

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
December 16, 2022

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

December 16: Minimum Day All School

December 19 - January 2: Winter Recess, No School

January 3: Classes Reconvene

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment STEM- LaResha Huffman (Gabriel Chilcott & team)

As part of our ongoing work to align practices across contents and schools the C&I team is engaging in school walkthroughs. The team is using these walkthroughs to map practices and refine department priorities. Three of the main focal areas of the walkthrough are increasing student academic discourse, improving argument from evidence, and depth of knowledge and use of complex text.





Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Early Learning/Early Literacy/TK-12 Literacy-
LaResha Huffman (Elizabeth Henry & team)

WCCUSD Literacy Department is building a comprehensive plan to support literacy throughout the district. So far, we have collected data from approximately 30 sites around literacy needs and look forward to continuing our listening sessions at all sites. This data will inform our support structures in the new year as we align professional development, and strengthen site capacity through learning walks, coaching and leadership communities of practice.

The Office of African American Student Achievement (OAASA) and the WCCUSD Literacy Department are collaborating on the Mission Critical 7 project to increase the measurable reading skills (phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and reading comprehension) among African American students at Bayview, Coronado, King, Lincoln, Nystrom, Peres, and Stege Elementary Schools. The project will officially begin in January of 2023 with focal groups of students receiving additional small group direct instruction daily from Academic Support Providers hired by the Office of African American Student Achievement.

Upcoming Professional Development:

SIPPS Virtual Professional Learning Series will be relaunching in January. All Elementary teachers and leaders will be invited to participate. The series will support launching, lesson structure and routines, and instructional decision making.

College & Career - LaResha Huffman (Allison Huie & team)

Girls Lead The Way

Female students in Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering classes from Pinole Valley High, Richmond High, and Pinole Middle visited Chevron's corporate headquarters in San Ramon, CA for the [2023 Girls Lead The Way](#) event. Students participated in hands-on engineering projects supported by local women professionals in the engineering industry. They heard inspiring presentations about pursuing careers in STEM fields from Chris Kelley, Commissioner of Contra County Transportation Authority, and the US's first Latina fighter pilot Lt. Col. Olga Custodio. Custodio also described her path to becoming a pilot instructor and a captain for a commercial airline. More photos [HERE](#).



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English Learner Achievement - LaResha Huffman (Esaul Orozco & team)

This past Wednesday, the Office of EL Achievement engaged twenty K-12 teachers in Part II of our EL Toolkit Series: Academic Conversations. Thus far 180 teachers district-wide have attended this professional development. We thank all schools that have partnered to facilitate teacher access to this professional development that focuses on enhancing learning and increasing EL Achievement; Grant, Lincoln, Murphy, Tara Hills, Helms, DeJean, De Anza, Kennedy and Richmond High.



TK-12 Schools - LaResha Huffman (Keisha Joyner, Koy Hill & Summer Sigler)

De Anza High School - Visual and Performing Arts

Students from the De Anza High Visual and Performing Arts class put on a showcase at the De Anza Theater. They performed demos, productions and ended the show with a special performance of “Feliz Navidad” with the ESN Class. Here is the [link](#) to the video.

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Family & Community Engagement - LaResha Huffman (Martine Blake & team)

The Expanded Learning Office will be working with principals in Network 1 to launch up to 7 site-based spring break camps in partnership with Sylvan Learning. These camps would operate from 8:00am-6:00pm daily the week of April 3, 2023 and include morning academic intervention with 48 students grades 1st-6th and afternoon enrichment through a variety of specialty providers. The Expanded Learning Office is also exploring 3 additional elementary spring break camp hub sites which will serve 80 students, grades TK-6 graders.

After School Winter Showcases are taking place at 14 school based after school programs. The photo below are from the Obama Showcase on Tuesday night.



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Communications Update - Liz Sanders

'It doesn't even feel real'; New mayor Alex Walker-Griffin embraces all things Hercules | CBS News

"Hercules is as about as hometown as you can get," Walker-Griffin said. "Ohlone Elementary. Go Eagles. Hercules Middle School, so go Titans. Also, go Titans of Hercules high school. So this is my hometown." Now, at the age of 25, his hometown love affair will take another turn. Walker-Griffin is set to become the mayor of the town he grew up in.

WCCUSD teachers vote to authorize union strike - Richmond Standard

The [United Teachers of Richmond](#) (UTR), the union that represents educators in the [West Contra Costa Unified School District](#) (WCCUSD), overwhelmingly voted to authorize a strike amid an ongoing impasse in contract negotiations with the school district, according to a union statement. The union said 97 percent of the more than 90 percent of union members who participated in the vote supported the strike authorization.

West Contra Costa Unified teachers overwhelmingly vote to authorize strike | EdSource

An overwhelming majority of West Contra Costa Unified teachers and other school workers voted last week to authorize a strike after monthslong contract talks between the district and the teachers union, United Teachers of Richmond, came to a halt.

Register for the 2023 West Contra Costa Education Fair - Richmond Standard

The 2023 West Contra Costa Education Fair is set for Saturday, January 28 with fair organizers excited to bring the event back to an in-person format. Sponsored by the West Contra Costa Unified School District and EnrollWCC, the Education Fair aims to champion the power of education by providing families with information and support to meet the academic and enrichment needs of their students.