

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
February 5, 2021

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

February 8: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Meeting, 2:00 PM
February 8: Academic Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM
February 9: DLCAP Meeting, 6:30 PM
February 10: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 PM
February 11: Middle College Virtual Preview, 6:00 PM
February 12: Facilities Committee Meeting, 3:00 PM
February 15 - 19: Presidents' Week Recess, Schools and District Offices Closed
February 22: Charter Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM
February 23: AASAT Meeting, 6:00 PM
February 24: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 PM
February 26: Budget Committee Meeting, 3:00 PM

Next Week's Board Meeting February 10 - Matthew Duffy

Closed Session will begin at 5:00 PM.

School Facility Program Audits - Tony Wold (Margarita Romo)

Staff will be taking a contract for School Facilities Program Audits to the Facilities Committee on Friday, February 12th. [Education Code 41024](#) has pushed the responsibility for School Facility Program audits from the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) to CPA firms. The District has four projects that are ready to undergo school facilities program audits. Three are due to the state on October 20, 2021 and the fourth is due on December 4, 2021. Christy White, the CPA firm that performs the district financial audit, bond financial audit, and parcel tax audit, can perform these audits for the district and has provided a contract for these services. Staff will ask for direction from the committee regarding this contract before it's taken to the board for approval. If approved the School Facilities Program Audits would not exceed \$20,000 from the operations budget within the general fund.

Bond Financial Audit - Tony Wold (Margarita Romo)

The district's 2019-20 Bond Financial Audit is in the process of being finalized by Christy White. The Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee is scheduled to review the draft report as part of the audit exit conference on Monday, February 8th and the Facilities Committee on the 12th. The draft audit report shows the district received an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion an auditor can give. The district is scheduled to take the final report to the board on March 24th.

Literacy Intervention for 3rd-6th grade English Learner starts in late February - Rubén Aurelio (Christi Roscigno & team)

Goals

1. Practice reading, writing, and speaking English, using hard copies of books that were sent to students' homes already.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

2. Students connect with other multilingual students through books!

Overview

- Two 4 week cycles of clubs: February 22nd-March 26th OR April 12-May 14th
- Clubs meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3-3:45 pm (1.5 hours per week)
- Clubs will be led by credentialed WCCUSD teachers

Multilingual Education in WCCUSD - Rubén Aurelio (Christi Roscigno & team)

On February 23, 2021, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm, there will be an event for WCCUSD staff and families in order to celebrate multilingual education in our district, and provide information for families who may wish to opt into our programs in order to become Biliterate!

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Rubén Aurelio (Gabriel Chilcott & team)

High School Science (John Iwawaki & Team)

To align with the [2016 California Science Framework's Three Course Model](#), WCCUSD has begun phasing out old high school science courses, and will be creating new course titles with new course descriptions:

Biology --> The Living Earth,

Chemistry --> Chemistry of the Earth System,

Physics --> Physics of the Universe.

Each of these courses integrates the core subject with elements of Earth & Space Science, as well as Engineering. This change provides the opportunity for students to access every [NGSS](#) standard from the four domains in only three years, and better prepares them for the content in the [California Science Test](#) (CAST). It also lays the groundwork for the upcoming adoption of new instructional materials in the three courses.

Math (Mark Lobaco & Team)

The Math Department continues to work to align our middle school curriculum to state recommendations. To that end, we are prioritizing the three middle school math classes and will not offer on site Algebra for the 21-22 school year. [Here is a letter](#) that explains the rationale and advancement pathways for students who wish to accelerate their math instruction. This is an update on information included in the [August 14, 2020 Friday Memo](#).

The midyear window for district math assessments in grades K-8 comes to a close prior to Presidents' Week break. K-1 assessments this year are site-determined and data is not collected centrally. A district-provided, standards-aligned, distance learning-friendly assessment has been created by the Math Department to support teachers in collecting and analyzing data to determine intervention needs. Grades 2-8 are using the Star Math assessment this year, and after this testing window, growth data can begin to be analyzed to celebrate successes and identifying needs. The Math Department has provided [an informational slide deck](#) on Star Math's growth reports with suggested actions for teachers and administrators.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

2020 AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award - Rubén Aurelio (Allison Huie & team)

Recently, we were notified that Pinole Valley High School has been awarded the College Board's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to the AP Computer Science Principles course.



This award acknowledges 1,119 schools for their work toward equal gender representation during the 2019-2020 school year - nearly 37% more than the 818 schools recognized last year.

National School Counseling Week - Rubén Aurelio (Allison Huie & team)

This week is National School Counseling Week 2021 (#NSCW21). This year's theme is "School Counselors: All In for All Students," and focuses public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. National School Counseling Week is always celebrated the first full week in February and you can follow the #NSCW21 to see how school counselors across the country are celebrating. You can participate in the celebration by posting your own message in support of school counselors and use the tag #NSCW & @ccWCCUSD. Download the [Happy National School Counseling Week \(PDF\)](#) sign or [jpeg image](#).

CTE Month - Rubén Aurelio (Allison Huie & team)

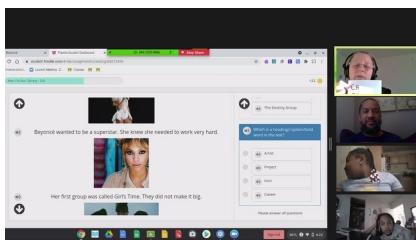
Join us in February to celebrate the importance of Career and Technical Education for our students and our nation's economy with several outreach opportunities:

- Share the Association for Career and Technical Education's social media messages all month long or your own success stories on social media via #CTEMonth;
- Advocate for CTE — Businesses stand to gain a great deal from strong CTE programs, as these programs provide students with the education and work-based learning they need to equip themselves with the skills necessary to enter the workforce. However, many businesses are unaware of the specific benefits of career and technical education. By reaching out to them, you may create valuable partnerships that allow you to achieve your own goals. As you engage with business and industry leaders along with other elected officials, ensure that they understand the key role CTE plays in readying the future workforce.
- Sign up for CTE Month's culminating event, [ACTE's virtual National Policy Seminar](#), happening the week of Feb. 22.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

African American Student Achievement - Rubén Aurelio (William McGee & team)

1. The OAASA provided a resource for a variety of Black History Month events for the WCCUSD community. At our opening event, we had over 90 people on the zoom, and fluctuated between 25-40 people on Facebook Live with a variety of watch parties. This supports the resolution to support Black/African American students. Link [here](#) for the month's events.
2. In conjunction with the English Learner and Early Literacy Department, the OAASA is pleased to offer a committee for parents/guardians to work alongside our teachers with a process to select mentor text (culturally relevant teaching materials) to support the learning in our K-6 classrooms. We advertised this to our AASAT/AAPAC delegates and have approximately eight parents/guardians who signed up. This supports the resolution to support Black/African American students.
3. The OAASA's Program for Academic Success has started. There are currently nine teachers working in small groups with children on reading and literacy. I was able to visit their virtual classroom and was ecstatic to see the teaching and learning, and the engagement. I was so moved it brought a tear to my eye. One teacher even held a child after class to do some targeted work with the student! This connects with the resolution to support Black/African American students. Please enjoy the photos.



From Me to Everyone:
Nice job all...keep up the good work!
From Me to Jane Magid: (Direct Message)
Thank you...keep up the good work!

