

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
February 10, 2023

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

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 16: MDAC Meeting, 9-11am, Serra Adult Education Center

February 27: CBOC Meeting, 6:00pm at 1400 Marina Way S, Richmond

Next Board of Education Meeting February 15, 2023– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.

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

Math Department (Mark Lobaco & Team):

Gates Effective Implementation Grant: Desmos Math 6-8—A cohort of four WCCUSD Math Department's District Implementation Team representatives (teacher, coach, site admin, central admin) attended the Gates Foundation-sponsored [two-day convening](#) in San Diego this past week. The National Implementation Research Network ([NIRN](#)) facilitated the event that included participants from districts nationwide. WCCUSD presented [this poster](#) to other attendees highlighting successes and challenges observed thus far half-way through this 3-year grant focusing on effectively implementing high quality middle grades mathematics curricula.

Library Services (Francie Kunaniec & Team):

Joanna Sykes Grants are awarded annually by Richmond Division 58 of the California Retired Teachers Association. The \$500 grants provide deserving West Contra Costa UTR members funds to improve the quality of classroom instruction and student achievement.

One of this year's winning Sykes Grants is a collaborative unit at Pinole Valley HS between Teacher Librarian Corinna Carlile and social studies teacher Andrew McKleroy. Students will study racist anti-Asian laws including Chinese Exclusion Act and Japanese internment, in addition to the anti-Chinese propaganda used during the Covid-19 pandemic. Students will read *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng, a new dystopian novel that reflects current issues in our society focusing on discrimination fueled by nationalism and anti-Asian rhetoric. The novel incorporates real incidents of recent anti-Asian attacks.

The collaborative lessons meld historical fiction with the students' history curriculum to explore how rhetoric, policies, laws, and the lens through which we see one another are intertwined and impact contemporary society. Racist laws create a lasting legacy of discrimination. The essential question for students is how they can elicit change.

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

GPA and Core-Course Still Required for NCAA Eligibility

During the 2023 NCAA Convention, **Divisions I** and **II** adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements for student-athletes who initially enroll full time on or after August 1, 2023. The vote was based on the recommendation from the **Standardized Test Score Task Force**, a specialized group charged with reviewing initial-eligibility requirements as part of the NCAA's eight-point **plan to advance racial equity**.

Among other requirements, college-bound student-athletes planning to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school are still required to have a 2.3 (DI)/2.2 (DII) grade-point average in 16 NCAA-approved core-course units and provide proof of high school graduation. Division-specific information on initial-eligibility requirements is available here:

- **Division I.**
- **Division II.**
- Division III: **Click here** for more information on Division III requirements for international student-athletes.

Eligibility Center resources and websites will be updated in the coming weeks and months to remove the test-score requirement. **Click here** for information you can share with your recruits regarding this change. Please contact NCAA Customer Service at 877-622-2321 or **ecinfo@ncaa.org** with questions.

WCCUSD Students are Preparing for the Future

In the Spring semester of each year, secondary students across West Contra Costa Unified School District consider which courses they will be taking in the upcoming school year. Across the District, students are hearing from their administrators and counselors about the programs offered at their schools and making course selections. Our high schools work to educate students about the opportunities available to them in many ways. For example, Kennedy HS hosted a Career Pathway Fair where 9th graders were able to learn about the various Career Pathway options they can choose from starting in 10th grade. Following are pictures from the Career Pathway Fair:

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Welding instructor Ben Carpenter speaks to prospective students in front of one of last year's capstone projects.



Kennedy 9th grader uses one of the Information Technology Academy's Virtual Reality headsets to explore real historical sites, such as the ancient Roman Coliseum.

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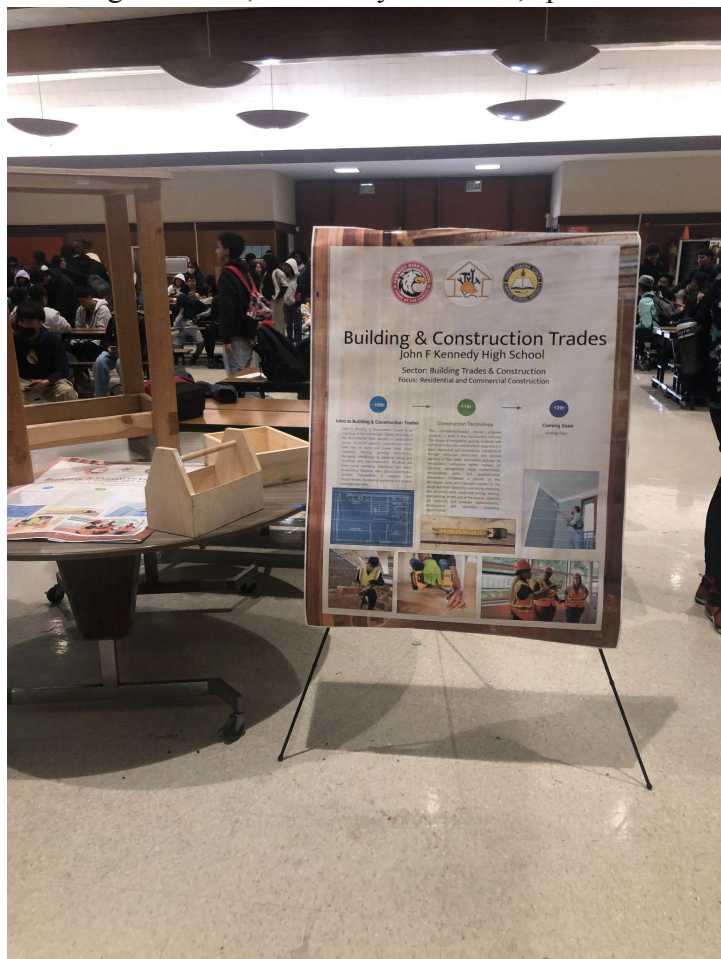


A current upperclassman in the Information Technology Academy demonstrates a robot for 9th graders.



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Current students in the Health Pathway show some of the units they are able to explore in class, including forensics, veterinary medicine, sports medicine, and optometry.



Student-built projects are displayed next to the three course sequence for Building and construction trades.

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

Expanded Learning (Kasey Blackburn-Jiron)

Annually, the District's Expanded Learning Office (EXLO) supports its 32 elementary, middle, and high school after school programs through a continuous quality improvement process (CQI) using Weikart's elementary [School Age Quality Assessment Tool \(SAPOA\)](#) and the secondary [Youth Program Quality Assessment Tool \(YPQA\)](#). As part of the CQI process, all programs receive an external site visit from the Expanded Learning Office in the Fall and late Spring. In the Winter, programs conduct their own self-assessments using the tool. The EXLO is currently reviewing the results of the program's self-assessments and planning for the "Planning with Data Workshop" later in February.

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Lawrence Hall of Science is continuing to host pop-up STEM festivals across the District's elementary and K-8 Expanded Learning sites. Below are pictures from their visit at Murphy ES.

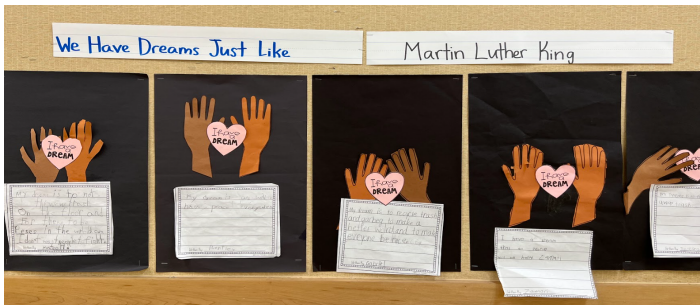


TK-12 Schools: - LaResha Huffman (Keisha Joyner, Koy Hill & Summer Sigler)

Here are some pictures of King's participation in Black Out Spirit Week. First and second graders merged their professional dress with the 100th day of school, and one kindergartener was so sharp he got to be in the vp chair! One thing I appreciate about King is our amazingly talented artists and the way teachers work hard to showcase their skill. Here are pictures of some of our beautiful hallway displays that highlight student art, ideas, and dreams. I especially want to shout out Ms. Jacobs (The colors of us and the dream thought bubble displays) and Ms. Alba (silhouette) for the way they include student self-portraits and have students reflect on identity in their classes.



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Positive School Climate & OAASA- LaResha Huffman (LaShante Smith & Team)

Schools continue to screen students using mySAEBRS, the district-adopted mental health screener. The district social workers continue to review mySAEBRS data as it posts, in addition to receiving counseling referrals from schools in order to prioritize students' mental health needs.

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The second series of our PBIS Principal PLC began at the Principal Meeting on Tuesday. The first session focused on building Tier 1 practices at schools including school-wide expectations, acknowledgment systems, and data collection. The series will continue through two additional sessions with topics directed by site need and a continued focus on Tier 1 practices.

In addition to the Climate work, the Enrollment Department was present at the recent WCCUSD Enrollment Fair. They assisted families in understanding the enrollment and transfer process. The Enrollment Department is currently accepting both new enrollments and transfers. The intra-district enrollment application is due by 2/28. More information can be found on the [district website](#).

Contract Update for the 2/15/23 Board Meeting – Robert McEntire-Mary Kitchen & Team

Contracts Summary - Business Services

The following contracts are on the February 15th Board Meeting Agenda for Board approval. [Link to Contract Summary](#)
[Link to Contract Backup](#)

Procurement Summary - Business Services

This is a new summary that will be utilized going forward to present goods, equipment, special education, and other services that do not have AMOs
[Link to Procurement Summary](#)

* Reminder: Due to Student Protection Act no attachments will be provided for NPA/NPS services