



301 Gazette



SUMMER 2019

Inside This Issue

2019-2020 Registration and Residency	1
We're Hiring!	1
District Contact Information	2
School Tax Rate and Your Tax Bill	2
Roundabout Coming to Plato Road at Route 47	2
Upcoming Dates	3
Title I Committee Purpose and Opportunities	3
Did You Know?	3
Attention Alumni!	4
Kindergarten Screenings	4
K-5 Math Curriculum Updates	4
Chromebook Update	5
School Shelf	5
Congratulations Retirees!	6-8

2019-2020 Registration and Residency

As we are preparing for the 2019-2020 school year, it is important that families complete online registration through Skyward. Thanks to those families who have already completed this important step! If you have not yet done so, 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 staff needs for the next school year and avoid last minute class placement and scheduling changes. If needed, step-by-step online registration guides are available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) on the Registration Information page of the District website.

All families who rent their homes or live with another family within District boundaries are required to provide verification of residency each year. We are currently accepting residency verifications for returning families for the 2019-2020 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 non-certified position with District 301, please visit <https://www.applitrack.com/bcsd301/onlineapp/default.aspx> to view current 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!



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

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

School Tax Rate and Your Tax Bill

The Kane County Treasurer has mailed out 2018 property tax bills (payable in 2019) with the first payment due June 3rd. To assist in helping you understand how to read your tax bill, we have put together the following information.

If you look at the bottom left section of your property tax bill you will see all the taxing districts that make up your tax bill. Near the middle of this list there are two lines for CENTRAL SCH DIST 301. In 2017, the combined school tax rate was \$6.78. The current 2018 combined school tax rate is \$6.71, a \$0.07 decrease over last year. This is the fourth consecutive year that the D301 tax rate has decreased. To calculate the 2018 tax amounts listed next to these rates, you will multiply your home's taxable value (labeled Net Taxable Val on the lower right side of your bill) by the tax rate. For example, if your taxable value was \$83,333, you would multiply that by 6.475347% to determine a tax cost of \$5,396.10 for the CENTRAL SCH DIST 301 tax.

In some cases, the tax amount may increase despite a decrease in the tax rate. This is due to an increased assessed value of your home. The school district has no control over the assessed values of property or the other taxing bodies listed on your tax bill. Tax bills will vary depending on your township and other taxing bodies on your tax bill.

Below are some helpful links to assist you with any further questions you may have about your tax bill:

[Kane County Quick Guide to Property Taxes](#)

[Kane County Supervisor of Assessments](#) (for exemptions or appeals)

[Kane County Clerk's Office](#) (for questions about how tax rates are developed)

[Kane County Treasurer's Office](#) (for questions about tax bills or payments)



Roundabout Coming to Plato Road at Route 47

The Illinois Department of Transportation is installing a roundabout at the intersection of Plato Road and Route 47. Site development has begun and full-scale construction will begin once school dismisses for the summer. As part of this project, Plato Road will be closed at Route 47. Construction is expected to continue through October and will impact District bus routes at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Be sure to check your child's bus time and pickup location before the start of the school year to ensure you have updated information. The transportation department will send updates as applicable when routes change due to construction.

IDOT will be detouring traffic along Kendall Road, McDonald Road, Route 47 and Burlington Road. Please be sure to allow extra time and use caution when traveling to our central campus schools until construction has been completed.



Upcoming Dates

June 5

Last Day for EC Students

June 6

Last Day of School
Half Day for Students

June 7

Teacher Institute Day
Last Day for Teachers

June 17

Board of Education Meeting

July 15

Board of Education Meeting

August 1

19-20 Residency Documentation Due

August 12-13

Teacher Institute Days

August 14

First Day of School
(Grades 1-12)

August 19

First Day of School
(EC and K)

Title I Committee Purpose and Opportunities

The Illinois State Board of Education requires any school district that receives Title I funds to maintain a Title I Committee made up of teachers, administrators and parents. The purpose of the committee is to monitor student achievement and consider how Title I funds can be used to support at-risk students. This committee is also tasked with creating opportunities for parent involvement. The Title I Committee worked to develop our Parent University events over the last two school years, bringing in speakers on topics ranging from student anxiety and internet safety to Skyward and Naviance training. Watch for more Parent University events during the next school year. It was also through the work of the committee that we developed our Parent Resources page of the District website. This is a valuable committee that can have a tremendous impact on the students and families in District 301.



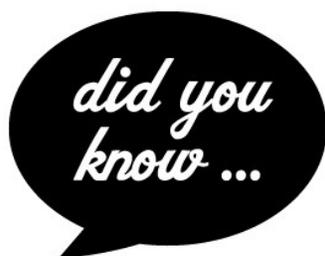
We are looking for parents to serve on the Title I Committee for the 2019-2020 school year. Meetings are held after school for approximately two hours several times a year. If you are interested in participating on this important committee, please contact your building administrator.

Did You Know?

The District website can be translated into over 100 different languages. Look for the “Select Language” drop-down box at the bottom of any page to choose your preferred language.

Parents and guardians also have the ability to translate their Skyward Parent Portal (Family Access) into the language of their choice. In order to enable this feature, guardians must log into their Skyward Parent Portal account then click on “My Account” from the menu on the top right of the screen.

Once in your account settings, click on the box next to “Show Google Translator in Family Access” under your email and phone numbers. Click “Save” on the right side. You will then see the “Select Language” drop-down box on the top right side of your screen. You can then choose from any of the available languages.



We have put together a Skyward Family Access Guide to support our families in utilizing the most commonly-used features in Skyward. Visit central301.net/parent-resources/d301-resources/ to view the document in English or in Spanish.

Kindergarten Screenings

All students entering Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year will participate in D301's Kindergarten screening process. Screenings will be held on August 13th (12:30 - 3:35 p.m.) and 14th (8:30 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.) and will last for one hour. During the screening session, parents will complete an informational survey while students engage in various activities such as exploring through play in a Kindergarten classroom, participating in story listening, following directions, and fine motor skill activities. The Kindergarten screening process provides all incoming students the opportunity to get acclimated to the elementary school they will attend as well as complete activities with the Kindergarten teachers. Through the screening process, teachers have the opportunity to meet incoming Kindergarten students and gather readiness skills information that will help with the development of the classes. All families of registered incoming Kindergarten students will receive an email from the elementary building they will attend with information about how to sign up for a screening session.

Please reach out to your elementary school office with any questions.

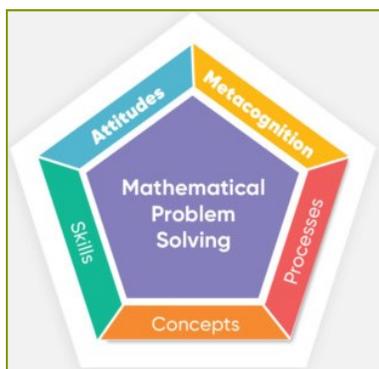


Attention Alumni!

Mark your calendars! The 2019 Burlington-Plato-Central Alumni Association Banquet will be held Saturday, July 20th at the Burlington fire barn. We encourage classes with five- and ten-year reunions (i.e. Class of 1984's 35-year reunion) to attend the Alumni Banquet. For more information, please contact Denise Ramm-Lenz at bchs1982@aol.com or 630-365-5559.

K-5 Math Curriculum Updates

Over the course of the 2018-2019 school year, District 301's elementary math subject area team (SAC) has been reviewing current math curriculum instructional practices and textbook resources with the goal of increasing students' mathematical skill development and achievement. In analyzing various textbook materials, the team found that Math In Focus - Singapore Math provides a wide range of instructional practices to support all students' achievement of essential math concepts. Math In Focus - Singapore Math helps students learn the language of math through hands-on activities, visualization, and pictorial representations to build understanding, confidence, and a love of math. This curriculum incorporates best practices and research to create a unique approach based on the use of powerful visual models, engaging activities for students at all levels, and innovative instructional approaches which empower students to develop critical-thinking skills, positive attitudes and confidence needed for mathematics achievement.



The proposal to adopt this curriculum will be brought to the Board for approval in June and, if approved, we will start implementation during the 2019-2020 school year for students in grades K - 5 with full implementation in the second quarter. For questions about this program, please contact Shayne Birkmeier, Director of Curriculum K-8, at shayne.birkmeier@central301.net.

Chromebook Update

Students who are completing grades 1 through 12 will bring their Chromebooks home over the summer. Filtering software will continue to be active on these 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, 3rd grade, 6th grade, 7th grade, 9th grade, and 11th grade will receive new Chromebooks at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. All other returning students should bring their current Chromebooks back to school on the first day of the new school year. Students receiving new Chromebooks should bring their Chromebook bags to school on the first day in August.

Students and families who will not be returning to District 301 schools for the 2019-2020 school year have the option to purchase their Chromebook and take it with them before their device is due to be replaced. If the family is up to date on all District fees, they will still need to pay \$100 per year the Chromebook is expected to be used in District 301. If the Chromebook is scheduled to be replaced in 2019-2020 and all fees are paid, students may keep their Chromebooks with no additional charges. More information is available on the District website at <https://central301.net/technology/chromebook-year-end-info/>.

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.



Congratulations
to our 2019
graduates!

You've made us
proud and we
wish you well in
all your future
endeavors!

School Shelf

Central District 301 is proud to offer School Shelf, a resource library offering families informational guides and printables covering a wide variety of topics across all grade levels. All resources are downloadable at no cost. Many titles are available in Spanish. Some examples of available titles include:

- Getting Good Grades - Activities and Exercises
- Getting the Most Out of High School
- Test Anxiety
- Cyberbullying
- How to Get Money for College
- Starting Middle School
- Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten



We encourage you to check out this valuable resource. You can access it by clicking [here](#) or by visiting the [Parent Resources](#) page of the District website.

Congratulations to our Retirees

We thank all 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!



Terese Barnard

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 24 years in this district. As many of you know, District #301 is not only where I teach, but where I chose to send my children to school, and a community that I chose to live in. District #301 is not only a wonderful place to work, but a fabulous place to live and watch your children grow.

It has been a wonderful ride, being able to teach at all 4 elementary schools (except Burlington) and watching our district grow from a small rural school district to a larger, semi-rural district all the while keeping its small community "feeling". That "feeling" is made possible by all the wonderful #301 families I have been honored to meet and work with through the years. I could not have done this job without them!

Thanks for the memories #301 staff, families and students. I will miss you all!

Connie Keenan



I have been a member of this community my entire life. I graduated from District 301 and now I am retiring from District 301. I have enjoyed driving and getting to know the students for the past 14 years. I have made life long friends while working for District 301 and they are like family to me. Thanks for the memories!



Andrea Keil

I have enjoyed teaching at Central High School for 33 years. During that time I also coached junior high volleyball, high school girls track, and started and coached the JETS/WYSE, academic bowl and math teams. I'm proud to have instituted and taught AP Calculus.

I have loved being a teacher and want to thank the parents for giving us such great kids and for allowing us to help them become responsible adults.

Sally Merritt



I have been with District 301 for the past 29 years. The time has flown by as it seems like yesterday when I started. I have transported many students throughout these years and have established many relationships and memories along the way. I will miss my coworkers in the transportation department but am looking forward to my next adventure.

Congratulations to our Retirees

Lorna Monson

I am so grateful for the opportunity to work at a job I have loved for the past 23 years. I have met so many awesome students and parents over the years. I have worked with some of the most incredible people and have made lifelong friendships which I will truly miss.

I am looking forward to my next big adventure. My husband and I will soon be full time RVers and traveling this great country.



Engage the
mind

Empower
the learner

Inspire
excellence

Influence
the world!



Linda O'Brien

Let me just say thank you to all the staff and parents for the many enjoyable years in the district. I've worked at HBT, PV, LL, CMS, and PKMS. I will say however I do enjoy the middle school over the grade school. Personally I relate better to the older students. They get the sarcasm and the jokes. Some days you have to make your own fun.

All the teachers I've worked with over the years have been very supportive of my presence in their classroom. It's a great feeling to be appreciated for the work I do and the help I give. This can be a mentally exhausting job. Working with the students can be challenging as well as rewarding. They taught me all about their different learning styles. There are many!

Special Ed has even more challenges and rewards. Those can change on a daily basis. It's like two steps forward, one step back. My experience with special ed will help me in the next chapter of my life. A mentally challenged family member will be moving in with me. This is where my experience comes in handy. I will be working with the state on goals, both for social situations as well as in the home. It's a big change for everyone involved and the adjustment period will be long. I'm sure there will be days I'll wish I was back at school.

Thank you again to all who have made my experience in 301 a job to remember.

Mary Schmitt

It all started in a small office at CHS with two "guidance" counselors, one social worker and a vacancy for a registrar/secretary in the guidance office. I received a phone call half an hour after my interview letting me know I was hired for the position. I had been a stay at home mom, but with staff like family, they helped me learn the job quickly. Fast forward to twenty years later, I have seen many people come and go, and have watched the job change, but must say that I still love the work of the registrar and love the people and office I work in. But, now it's time to fly - I don't have time to work anymore, as my husband, Duane retired seven years ago and there's not enough vacation time to travel to where we want to go. I will never be bored a day in my life as I love family and grandchildren activities, home things such as gardening, cooking, entertaining and not to forget my never-ending craft projects. I have enjoyed my time at Central and will definitely miss the great people I work with.



Congratulations to our Retirees



Pam Walczynski

What could be a better job than getting to spend the last 29 years with special needs students? I started my career teaching a classroom of 1st grade children who all had behavior or emotional problems. After teaching there for 8 years, my husband and I started our family. For the next 10 years I was blessed to be able to stay home and raise our children.

I returned to my teaching career when the youngest started school. For the last 21 years I have been teaching in District 301. In 1997 I was hired to start up the self-contained program at HBT. I was given a budget of \$5,000. Three thousand of that money went to buy my desktop computer. Wow, times have changed! Each year I would write a play that included songs, poetry, and choral readings along with creating the scenery for the play with the children. When I run into parents or past students in the community, they always bring up their fond memories of our plays. They don't remember me teaching them how to read or add and subtract, but they do remember the plays!

In 2007 self-contained became a thing of the past for most children and the district shifted to an Inclusion model. Country Trails School was built and I became the resource special education teacher there. Since then CT has been my home. Through these years it has been an honor to work with such exceptional teachers and paraprofessionals.

February 19, 2016, I experienced a life changing event. At 7:30 am, 3 blocks from Country Trails School, I was hit by a drunk driver with cocaine in his system. While in the hospital/rehab center for 5 months my goal was to get back to what I love most and that is to teach my special needs students. After 11 months I was finally able to return to work. I still continue with OT/PT therapy most nights after work. I've had a total of 9 surgeries and the doctors are anticipating I will need 3 more, with the next one being right after we finish school in June.

As for my retirement plans, my husband and I are hoping that once I am more mobile that we can continue on with our dreams of traveling. Also, in April we were blessed with our first grandchild. So this Nana is planning to spend a lot of time with her.

I will miss the dear friends that I have made over the years. Most of all, I will miss the students who every single day made me laugh, smile, and sometimes shake my head with wonder. It's been quite a journey. A journey that has filled my cup to the top.

Have a safe
and happy
summer
vacation!

We will see
you for the
2019-2020
school year
on August
14th!