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Dr. Todd Stirn
Superintendent

Dr. Esther Mongan
Assistant Superintendent

High School Expansion Update

It is an exciting time up on Rocket Hill. The phase two addition continues to take shape and the 12 classrooms included in the new addition will be turned over to the district for cleaning and preparation by early June. The field house is currently receiving interior paint, ceiling equipment, netting, and basketball backboards. Once the equipment is installed, the gym flooring and our 200-meter track will be installed. The completion of the field house is scheduled for the beginning of August.



Interior of field house

The district has received numerous compliments on the renovation of the Central High School library. We are pleased to share that additional building improvement will continue this summer. The high school commons and kitchen will receive a complete makeover. The traditional serving lines will cease, and the serving concept will resemble a college cafeteria with serving stations for greater student choice. The seating area will include a combination of high top and low top tables, along with booth options for students to choose for seating. The renovations will also include some unique educational spaces for our INCubatoredu@chs and Mobile Makers classroom.



Future locker room

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School Safety Reminders

Communities across the nation have had to deal with various acts of violence, and schools are not immune to these types of situations. Some community members have wondered about the security protocols that Central 301 has in place. One of our highest priorities is to provide a safe learning environments for students, staff, and visitors. All school facilities are locked during the school day and visitor access to the buildings is controlled. All Central 301 staff and students receive training and practice numerous school safety drills throughout the year. These drills include training using our BluePoint Alert System. BluePoint does for law enforcement what a fire pull station does for the fire department. Once activated, BluePoint automatically contacts law enforcement with a high priority call, and a quick police response is vital to deal effectively with dangerous situations.

Central 301 is comprised of great students and a supportive community, but please be reminded that school safety is everyone's business. If you see something, say something, and if you know something, report it immediately to the school or law enforcement.

In the wake of recent school violence, many school districts have had to deal with false threats against their schools. We even experienced a recent event at one of our middle schools that

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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

2018-2019 Registration

Online registration for the 2018-2019 school year is now open and guardians are asked to complete this important process by Friday, April 13th. As in past years, guardians will complete this process through the [Skyward Parent Portal](#). As part of the online registration process, guardians will:

- Review students' address and contact information;
- Add or update emergency contacts;
- Review any health alerts on file;
- Digitally approve receipt of handbooks and other notices;
- Grant or deny consent for students to be included in District photos/videos;
- Update bus transportation arrangements;
- Pay school fees.



It is important to complete online registration as early as possible as registration numbers do impact our staffing in the buildings. If your child will not be returning to District 301 schools for the 2018-2019 school year, please notify your school office as soon as possible.

All families who rent their homes or live with another family within District boundaries are required to provide verification of residency on an annual basis. We will begin accepting residency verifications for returning families for the 2018-2019 school year on May 1st. For more information on documentation required to verify residency, or to download forms, please visit the [Registration Information](#) page of the District website.

All students must have online registration completed and residency verified (as required) in order to attend class on the first day of school. If you have any questions about registration or residency requirements, please contact your school office.

Writing Process Reviewed

A large goal within the curriculum department for the 2017-2018 school year was to review the writing process in grades K-8. Prior to making large scale changes to the writing process, a subcommittee of teachers spent time learning the progression of writing from grade to grade. The teachers worked on identifying essential grade level writing skills and key vocabulary. Additionally, they researched essential instruction practices that would fit the needs of all District 301 students.



Upon completion of this work, they shared the essential writing skills and research with their colleagues. These components are being incorporated into the instruction within each grade level. We are excited to have started this process and believe that Central students will leave each grade level better equipped to handle the rigor of the next years' writing challenges.

Upcoming Dates**Spring Break**

Mar 26 - 30

**Parent-Teacher
Conferences**

Thurs, Apr 12

Half Day for Students

Fri, Apr 13

**Board of Education
Meeting**

Mon, Apr 16

Half Day for Students

Fri, May 4

**Board of Education
Meeting**

Mon, May 21

Graduation

Thurs, May 24

Last Day of School

Fri, June 1

High School Expansion Update

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The INCubatoredu@chs program offers students an authentic entrepreneurship experience. Mobile Makers is a class designed to provide students with the skills to code and create relevant mobile apps. The District is also constructing Illinois' first certified high school level veterinary technology facility. Students that complete the two-year program will graduate as a certified veterinary technician.

We are excited to be moving into the final stages of these projects and look forward to unveiling the finished product in the fall!

INCubatoredu@chs Needs You!

INCubatoredu@chs is a program coming to District 301 in the 2018-2019 school year that will provide students with the opportunity to learn first hand what it takes to start a business. Students enrolled in the program will work in teams to create and fully develop their own product or service that can result in a functioning business.

We need your help! We are looking for committed community members, engaging business leaders, and enthusiastic entrepreneurs to help guide and mentor our students through the process of developing and implementing their own business plans. Volunteers can serve in one of two ways:

- **Coach**—A coach is an industry professional that will partner with the classroom teacher to offer instruction on a specific subject, such as marketing, finance, or technology. Serving as a coach is a 1 to 6 day commitment. Lesson plans are provided but coaches are encouraged to share what they have learned through their own experiences in order to offer real-world context for specific curricular areas.
- **Mentor**—A mentor is a community member who will work with one of our student teams for the course of the school year offering guidance as they develop their business. Mentors will commit to meeting with their team at least two times each month.

Community members interested in partnering with the INCubatoredu@chs program should contact course instructor Kelly Greene at kelly.greene@central301.net.

School Safety Reminders

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was positively resolved. Please note, we take all threats against our schools seriously. Any person disrupting the normal operations of our schools may face disciplinary or legal action by the district.

School safety will always be a top priority for all Central 301 schools. Our district Emergency Preparedness Committee meets regularly and works with law enforcement and fire departments to debrief drills, review safety procedures, update plans, and make decisions relative to such responses. We continuously look for ways to enhance procedures to continue to provide a safe environment for our students and community. Together we can provide our students and community with a safe, welcoming environment for both curricular and extracurricular activities.



Have a safe
and happy
Spring
Break!

School
resumes
Monday,
April 2nd!



New School Funding Formula

You may have heard that the school districts in Illinois are going to be funded differently than they have in the past. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is currently working on establishing an “Adequacy Target” for each district, which represents what they determine to be the “need” of the district. This target works in conjunction with the “Local Capacity Target” for each district, which represents the amount a community can contribute to school funding through local property taxes. In an effort to calculate these two “targets”, the Illinois State Board of Education has been collecting and validating data since the new funding formula bill was signed into law back in August 2017. This the new funding formula, known as “Evidence-Based Funding” (EBF), has replaced the old model of General State Aid (GSA), which was driven by numerous factors including average daily attendance and property Equalized Assessed Value (EAV). The new EBF formula is calculated using enrollment, 27 core instructional elements, adequacy targets, and local capacity targets. Upon completion of these calculations, school districts will be placed into one of four “tiers”. Based on these tiers, the neediest schools (Tier 1) will receive additional money first. Central’s calculations are forecasting that we will receive minimal new monies from the state under this new formula.



The State Comptroller has been distributing state EBF payments for this school year to Central 301 based on last year’s final General State Aid amount combined with four state grants including Special Education Personnel, Special Education Funding for Children, Special Education Summer School, and English Language Learners. This payment is referred to as our Base Funding Minimum. Once ISBE finalizes all the data they have been collecting, they will publish and begin to distribute tier funding. The most current updates from ISBE state that school districts should start receiving their distributions in April 2018.

This new funding formula also ties the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into it. The new accountability measures will look at each school within the district separately for both funding and academics. Stay tuned for more information how this might affect the district.

Did You Know?

- Central District 301 has formed a partnership with school districts U-46, 300, and 303 in order to offer expanded Career & Technical Education programs to our students. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, our students will have the opportunity to participate in veterinary science, welding, or precision manufacturing programs through these regional programs. The veterinary science program will be housed at Central High School.
- The District has formed a Title I Committee comprised of administrators, teachers, and parents who are tasked with determining how best to utilize grant dollars to support academic achievement. One goal of the committee is to develop a Parent University program through which we can connect with parents and help educate them on topics related to their students’ education. Watch for more information coming soon!

District 301 Happenings

Here are just a few highlights of what our students have been up to recently...

Engage the mind

Empower the learner

Inspire excellence

Influence the world!

CT 4th graders experienced hands-on learning in Jurassic Park



LL Lions collected over 1,700 books to donate to Bernie's Book Bank



PV students shared their talents at PV's Got Talent

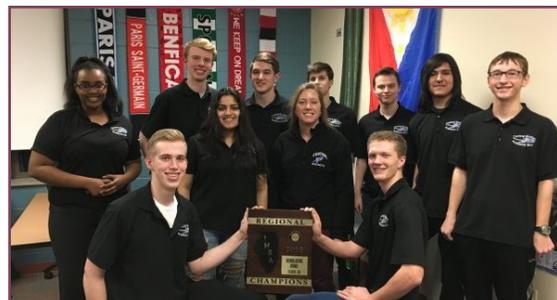


HBT students, families and staff had a great time at their Dr. Seuss themed Literacy Night



CMS students participated in science and math activities on Stem Day

PKMS students wowed audiences with their performance of Once Upon A Mattress



CHS' Varsity Academic Bowl Team is Conference and Regional Champion