



301 Gazette



FALL 2019

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Dr. Todd Stirn
Superintendent

Dr. Esther Mongan
Assistant Superintendent

Central District 301 Continues to Grow

On Friday, September 20, 2019 the Chicago Tribune published an article which stated that Elgin is among the top 20 cities in the United States at risk of a housing slump. The study was an assessment by GOBankingRates.com of communities at risk of heading into a real estate market downturn. That said, the student population growth of our district continues to increase year after year. Student counts taken from state reporting data from October 1, 2014 reflected a total in-district enrollment of 3,438 students and this year, as of September 18, 2019, we are reporting a total in-district enrollment of 4,398 students. In this six year period the district has grown by 960 students, with 93 of those students entering our district between October 1, 2018 and now.

Where is the new growth coming from? Most of our new growth is coming from the west Elgin corridor area. Subdivisions such as Highland Woods, Ponds at Stoney Creek and West Point Gardens continue to see new home starts, and some established subdivisions in our district are turning over, bringing new families with younger children into the district. Last year there were 113 new home permits issued by the City of Elgin in our district boundaries, and from June through August we have had an additional 37 permits issued for new construction. It is due to this rapid growth that Central 301 is the fastest growing district in Kane County.

As a district we are able to track live birth data and our Kindergarten enrollment is in the range of what is expected. Country Trails, Howard B. Thomas, and Prairie View Grade School have Kindergarten class sizes between 84-100 students and Lily Lake Grade School has one of its largest Kindergarten classes at 39 students. We will continue to closely monitor enrollment trends to best meet the needs of our students and keep the community informed in future news articles.

K-5 Math Instructional Coaching

We are excited to announce the addition of two K-5 math instructional coaches beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Erica Snyder and Mrs. Rachel Priola are excited to step into the K-5 math instructional coaching role and bring with them strong content knowledge from their experience as 6th and 7th grade math teachers at Prairie Knolls Middle School. Within the K-5 math instructional coach role, Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Priola look forward to supporting the advancement of math instructional pedagogy as well as the implementation of Math in Focus - Singapore Math at the elementary buildings.



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Upcoming Dates

Thursday, October 3rd

SIP Day - Half Day for Students

Friday, October 4th

Teacher Institute Day - No School for Students

Friday, October 4th

Homecoming Game

Monday, October 14th

Columbus Day - No School for Students

Friday, October 18th

End of Quarter 1

Monday, October 21st

Board of Education Meeting, 6pm

Thursday, November 7th

SIP Day - Half Day for Students

Friday, November 8th

Teacher Institute Day - No School for Students

Monday, November 18th

Board of Education Meeting, 6pm

November 25th - 29th

Thanksgiving Break - No School for Students

November 25th - 26th

Parent Teacher Conferences

Monday, December 16th

Board of Education Meeting, 6pm

Friday, December 20th

End of Quarter 2

Dec 23rd - Jan 3rd

Winter Break

Trivia with a Twist 2019

The Central Education Foundation invites you to enjoy an evening of food, trivia and laughs as Trivia with a Twist goes Disney! The annual fundraising event will be held on Saturday, November 9th at Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Included with your ticket are a 4-hour beer and wine open bar, dinner buffet, and trivia. Visit 301foundation.org to purchase your tickets today!



All proceeds from Trivia with a Twist go towards District 301 students and initiatives, such as INCubatoredu, Mobile Maker, scholarships, and more.

The Foundation is looking for sponsors for the event. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities and how you can support the event, email the Foundation at 301ceffoundation@gmail.com.



Homecoming Week 2019

Homecoming has been a cherished tradition at schools across the country for generations. Central High School will celebrate Homecoming Week Sep. 30th through Oct. 5th. During this fun week, students will participate in dress-up days, hall decorating, athletic events, and more, all leading up to our annual Homecoming football games.

We encourage the Central community to cheer on our Rockets at the Homecoming football games on Friday, October 4th. The freshman/sophomore game will begin at 5:00 with the varsity game following at 7:00. The athletic boosters will be presenting a fireworks show following the game. This will be a great opportunity for the Central community to come together for an evening of football, festivities, and fun.

Below is a complete list of the events scheduled for Homecoming week:

Monday, September 30

- 4:30 p.m. Soccer vs. Crystal Lake South
- 5:00 p.m. JV Football @ Jacobs
- 6:00 p.m. Boys Volleyball Tournament

Tuesday, October 1

- 4:30 p.m. JV and Varsity Soccer @ Crystal Lake South
- Volleyball vs. Crystal Lake Central
 - 4:30 p.m. Freshman
 - 5:00 p.m. JV
 - 5:30 p.m. Sophomore
 - 6:00 p.m. Varsity

Wednesday, October 2

- 8:00 a.m. FVC Varsity Girls Golf Tournament
- Soccer vs. Hampshire
 - 4:30 p.m. Freshman
 - 4:30 p.m. JV
 - 6:00 p.m. Varsity
- Girls Volleyball @ Dundee Crown
 - 4:30 p.m. Freshman
 - 5:00 p.m. JV
 - 5:30 p.m. Sophomore
 - 6:00 p.m. Varsity

Thursday, October 3

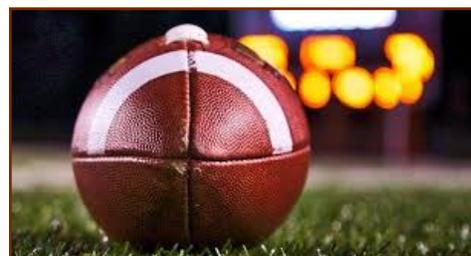
- 8:00 a.m. FVC Boys Varsity Golf Tournament
- Powder Puff Games
 - 5:30 p.m. Freshman vs. Sophomore
 - 6:30 p.m. Junior vs. Senior
- 7:30 p.m. Bonfire

Friday, October 4

- Football vs. Hampshire
 - 5:00 p.m. Freshman/Sophomore
 - 7:00 p.m. Varsity
- Post-game Fireworks

Saturday, October 5

- 7:00 p.m. Homecoming Dance



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

D301 Welcomes Social Emotional Learning Coordinator

This year, Central 301 welcomes Kate Vincent to the district as the Social Emotional Learning Coordinator. National, state and district data indicate that Social Emotional Learning represents an increasing area of need for students of all ages. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which students learn and develop skills to manage emotions, demonstrate empathy, establish positive relationships, problem solve and make responsible decisions. Research shows that direct teaching in these areas increases student academic outcomes and attitudes towards school while reducing instances of school violence, bullying and chronic absenteeism.

In her role as the Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, Kate oversees all building and district-level SEL initiatives for students in early childhood through 12th grade. This includes assessment, development, implementation and evaluation of district programs focused on character education, bullying prevention, mental health and social-emotional learning in conjunction with the Illinois Social Emotional Learning Standards. In addition, Kate works in collaboration with administrators and student services teams at each building to support the implementation of best-practice positive behavior interventions through effective classroom management, embedded SEL instruction and use of restorative practices for all students, targeted interventions for at-risk students and individualized Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans for students who may benefit from additional behavioral supports within the school setting. Kate coordinates the district's elementary Learning Emotional and Academic Development Skills (LEADS) classroom at Country Trails Elementary School in partnership with the building Principal and Assistant Principal. She also provides direct training and consultation to district employees on preventing and responding to problem behaviors, verbal de-escalation and classroom management.

Kate is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who received her Masters in Social Work from the University of Chicago with a focus on behavioral interventions for children and adolescents. She also holds a Masters in Educational Leadership from Concordia University, Chicago. Kate is certified in trauma-informed schools, trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Intervention, Restorative Circles and CHAMPS/DSC approaches to classroom management. Additionally, she holds a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) license and has experience in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

We are pleased to welcome Kate to our Student Services team and look forward to being able to better support our students, families, and staff with her knowledge and experience.

Bus Safety Week

National School Bus Safety Week will be held October 21—25, 2019. The theme for 2019 is "My School Bus—the Safest Form of Student Transportation". During the week of October 21st, Central drivers will be leading bus evacuation drills at each school. These drills train students and staff on proper procedures should a bus need to be exited during an emergency situation.



D301's Transportation Department has a fleet of 79 buses and employs approximately 75 drivers and substitute drivers that transport nearly 4,500 students on a daily basis. Our drivers are an asset to the district and take pride in safety. Please take time this week to thank a bus driver for the service they provide to the students and families of Central District 301.

Digital Bulletin Board

In order to better facilitate communication with our families and support our community partners, we have created a “[Digital Bulletin Board](#)”. This page can be found under the Communications heading on the District website. This page will feature flyers from various organizations regarding upcoming events, camps, program sign-ups, and more.

With this page, such flyers will not be included in school e-blasts, but a link to this page will be included in school communications. School-specific events, such as PTO events, will still be communicated by individual schools.

We encourage you to visit the district website (central301.net) regularly to view news items, read school newsletters, and have quick access to the District 301 Facebook, Twitter, and blog pages.

Student Attendance

In District 301 we believe that student attendance is an important factor in academic success. As such, it is the expectation that students attend school on a regular basis. School districts are required to monitor student attendance and report possible trancies to the local Truancy Office. In addition, chronic absenteeism is now a measure on the Illinois School Report Card.

It is important for our schools to communicate with parents when students have accumulated a large number of absences, even if the absences are for a legitimate reason such as chronic illness. Our practice has been to send absence letters to parents when students have accumulated 3, 5, and 9 or more absences. We understand that receiving these letters after a only a few absences can be confusing, so we are changing our procedures to only provide letters after 9 accumulated absences, which represents approximately 5% of school days in an academic year.

Be assured that if your child has a documented medical reason for their absences, he or she will not be reported to the Truancy Office. If students are sick, we want them to be home so they can get well and avoid spreading illnesses.

If you have questions about student attendance, such as excused vs. unexcused absences, reporting procedures, etc., please review the student/parent handbook or contact your building administrator.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students are in school and ready to learn!



D301 Welcomes New EL Director

Central District 301 is pleased to welcome Sofia Mills, Director of the English Learner Program and Grants Coordinator.

Sofia Mills has been a passionate educator for over twelve years. As a daughter of immigrants, a first-generation college student, and a product of living up to the American Dream, she has dedicated her educational career to linguistically and culturally diverse learners. She previously served as an English Learner Program Coordinator and taught English Learners (ELs)/ Emergent Bilinguals (EBs) in grades K-12. She brings to her new role the perspective of a teacher and school leader. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Northern Illinois University, a Master’s Degree in Teaching from Aurora University, and then earned her Administrative Certification at Lamar University.

In her role, she will work to implement related state and federal regulations, serve as a liaison between schools and parents, educate district leadership and staff to promote parents and families as partners, and advise and train parents to understand the educational system to become better advocates for their children’s education. She will also coordinate and oversee grant applications and management process including: identification of potential new funding sources, development of funding resources for existing and proposed programs and/or services, writing grants, developing budgets, collaborating on grant applications with various District units and community organizations, and processing and coordinating required report evaluations on existing grants.

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K-5 Math Instructional Coaching

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Math In Focus - Singapore Math was approved by the Board of Education in June and preparations are underway for full implementation starting in the second quarter of the 2019-2020 school year. Math in Focus is a valuable curriculum resource that provides students the opportunity to increase their mathematical skills through hands-on activities, visualization, and pictorial representations to build understanding, confidence, and love of math. Throughout this year, Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Priola are committed to providing structured professional development to our teachers, focusing on incorporation of effective instructional practices in math while supporting implementation of our curriculum resources.

We are pleased to add Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Priola to the team of instructional coaches in District 301 and look forward to continuing to improve the instruction we provide to our students.



Do you have the Central District 301 mobile app?

Download it today for free from the App Store or Google Play and have quick access to District calendars, news, links to systems like Skyward and Canvas, and more!

2019-2020 Budget Update

The state of Illinois contributes to school funding through the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula. The amount Central 301 received from the EBF formula this year calculates to \$7,256,329, which is an increase of only \$207,645 from last year. Last school year's funding was only \$164,089 higher than the previous year. These small increases are not nearly enough to keep up with our increasing enrollments. The state contributes approximately 15% of our total revenues whereas our local revenues make up 83% of our funding. We continue to be fiscally responsible and equitable with our budget. The final FY20 budget was formally adopted at our September 23, 2019 board meeting and can be found on our website, central301.net, under District Departments > Business Services, or by following this link: <https://central301.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FY20-Budget.pdf>.

During tax year 2014, our school tax rate was \$7.88 and we have consistently been reducing this amount down to our current 2018 rate, which is \$6.71. This is a total decrease of \$1.17 over the past four years. It is estimated that 2019's tax levy rate will also come in with a slight decrease.

Employment Opportunities

District 301 has a number of non-certified employment opportunities available. To view a complete list or apply online, visit <https://central301.net/human-resources/non-certified-position-openings/>.

- Bus Driver - Contact Pam Porto at 847-464-6052 for more information. Training is provided!
- Cook - Contact Pam Mirenda at 847-464-6043 for more information.
- Paraprofessional - Contact Tara Grommes at 847-464-6005 for more information.
- Custodian - Contact Dan Polowy at 847-464-6050 for more information.
- Substitute - Contact Tara Grommes at 847-464-6005 for more information.

*Engage the
mind,
Empower
the learner,
Inspire
excellence,
Influence the
world!*

New D301 Teachers Enjoy Training and Team-building

Each year teachers new to District 301 participate in new teacher training before the start of the school year. This year, nearly 40 new teachers came together with district administrators, instructional coaches, and mentors to learn about our processes, instructional strategies, technology systems and more. In addition to learning about our district, they also had time for fun team-building activities.



D301 Welcomes New EL Director

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Ms. Mills intends to build on what Central's English Learner Programs and Services has already established, engage stakeholders, and foster an understanding that all English Learners (ELs)/Emergent Bilinguals (EBs) are capable of achieving excellence in learning. She is committed to the development of bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism. She plans to support this goal by encouraging the implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy, a language proficiency recognition award for high school students.

All District 301 families are invited to participate in District 301's Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC). The committee consists of mostly parents of different languages, teachers, and community members. They can make decisions regarding bilingual programs and services, participate in workshops, conferences, and events for bilingual parents, and promote diversity and cultural awareness within our school communities. For more information, please contact Sofia Mills, sofia.mills@central301.net.

Please join us in welcoming Sofia to the administrative team!

**Welcome
to the
Central
301
family!**

District 301 Welcomes New Staff

Central District 301 is pleased to welcome new staff to our growing district. Below is a list of our staff members new this year.

DO	Sofia Mills, EL/Grant Director	Kate Vincent, SEL Coordinator
CHS	Jenny Gardner, Athletics Secretary Rachel Ginter, School Counselor Emily Hahn, ELA Teacher Julie Herber, Science Teacher Erica Janssen, Paraprofessional Ann-Marie Johnson, Cook Jason Kwasniak, ELA Teacher Rachel Madrid, Math Teacher	Peter Mianowski, Dean's Assistant Daniel Olsen, Science Teacher Jordan Pastorik, Social Studies Teacher Katlyn Post, Agriculture Teacher Tyler Runge, Special Education Teacher Catherine Taylor, Spanish Teacher Shea Thayer, Math Teacher
CMS	Elizabeth Cowser, ELA Teacher Jared Hahn, SpEd Teacher Yomardy Lacruz, EL Teacher	Nicole Parisi, Math Teacher Catherine Taylor, Spanish Teacher Charles Yoder, Paraprofessional
PK	Jenna Jensen, Math Teacher	Brittany Passini, Math Teacher
CT	Angela Bavaro, 3rd Grade Teacher Kristy Burns, SpEd Teacher Julie Carley, Paraprofessional Chayna DeNicolo, 5th Grade Teacher Jamie Galliard, 4th Grade Teacher Melissa Haschak, Paraprofessional Catherine Lenschow, Paraprofessional Ysbelia Lopez, EL Teacher	Kristan Manning, EC Teacher Nina Massion, 5th Grade Teacher Marissa McCullough, Social Worker Desiree Moretti, Speech Pathologist Deanna Murchison, Paraprofessional Melanie North, Paraprofessional Joanne Warren, LEADS Teacher
HBT	Sara Buetow, Kindergarten Teacher Noelle Carani, Kindergarten Teacher Jennifer Dienelt, EC Teacher Yomardy Lacruz, EL Teacher Samantha Marusiak, Speech Pathologist Marissa McCullough, Social Worker	Nicole Meister, EC Teacher Stephanie Moment, 5th Grade Teacher Laura Rainer, 3rd Grade Teacher Kimberly Thomason, 3rd Grade Teacher Hannah Zipoy, 4th Grade Teacher
LL	Joanne Muellner, Social Worker	
PV	Lynn Arndt, Cook Chris Barr, Assistant Principal Michael Casey, 5th Grade Teacher Tara Dubbins, 1st Grade Teacher Cynthia LaCosse, Kindergarten Teacher	Sarah Limberis, 3rd Grade Teacher Marissa McCullough, Social Worker Michelle Orchard, School Psychologist Mary Beth Wegner, EC Teacher
Trans	Bienvenida Boga, Bus Driver Karen Dowling, Bus Driver Bernard Doyle, Bus Driver Sally Sjurseth, Bus Driver	Elizabeth Steele, Bus Driver Dorothy Wilson, Bus Driver John Wisz, Bus Driver
B&G	Robert Hertz, Custodian Jose Macias, Custodian	Kevin Sensor, Custodian Wayne Stover, Custodian
Tech	Bert Schreur, Technician	