these calculations and these estimates are subject to change.



Emergency School Closures

With the onset of winter, families need to prepare for the possibility of a weather-related closing. It is the district's policy to operate school whenever possible, but there may be occasions when we need to close or implement a delayed start. A two hour delayed start would mean that all school start times and morning bus pick-up times would be delayed by two hours, and school would conclude at the regular dismissal time. Only school closures and delayed starts will be announced. If no announcement is made, you should assume that school is in session. We will use multiple avenues to relay weather-related closing information to our families and staff. When the decision to close is made, the announcement will be made via a phone call, e-blast, district website post, and social media post. The announcements happen very quickly and it is possible that a Facebook post could reach you before your phone call. Below is a list of ways you can learn of school closings:

- A phone message to families and staff
- An email message to families and staff
- The District 301 website: central301.net
- A District 301 mobile app alert
- The District 301 Facebook page: www.facebook.com/centralschooldistrict301
- Local newspapers, television stations, and radio stations
- The Emergency Closing Center website: www.emergencyclosings.com



Central schools provide students with a safe and effective learning environment. When severe weather occurs, Dr. Stirn consults with numerous people, including area school officials and the district's directors of transportation and facilities, to help make the decision to remain open or closed. The safety of our students and staff is of our utmost concern, but we understand that it is less disruptive for students, teachers, and parents if classes are held as normal. A decision will be made based on all these factors and what we feel is best for our students.

At this time of year, it is our privilege as an administrative team to say "Thank you" for your support to expand excellence in education for Central schools all year long.

We are proud to stand with you in making Central 301 the best school district in the region by equipping all Central students with the skills to be successful in college or the workforce. With this knowledge, our graduates will be able to take their place as leaders in their family, community, and career. Our students make our community proud.

On behalf of our Central employees, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and best wishes in the year ahead.

Engage the
mind

Empower
the learner

Inspire
excellence

Influence
the world