

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
***Office of the Superintendent***

**Friday Memo**  
**February 17, 2023**

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

February 20-24: President's Week (No School, District Office will be closed)

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

February 28: 7-11 Committee Meeting, 6:00pm at 1400 Marina Way S. Richmond

**Next Board of Education Meeting March 1, 2023– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.**

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

**Math Department (Mark Lobaco & Team)**

Zearn Math Midyear Updates- Zearn Math program is currently being used as a complement to K-5 teachers' core instruction. Zearn's Independent Digital Lessons have been used weekly by about 5,000 students in grades 1 through 5 and about 450 Kindergarten students!

Here is a list of schools that over the past 7 weeks are averaging over 50% of students logging in to Zearn:

Montalvin School	Harding Elementary	Lake Elementary	Coronado Elementary	Mira Vista School
Chavez Elementary	Downer Elementary	Lupine Hills Elementary	West County Mandarin Elem	Fairmont Elementary
Stege Elementary	Peres School	Grant Elementary		

Additional kudos to the following schools for ensuring an average of at least two grade level lessons per week:

Chavez Elementary	Hanna Ranch Elementary	Kensington Elementary	Collins Elementary	Downer Elementary
Montalvin School	Virtual Academy	Lake Elementary	Stege Elementary	

Since October, Zearn School Leads at 20 sites have been analyzing reports, supporting colleagues, and celebrating successes. They meet monthly with the district's Math Department to share updates and learn from each other about how they support their sites. We appreciate the stupendous work they are doing at their sites, as well as thanks to the [S.H. Cowell Foundation](#) whose generous grant funding contributes to Zearn Math usage in WCCUSD.

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

**Black History Month Flag Ceremony**

The Office of African American Student Achievement (OAASA) is proud to have led the effort to have the Pan-African flag flown at the district office and all WCCUSD schools for the first time in the history of the West Contra Costa Unified School District! The idea for flying the Pan-African flag and placing Pan-African banners at all district schools originated in the Black History Month Planning Committee and was carried out by the OAASA.

The West Contra Unified School District Board of Trustees believed in this vision and made it possible by approving a Board Resolution on Wednesday, February 1 stating, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the West Contra Costa Unified School District and its schools will display the Pan-African flag during the month of February 2023, consistent with the District's policy and administrative regulation."

Special thanks and acknowledgement to Coordinator of OAASA, Ardarius McDonald for his vision and care towards bringing this to fruition.



**UnboundED Standards Institute**

The Literacy Team along with approximately 40 teachers and administrators attended “Unbound” Standards Institute in Anaheim. This week long conference provided 7 academic pathways of practices featuring:

- **\*NEW\* CORE Learning: Elementary Reading Academy:** Gradeband Options K-6
- **\*NEW\* CORE Learning: Leadership for Literacy:** Gradeband Options K-5
- **ELA Pathway:** Gradeband Options K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- **Leadership Pathway:** Gradeband Options K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- **Math Pathway:** Gradeband Options K-5, 6-8, 9-12

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- **\*NEW\* Science Pathway:** Gradeband Options 6-8
- **UnboundEd Planning Process (UPP) Pathway:** Gradeband Options K-5, 6-12



Each day was framed with passionate and emboldened trailblazers in education including Dr. Pedro Nogura of USC and MacArthur Fellow, Lisa Delpit.

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

**Middle School Students Explore Careers via the College and Career Readiness Lab Class**

The brand new yearlong course consists of daily hands-on activities in the following 18 career areas:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Alternate Energy                     | 9. Flight & Drone Technology        |
| 2. Computer Graphics & Game Development | 10. Forensics                       |
| 3. Design & Marketing                   | 11. Home Maintenance Fundamentals   |
| 4. Digital Audio Production             | 12. Intro to Child Development      |
| 5. Digital Manufacturing                | 13. Intro to Culinary Arts          |
| 6. Electricity & Electronics            | 14. Intro to Health Science Careers |
| 7. Emergency & Fire Management Services | 15. Materials & Processing Design   |
| 8. Energy & Power                       | 16. Robotics                        |
|   | 17. Structural Engineering          |
|   | 18. Video Production                |



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The labs are focused on creating a career exploration experience to help students decide where their interests and aptitudes align within a career pathway. WCCUSD is thrilled to offer this class at 4 middle schools: DeJean, Helms, Soskin, and Hercules Middle School.

As one of the assignments for the “Video Production” Career Module, a Hercules Middle School student produced [this video](#), highlighting the best parts of the class. Check out the 2 minute video to see examples of activities in the class as well as hear directly from students!

**Positive School Climate, Enrollment & OAASA - LaResha Huffman (LaShante Smith)**

This is the last week for schools to screen students using mySAEBRS. Students’ scores will be sent to school sites over the February break with suggested next steps. Our focus will continue to be on checking in with high risk students to ensure that support is made available to them.

The Enrollment Department continues to accept new enrollments and process intradistrict transfers. The intra-district enrollment application is due by 2/28. More information can be found on the [district website](#).

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

**West County Mandarin School (WCMS) in the SF Chinese New Year Parade**

WCMS participated in the San Francisco Chinese New Year parade last Saturday, February 11th. Here are some pictures and videos from the [parade](#).

They also had a big Lion Dance Performance on Monday, February 6th at the school to mark the completion of the Lunar New Year Festival. The event was attended by WCMS students, staff and families. In addition, special guests included community leaders Pinole Mayor Murphy, Board Clerk Trustee Smith-Folds, Trustee Recker, Pinole Commissioner Christy Lam-Julian, and Robert Rogers from John Gioia's Office. During the event, the above community leaders performed an [impromptu Dragon Dance](#) for the crowd!



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

Summative ELPAC testing began February 1st and runs until May 31st. In our first two weeks of testing the RAP Center with the support of schools sites have completed over 2000 students 1:1 assessments. Please see the [ELPAC website](#) for more information and practice test options.

The office of EL Achievement in partnership with the Special Education Department and Read & Write will be providing a student and parent workshop March 1st and 2nd in the Downer Elementary School Gymnasium from 4:00pm-5:30pm. This invitation is open to all parents and students districtwide. Please see the [flier](#) / [\(volante\)](#) for more information and to RSVP.

**Communications Update - Liz Sanders (Raechelle Forrest)**

<a href="#">Four WCCUSD educators earn Ed Fund Teaching Excellence Awards - Richmond Standard</a>	... Excellence Awards, which annually recognized the West Contra Costa Unified School District's (WCCUSD) best teachers, as nominated by their ...	Richmond Standard
<a href="#">16 Feb School District Addresses Dual-Language Immersion Changes</a>	... said at Wednesday's school board meeting that the West Contra Costa Unified School District has failed to address an issue caused by ...	Richmond Pulse
<a href="#">West Contra Costa Unified and teachers union reach agreement</a>	... changed West Contra Costa Unified's budget certification, requiring the district's school board to approve a "detailed budget revision" ...	The Mercury News
<a href="#">WCCUSD teachers reach tentative agreement with district to avert strike</a>	... shutdown has likely been avoided after West Contra Costa Unified School District and the United Teachers of Richmond reached a tentative ...	Richmond Confidential
<a href="#">Budget Plan, Possible Cuts Required For West Contra Costa Unified To Settle Contract Talks With Teachers Union</a>	... 9, 2023 As contract negotiations come to a head between West Contra Costa Unified and its teachers union, the United Teachers of Richmond ...	Patch.com - Ramona, CA