

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
April 15, 2022

Upcoming Events – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

April 17: Easter Sunday

April 18: Strategic Planning Guiding Coalition; Pinole/Hercules, Pinole Valley High School 5:30-7:30pm

April 19: WCCUSD Art Showcase Reception, Richmond Art Center, 5:00-6:00pm

April 20: Strategic Planning Guiding Coalition; DeAnza/Richmond, DeAnza High School 5:30-7:30pm

April 25: Strategic Planning Guiding Coalition; Virtual Meeting 5:30-7:30pm

Next Board of Education Meeting April 27, 2022– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

Closed Session will begin at 4:00pm

Special Education Department - ESY (Extended School Year) June 20- July 21, 2022

Staffing offers have gone out, acceptances are coming in - To date 760 students have completed applications.

Curriculum has been selected. ELA(English Language Arts - Time Warp; Math - MobyMax; ArtsAttack; Mystery Science

Case managers are completing ESY applications in partnership with parents to finalize student enrollment
Collaboration meetings are happening between departments involved with summer planning.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Early Learning/Elementary- LaResha Martin (Christi Roscigno & team)

Language & Literacy Celebration of Yearlong Learning

The Language and Literacy Teacher Leadership Collaborative are happy to invite all TK-12 teachers to attend the [April 28th Professional Learning Opportunity](#) where teachers are going to share what they have learned in their self selected Communities of Practice around Language and Literacy. Join us to learn about their work - the essential questions, practical strategies, and key takeaways from their inquiry!

College & Career - LaResha Martin (Allison Huie & team) in collaboration with Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Secondary (Gabriel Chilcott & team)

The Kennedy FabLab in Palm Springs!

Students from Kennedy High's FabLab-based Engineering class presented hands-on STEM activities in the "[Chevron STEM Zone](#)" to local 4th graders from Cathedral City Elementary School at [The Chevron Championship](#) LPGA tournament in Rancho Mirage. Activities included a 3D design and 3D printer station, a circuit-building station, and a branded and personalized, laser-cut wooden ball puzzle station. 3D printers and laser cutters were running demonstrations, transported by our Mobile FabLab, all with support from our WCCUSD College & Career Department staff. In addition to leading the STEM activities for the younger students, WCCUSD students also had the opportunity to explore the golf tournament itself, meet professional golfers and Chevron executives, and experience the ecology of the California desert. More photos [HERE](#)

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English Learner Achievement - LaResha Martin (Esaul Orozco & team)
Spring Quarter 3 (Jan-March) Review Update 2021-22

Family & Community Engagement - LaResha Martin (Martine Blake & Kasey Blackburn Jiron, Expanded Learning)

ASES increase

Last July (2020-2021 FY), the governor approved an increase in ASES per pupil allocation. The per pupil rate increased from \$8.88 to \$10.18. Unfortunately, the CDE did not release the Grant Award Notification to reflect this increase in district budgets until February 28, 2022. The Board received several recent amendments reflecting this increase in the ASES per-pupil allocation. WCCUSD's Expanded Learning division is allocating this increase to offer small group (1:6) reading intervention at our elementaries and to increase Expanded Learning staff hourly rates to a competitive rate.

Expanded Learning Evaluation

Social Policy Research Associates (SPR) is the evaluation firm that the Expanded Learning division partners with to complete its external evaluation (quality, attendance, youth, family, and staff survey data) and our annual continuous quality improvement process. SPR has extensive experience with evaluating school based expanded learning programs in SFUSD and OUSD. As part of their evaluation, SPR is providing each program with a detailed program profile which summarizes site-level program data along with a public-facing memo and data tables. In addition to the District's 2021-2022 Expanded Learning Evaluation they are also doing our federal ASSIST reporting for 21CCCLC funding and leading focus group conversations with stakeholders.

California Department of Education's Expanded Learning Opportunity Program

California Department of Education releases a new stream of funding for Expanded Learning programs called Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELO-P). ELO-P funds are apportioned to school districts based on prior year classroom-based average daily attendance for grades kindergarten through sixth grade (TK/K-6) and the prior year unduplicated pupil percentage as of the Second Principal Apportionment. The purpose of these funds is to expand TK-6th grade exposure to high quality after school, intercession and summer school enrichment as described in Education Code Section 46120. Per CDE, the ELO-P funds are a multi-year funding stream. More information about how the District is planning on allocating its ELO-P funds can be found [here](#).

Communications Update - Ryan Phillips

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

[West Contra Costa Unified seeks input on plan towards achieving equity | EdSource](#)

West Contra Costa Unified officials are calling on the community to get involved in the district's "[strategic planning process](#)" to develop a plan towards achieving equity across multiple areas. "This is the right time for us to initiate a lasting change for our students," Superintendent Chris Hurst said in an announcement Monday evening.

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[California public school student enrollment drops to lowest in two decades - East Bay Times](#)

Enrollment in California public schools plunged for the second straight school year under COVID restrictions, new figures released Monday show, with the number of K-12 students dipping below 6 million for the first time in more than 20 years, driven in part by dismal numbers in the Bay Area. Of the 12 largest school districts in the Bay Area, the most staggering drops this year were at Cupertino Union and San Jose Unified, for at least the second year in a row, and continued the districts' downward trend. In the past five years, Cupertino's enrollment fell by more than 24% and San Jose Unified by 16%. Over the same period, West Contra Costa Unified and fast-growing Fremont Unified had the smallest drops, at 4% each.

Monday, April 11, 2022

[An unmet promise: Early literacy for all in California | EdSource](#)

Learning to read by third grade is a crucial milestone that sets up students for future success. But millions of California children, particularly in low-income districts, are woefully behind in learning to read. Join EdSource on April 28 for a discussion about what works and what doesn't when it comes to learning to read and whether California is doing enough to improve early literacy. Speakers: Jamie Allardice, Principal at Nystrom Elementary | West Contra Costa Unified

[California schools could face huge budget hit after new data shows significant enrollment drops](#)

California's public schools saw a decrease of 110,000 students this year, the fifth [straight year of decline](#) and the first time state enrollment has dipped below 6 million in more than a decade, according to the annual count released Monday. In the Bay Area, the Oakland, San Francisco and West Contra Costa school districts are already seeing serious financial fallout, with the prospect of state intervention or takeover, unless school boards make significant cuts.

[Students Seek Help Locating Their Missing Weather Balloon In Utah](#) | Bureau of Land Management

Students from the West Contra Costa School District's K-12 Virtual Learning Academy in California seek help locating their missing weather balloon with its data that likely landed near the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. A beacon was found nearby this month. The balloon launched March 18, 2022, from the Hercules Middle School, in Hercules, Calif.

Sunday, April 10, 2022

[Inside the exodus from Bay Area neighborhood schools - The Mercury News](#)

Every weekday morning, Sharde Mercier drives her daughters, Aleeah, 8, and Alyssa, 10, past their old neighborhood school in the Alum Rock Union School District to get to a charter school in San Jose. She isn't the only one going out of her way to get her kids to school. San Francisco Unified sent hundreds of potential layoff notices to staffers to balance a \$125 million deficit. West Contra Costa School District could cut staff contractors and student programs [amid a \\$42 million deficit](#) and a projected \$151 million shortfall in the next two years. Phased-in school closures in Oakland garnered national attention when two teachers staged a hunger strike and parents, students and educators rallied in protest, but the district is far from the only one forced to take such drastic action.