

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
May 7, 2021

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

April 9 - June 1: 55th Annual WCCUSD Student Art Show - Online Gallery Richmond Art Center

May 10: No School (Non Workday for 10 Month Employees) - Reserve Day 3

May 10: Academic Committee Special Meeting, 4:00 PM

May 11: DLCAPS Meeting. 6:30 PM

May 11: Agenda Setting, 4:00 PM

May 12: Board of Education Study Session, 6:00 PM

May 14: Facilities Committee Meeting, 3:00 PM

May 17: Charter Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM

May 19: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 PM

May 12 Study Session– Matthew Duffy

No Closed Session at this meeting.

Save the Date: EL Reclassification Ceremony- Rubén Aurelio (Christi Roscigno & team)

Please reserve [Monday May 24th from 6:30pm-8:00pm](#) where we will be honoring our students who are reclassifying as proficient in English, with a special mention for those who are both reclassifying AND earning a California State Seal of Biliteracy.

Update: Summer Homegrown Reading Institute for TK-6 - Rubén Aurelio (Christi Roscigno & team)

August 2-5 will be [WCCUSD's Summer Reading Institute](#), facilitated by Teachers College Reading Writing Project (TCRWP). Focus of the 4 day training will be on meeting students learning needs in reading, and mitigating potential learning loss through small group instruction.

Congratulations to Barbara and the Food Service Department- Tony Wold (Andrea Arnold, Barbara Jellison & Team)

West Contra Costa Unified School District is celebrating Barbara Jellison and her department for receiving the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Award of \$227,054. West Contra Costa Unified School District will collaborate with Conscious Kitchen to increase the percentage of school food that Food Services makes onsite in the Central Kitchen. The district will achieve this by establishing procurement processes and bidding packages that enable cost-effective, large-scale purchases of fresh, organic products from local vendors, farmers, and suppliers; procuring fresher, local, organic products for school meals; and purchasing a produce slicing machine for the Central Kitchen to prepare fresh fruits and vegetables.

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Note from Make El Cerrito Fire Safe - Tony Wold (Michael Booker)

We wanted to thank Michael Booker for his work on continuing to ensure the safety of our students and community and share with the Board an email we received regarding Michael's thoughtful support of our organization.

On behalf of Make El Cerrito Fire Safe, I would like to thank you for taking your time to address our concerns regarding emergency evacuation of El Cerrito schools during a wildfire event. You not only took time out of your obviously busy schedule, but you brought a depth and breadth of knowledge about evacuations that greatly impressed us. You listened to our concerns, offered to review our suggestions, and brought backup material to explain what the district is doing. We feel much relieved to know that someone with your background is handling this critical issue.

Again, if there is anything we can do to help you in your work, please don't hesitate to call on us.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Gary Prost, Sue and Paul Duncan
Make El Cerrito Fire Safe*

COVID Testing Protocols - Tony Wold (Anne Shin, Julio Franco, Michael Booker, Covid team)

This is a copy of a document that provides guidance and clarification on the District's COVID-19 testing protocols for WCCUSD employees and students. The District created our Memorandum of Understanding for the Spring with the expectation of ongoing testing as part of the model. Testing was also part of the District's Covid Prevention Plan, CPP and that section is listed at the end of this memo as **Exhibit A**. The entire text of the MOU is listed at the end of this memo as **Exhibit B**.

Key Facets of District Testing Protocols

- **It has always been expected that the District would require all students and staff who are participating in in-person activities to be subject to testing on an ongoing basis and that testing was mandatory (with limited exceptions)**
 - Limited waivers for religious or medical reasons can be submitted to the school site administration for students, or HR for staff.
- **Week of May 10** - any students or staff who have not been tested should plan on completing the initial baseline testing and site administrators will coordinate the completion of this testing.
- **Week of May 17** - the District will begin to conduct random asymptomatic testing. 20% of the members of each individual cohort will be scheduled to be tested that week (this includes both students and staff).

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- **COVID Testing** is paid for by the Federal Government. The Government requires each person tested to complete paperwork that includes submission of insurance information. If an individual does not have insurance they will still be tested. **No student or staff member will be required to pay for COVID testing.**
 - To ensure that test results are accurately reported back each student or staff member should make sure their name, birthdate, and email address are accurately listed on the forms.
- **Positive Test Results** will result in the 10-day quarantine period for all participants in that cohort and participants in the cohort who did not test positive will be tested upon return from the quarantine as outlined in the CPP plan.
- **Yellow Tier** - once Contra Costa County enters the yellow tier, the District will decrease the testing, but as stated in the CPP, due to the fact that some areas of the District have higher rates of spread than others in the County the District will maintain some levels of testing in place into the summer and possibly fall.
- **Athletics** - Students and coaches participating in CIF athletics are required to test on an ongoing basis. There is no current waiver for this testing, just as physicals are required to participate, so is mandatory testing as determined by the league.

We hope that all staff and students continue to understand the importance of asymptomatic testing as part of our protocols and appreciate the understanding of this requirement and expectation. We have all been through a tremendous amount of change over the last year, and the new “normal” is something that we each need to get used to. Testing is part of that new normal, as is wearing of masks, and social distancing. We appreciate your understanding and implementation of these requirements as we prepare for more expanded in-person instruction in the summer and a return to school in the Fall we are using this time in spring to create the ongoing protocols that are ensuring that we will keep our schools safe and our classrooms open.

If you have any questions about our COVID testing procedures you should contact your site administrator. At the District level our District Operations department will continue to assist sites with all the protocols. Thank you for everything that you are doing and for ensuring that we are all being tested.

EXHIBIT A - COVID PREVENTION PLAN (CPP)

Employee screening/Asymptomatic Testing

WCCUSD will adhere to most current [CDPH guidelines](#) unless CDC, Contra Costa County Health Services provides different protocols. The parties agree that where these guidelines are not in agreement, WCCUSD shall adhere to the guidelines that provide the greatest level of safety for WCCUSD students and staff. The Parties also recognize that individual portions of the District may

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have different case levels which may require additional screening above that which is required for the County as a whole.

The following protocols and procedures will be implemented:

- The District will provide training to employees, students and families on how to engage in a Daily Attestation for symptoms of COVID-19 at home and will advise them not to report to work/school if they have COVID-19 symptoms that cannot be attributed to another health condition.
- The District will contract with an outside vendor(s)/agency(ies) to provide asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 at no expense to employees and students. The cadence utilized for testing shall align to the current COVID-19 tier in Contra Costa County as defined in CDPH's most current guidance and adheres to the guidance that provides the greatest level of safety for WCCUSD students and staff.
- The District shall provide families/parents and staff with frequent reminders of these procedures and guidelines.
- Staff will utilize an online system to log in each day on campus, when this log-in occurs they will respond to a daily health screening.
- Students and parents will attest and provide a signed waiver that they will not attend school any day where they answer the self-health screening as having a risk issue.

EXHIBIT B - RETURN TO SPRING IN-PERSON INTERVENTION MOU

Ongoing asymptomatic testing is critical to a safe return

1. WCCUSD will follow all testing cadence requirements as defined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
2. In addition, in an abundance of caution, the District will provide mandatory no-cost every other week asymptomatic/surveillance testing to ALL staff and students who participate in the Spring In Person Support Program during the Red Tier (4-10/100k daily new cases).
 - a. Upon entry to the Orange Tier (1-3.9 daily new cases/100k) or lower, this testing cadence shall be reduced to a monthly scientifically based appropriate random sampling testing cadence. The percentage of students tested will be mutually determined by the District and associations.
 - i. Students will have the ability to complete a waiver from this requirement based upon very specific medical and religious criteria, provided they sign a hold-harmless document.
 - ii. Random asymptomatic testing shall be discontinued upon entering the Yellow tier
3. Additionally, WCCUSD will provide no-cost symptomatic testing to ANY staff or student who has been exposed or potentially exposed to COVID-19 before allowing their continued participation in the in-person program.

Demographic breakdown by school of students attending Spring In Person – Tracey Logan

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Attached you will find 3 PDF documents containing a breakdown by school of students attending in person this spring. The data is broken down by student groups, ethnicity, and grade levels. A similar demographic breakdown of the students who are on the waitlists to attend spring in person will be provided in next week's Friday memo. We are currently conducting the data collection for this report. See below:

[In Person by School and Student Group](#)

[In Person by School and Ethnicity](#)

[In Person by School and Grade](#)