

---Daily Herald--- 12/4/17

### **Dist. 301 to launch state's first high school vet program**

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



Senior Shaaz Syed works in Central High School's newly remodeled library media center. The Burlington school debuted new facilities this year including six new classrooms and modern weight training and cardio fitness areas. Rick West| *Staff Photographer*

Central High School will become a regional hub for veterinary science education starting next school year.

"It's the first (veterinary program) in the state of Illinois at the high school level," said Esther Mongan, assistant superintendent of Burlington-based Central Unit District 301. "There's actually a need for (veterinary assistants) across the state."

Students from Elgin Area School District U-46 and Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 also will be able to take veterinary science classes at Central High by agreement with those districts. It marked the first collaborative effort between the districts.

"This is a resource for all of our students across the region," Mongan said.

Officials are working with the Illinois State Board of Education to create the veterinary science course.

"We are unveiling three new career pathways programs," District 301 Superintendent Todd Stirn said.

Central also will offer an [INCubatoredu](http://INCubatoredu) business entrepreneurship program and a MobileMaker app designing course next year.

A new veterinary science lab -- to be built next summer -- and space for the incubator and mobile app programs are part of a \$22 million construction project now underway.

District 301 teachers will partner with local veterinarians to help train students in the lab where they will learn skills, such as grooming and administering shots to small animals, Mongan said.

Students in the INCubatoredu program will create and develop their own product or service idea under the guidance of entrepreneurs and experts serving as volunteer coaches and mentors. The

district also will partner with local businesses and manufacturers to provide internship and mentorship opportunities for students in these pathway programs.

Central students can participate in U-46's precision manufacturing course and District 300's welding program, according to the reciprocity agreement with those districts.

"These programs will lead students to good jobs," Stirn said.

This year, Central debuted the first phase of improvements -- costing roughly \$6.6 million, funded through debt certificates to be repaid through impact fees from new construction. It includes a renovated library with a college-like atmosphere, six new classrooms for music, computer-aided design, computer lab, health and dance/multipurpose use, and modern weight training and cardio fitness areas. The fitness area is equipped with 24 exercise bicycles, treadmills, elliptical and rowing machines.

The second phase includes a 12-classroom addition, a new field house with a 200-meter track, and new locker room and wrestling facilities opening in August 2018. It is funded through the \$22 million loan approved by voters in November 2016.

The upgrades are meant to accommodate growth at the high school -- expected to reach 1,200 students by the 2019-20 school year.

## **SPORTS SECTION**

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### **Boys Basketball: Rohr, South Elgin top Guilford to move to 5-0**

**BY SCOTT MILLER**

The red hot start to the season for the South Elgin boys basketball team continued on Saturday.

Fresh off capturing the title at the Sycamore Thanksgiving Tournament last weekend the Storm rolled to a 73-55 nonconference win over Rockford Guilford in their home opener to improve to 5-0.

Senior Noah Rohr led South Elgin with a career-best 24 points.

"This is what we pictured," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "We feel we are capable of winning a lot of games this year. I am really pleased with the start and happy with the way we are playing on both ends of the court. We are playing hard, aggressive, and fast like we want to. We've been able to create some turnovers and push the ball up the floor."

The defense played a key role for the Storm on Saturday. They forced 31 turnovers with 21 of those coming in the first half as they built a 40-20 lead by halftime.

"We were able to apply a lot of pressure with our soft 1-2-2 press," Johnson said. "The key was being aggressive and denying passes. David Binion and Drake Montgomery did a real good job at the point of attack."

Montgomery had 4 steals and Binion had 3.

Rohr provided an offensive spark for the Storm right out of the gate. He scored 10 points in the first quarter, including a pair of 3-pointers.

"I was thrilled with what Noah did today," Johnson said. "He can shoot the ball, but he's struggled the last couple games. We just told him to keep shooting because eventually they are going to start falling again. He works really hard and when he hit that first 3-point shot on our first possession I felt really good for him. It took some pressure off and he got on a roll after that."

Rohr shot 10 of 15 (67 percent) from the field. He was 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

"It felt good seeing that first one go down," Rohr said. "My teammates did a good job of getting me the ball, They were scoring, too, and that opens up a lot of shots for everyone. So I really have to give the credit to them. I feel we have a good team chemistry and we are meshing right now."

Montgomery added 14 points for the Storm and Jace Warrick finished with 13 points.

"We have several different guys who can score," Johnson said. "A different one might step up and have big game each night. Tonight it was Noah. The next night it might be Drake, or David, or Jace. It's really nice to have that balance."