



301 Gazette



MAY 2018

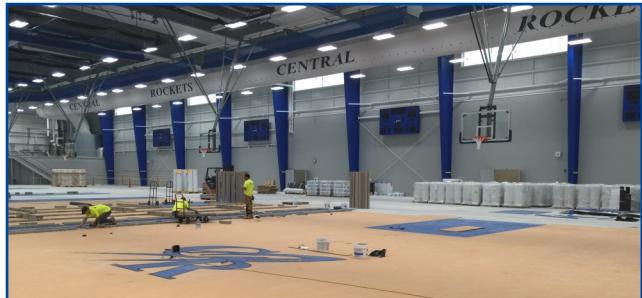
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High School Expansion Update

It is an exciting time up on Rocket Hill, and it will be a very busy summer. Construction of the Phase 2 addition is on schedule. The new classrooms in the addition will be turned over to the district from the construction management firm for cleaning soon, and the equipment is up in the field house. The field house flooring is being installed and the field house will be turned over to the district for cleaning around the beginning of August.

Work to renovate the high school commons and kitchen will begin next week, the Veterinary Science Lab is being framed, and retrofitting of the new INCubator classroom will begin within the next two weeks. We continue to work with our architect on signage and recognition for the new and innovative areas, and we are excited to unveil these new facilities with a special ceremony, ribbon cutting event, and tours on the afternoon of Sunday, September 9, 2018, following the Burlington Days Parade. Details regarding the event will be shared later this summer.



Interior of field house

Additional photos of CHS construction are on page 5.

D301 Keeps Promise to Lower Tax Rate

The Kane County Treasurer recently mailed out 2017 property tax bills which are payable in 2018. On your tax bill, in the bottom left section, you will see that the Central District 301 tax rate for 2016 was \$7.44 (\$7.194074 + \$0.250528). The current 2017 District 301 tax rate is \$6.78 (\$6.520278 + \$0.269330) which is a \$0.66 decrease over the previous year.

Rate 2016	Tax 2016	Taxing District	Rate 2017	Tax 2017
0.340128	\$265.72	KANE COUNTY	0.327853	\$262.84
0.079934	\$12.45	KANE COUNTY	0.074645	\$10.84
0.219502	\$171.32	KANE FOREST FIRE-PRESERVE	0.166609	\$132.83
0.000000	\$0.00	KANE FOREST FIRE-PRESERVE	0.000000	\$0.00
0.164494	\$88.57	PLATO TOWNSHIP	0.102224	\$66.75
0.006586	\$5.14	PLATO TOWNSHIP	0.006405	\$5.14
0.360000	\$234.41	PLATO TWP ROAD DIST	0.296398	\$237.62
0.009482	\$7.41	PLATO TWP ROAD DIST	0.008342	\$7.49
0.000000	\$0.00	PLATO TWP ROAD DIST	0.000000	\$0.00
0.184074	\$5,620.29	CENTRAL SCH DIST 301	0.526278	\$5,227.17
0.250528	\$195.73	CENTRAL SCH DIST 301	0.260300	\$215.93
0.322202	\$408.03	ELGIN COLLEGE 509	0.491180	\$395.35
0.087295	\$5.70	ELGIN COLLEGE 509	0.086758	\$5.42
0.677801	\$529.52	SOUTH ELGIN FIRE DISTRICT	0.655152	\$525.23
0.087752	\$68.56	SOUTH ELGIN FIRE DISTRICT	0.086740	\$76.75
0.000000	\$0.00	NW KANE AIRPORT AUTHORITY	0.000000	\$0.00

During referendum planning in the fall of 2016, the projected tax rate for 2017 was \$6.96; however, it came in \$0.18 lower than expected. Central 301 is proud to announce that we kept our promise to the community!

Please keep in mind that the school tax rate is the only portion of the tax bill the school district can control and actual tax bill savings will vary. A recent Kane County Connects article states that virtually every township's average tax bill is lower than it was a year ago. Last year, Plato Township had the highest average tax rate in Kane County, but it has dropped to #5 this year. Elgin Township stayed at #2 and Burlington Township dropped from #3 to #8 in ranking.

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Dr. Todd Stirn
Superintendent

Dr. Esther Mongan
Assistant Superintendent

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
847.464.6011

Lily Lake Grade School

847.464.6014

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

Registration for the 2018-2019 is well underway. Thanks to those families who have already completed online registration! If you have not yet completed this important step, please do so as soon as possible by logging into your [Skyward Parent Portal](#) account. Having our students' registration processes complete helps us to more accurately determine staffing needs for the next school year and avoid last minute class placement and scheduling changes.



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 are currently accepting residency verifications for returning families for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have not yet completed the residency verification process, please do so at your earliest convenience at any one of our school buildings or at the District Office. 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.

We're Hiring!

It takes many people in a wide variety of positions to make a school district function. In addition to teachers, we rely on custodians, grounds workers, cooks, bus drivers, nurses, paraprofessionals, and more to help provide an environment where students can learn and grow.

We continually accept applications through our online application site, Applitrack, for support staff positions. If you or someone you know may be interested in a position with District 301, please visit <https://www.applitrack.com/bcsd301/onlineapp/default.aspx> to

view current non-certified openings and submit an application. New positions are posted throughout the year, so we encourage you to check back often!

Have questions? Contact the Human Resources Department at 847-464-6005 and we will be happy to help!

CHS Teacher Named High School Teacher of the Year

At the Kane County Regional Office of Education's Educator of the Year Awards on Friday, May 4th, CHS English Teacher and Interventionist Susan Zagorski was named High School Teacher of the Year!

Mrs. Zagorski has been a teacher in District 301 since the 2001-2002 school year. In that time, she has had a positive impact on the staff and students at CHS. We congratulate her on this accomplishment and are thankful for her service to the students and families of Central 301.



Year-End Chromebook Information

Students who are completing grades 1 through 12 will bring their Chromebooks home over the summer. Filtering software will continue to be active on the devices. Current kindergarteners will leave their Chromebooks at school and they will be delivered to the appropriate classrooms at the start of the new school year.

Students entering kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades will receive a new Chromebook during the first week of the 18-19 school year. All other returning students should bring their Chromebooks back to school on the first day.

Students who will not be returning to the District for the 18-19 school year but received a new Chromebook for 17-18 will need to pay an additional \$50 (as well as any other outstanding fees) in order to keep the device.

Families may turn in their old Chromebooks upon receiving their new Chromebooks if desired. The District will dispose of, recycle, or transfer ownership as it sees fit.

For more information about Chromebooks, including how to schedule repairs over the summer months, please visit the [Technology Department](#) page of the District website.



Did You Know?

- Central District 301 is on the map! Since March we have had three different Illinois districts ask to visit our schools to see the great things that are happening in D301. They have come to Central to view a multitude of great things occurring in our district, such as integration of our new instructional tools in the classrooms, to learn about instructional strategies from our instructional coaches, to watch our staff integrate 1:1 within their classrooms, to hear about our curriculum and assessment work, and to talk to us about our great score trends. It is great to see that other districts are seeking out Central. It is truly a great place to be!
- Edmentum, Inc., a learning solutions company that offers targeted learning experiences for students requiring intervention or credit recovery services, will be featuring Central High School in their success stories this spring. They will be highlighting our comprehensive credit recovery summer school option for struggling students, which experienced a 90% completion rate across 16 course sections in 2017.
- We have a new website dedicated to the Regional Career Pathways, a program created through a partnership between D301, D300, D303, and U-46. At www.northernkanepathways.com, students and families can learn more about the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs available to Central students both in our district and in partner districts.



INCubatoredu@chs is Still Seeking Partners

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 or visit the [INCubatoredu@chs website](#) for more information.

**Congratulations
to our 2018
graduates.**

**You have made
us proud and we
wish you well in
your future
endeavors.**



D301 Keeps Promise to Lower Tax Rate

Continued from page 1

The article also listed average tax bills for a \$250,000 home by township as shown below:

2016 Ranking:

- #1—Plato Township \$8,634
- #2—Elgin Township \$8,560
- #3—Burlington Township \$8,489

2017 Ranking:

- #2—Elgin Township \$8,201
- #5—Plato Township \$8,045
- #8—Burlington Township \$7,948

Please click the links below for further details related to these Kane County Connects articles and other helpful information:

- [Kane County Connects Article 2018](#)
- [Kane County Connects Article 2017](#)
- [Kane County Quick Guide to Property Tax Assessments](#)
- For questions about exemptions or appeals, call the Kane County Supervisor of Assessments Office at 630-208-3818 or visit www.kanecountyassessments.org
- For questions about how tax rates are developed, call the Kane County Clerk's Office at 630-232-5964 or visit www.kanecountyclerk.org
- For questions about tax bills or payments, call the Kane County Treasurer's Office at 630-232-3565 or visit www.kanecountytreasurer.org

**Have a safe
and happy
summer
vacation!**

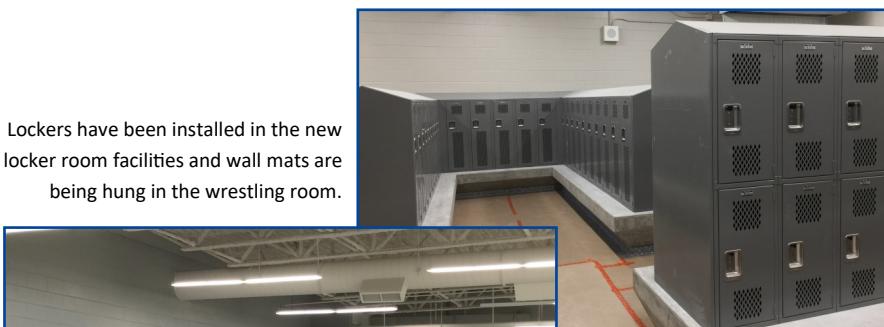
**We will see
you for the
2018-2019
school year
on August
22nd!**

Photos of CHS Construction

We are excited to see the progress being made at CHS and look forward to starting the new school year with these new spaces!



Classrooms and hallways are nearing completion in the new addition.



Lockers have been installed in the new locker room facilities and wall mats are being hung in the wrestling room.



The veterinary science building is being framed.

**We want to
thank our
retirees for
their years of
service and
dedication to
the students,
families, and
staff of
Central 301.
We hope you
enjoy your
retirement.
You will be
missed!**

Congratulations to Our Retirees



Debbie Baum

I started working for District 301 in January of 2001. I started as a special education assistant and spent 6 years working with students and teachers before becoming a cook at PKMS. As an aide I worked at CMS, CHS, HBT, and PKMS with a number of great teachers, including Theresa Kolkebeck, Elissa Gore, and Laura Buckels who sat in on my first interview with then principal Bob Warski. As a paraprofessional, I really enjoyed attending classes with my students, especially roller skating in PE, woodshop, cooking, and sewing. I remember making flash cards for my students to help them prepare for the Constitution test.

For the last 11 years I have worked as a cook at PKMS. I have enjoyed working with my team in the kitchen over the year and will miss seeing them every day. Most of all I am going to miss the students. They made every day special with their smiles and thank yous. I plan to return as a substitute cook so I look forward to seeing them again in the future.

Leslie Delgado



I began my career twenty years ago with Central 301 at the same time that my two daughters started their schooling within the district. In 1998, I was a Teacher's Aide at Plato Center Grade School and in 2000, became the secretary of Prairie View Grade School. I have remained at Prairie View for the last 18 years. I've participated in the community and district throughout that time with being a member on multiple committees, Rising Star, PTO, DLT, and SITE Team

I have created relationships over my 20 years at Central, and will miss the staff at Prairie View along with the District. I am looking forward to retirement, as I will be spending quality time with my parents, in-laws, husband and daughters.



Kathleen Sheldon

When I started to drive in 1990, I was only going to drive for a short while and now, over 27 years later, I am retiring!

I have been blessed to have driven my children's route, field trips, and sport trips. It was important to me to be home as much as possible with my children. I was able to be on the school schedule with them. I also worked in the HBT and CMS lunch rooms.

I have established great professional relationships with coworkers and students. I will miss our conversations and many laughs. I have had great bosses who supported me in many situations.

**Engage the
mind**

**Empower
the learner**

**Inspire
excellence**

**Influence the
world!**

Congratulations to Our Retirees

Debbie Mastio

My teaching career began in 1977 after I graduated from the University of Illinois--C/U with a bachelor's degree in deaf and hard-of-hearing and elementary education. I also earned a master's degree in 1983 in Curriculum and Instruction-Reading from Northern Illinois University. At the beginning of my career as an educator, I taught two years for Mid-Valley Special Education Coop and seven years as a second grade teacher at Wasco Elementary School in St. Charles. Then, I took twelve years off to raise my family. My four sons attended Lily Lake Grade School, Central Middle School and graduated from Central High School.



When my youngest son was in first grade, I had the opportunity to return to teaching at Howard B. Thomas Grade School as a Reading Teacher and have been in that position for over twenty years. I have enjoyed collaborating with colleagues, serving on a variety of district and building committees and helping to promote literacy in CCUSD #301. In my earlier years, I helped coordinate the Young Authors Program. I also have enjoyed planning assemblies for Read Across America Day and Twister Reading Madness. Another favorite project was organizing Literacy Nights at HBT. However, the thing that I will treasure the most is working with the children. As I move on to a new chapter in my life, I will cherish all the wonderful memories and friendships I take with me from HBT.



Lynette Niequist

I started working in District 301 as a part-time art teacher at Plato Center Grade School in 1996. When Prairie View opened, I moved to that building and have enjoyed teaching art to students there ever since. Over the years I have been involved in a number of district committees, including CCC, DLT, Insurance Committee, SAC, and the Report Card Committee. At PV I also enjoyed serving on the Site Team, Literacy Committee, and Social Committee. I was an original proponent of the Fine Arts Showcase and facilitated the visual arts portion of the event each year it was held. It was such a pleasure to see so many talented artists showcasing their work each year!

One highlight of my career was when I was nominated by my peers for Kane County Educator of the Year in 2009. It was an honor to represent the District and I was touched by the outpouring of support I received.

I have loved being a part of District 301 and will miss my daily interactions with the students and staff, but am looking forward to the free time retirement will bring.

Keith Luker

I started in District 301 as a substitute custodian in fall of 2009, and was hired as a full time custodian at Prairie View Grade School in 2010. Since then I have enjoyed working with my team and the D301 staff. I am looking forward to retirement but will miss my friends in District 301.

