

Friday Memo
January 20, 2023

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

January 26: HR January Workshop: Interview Tips & Tricks, 6:00pm via Zoom
January 26: 2022-2023 Multilingual District Advisory Council (MDAC), 9:00am at Serra Campus, Multipurpose Room

Next Board of Education Meeting January 25, 2023– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.

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

Science Department (John Iwawaki & Team): Amplify Science Simulations and Promethean ActivPanels

Promethean ActivPanels provide an ideal way for middle school students to show their thinking in science classes with digital simulations from Amplify. In the “Engineering Internship: Plate Motion” unit, students use their understanding of plate motion and tsunamis to design a warning system, then use the simulation to test the effectiveness of their designs and still come in “under budget.” Students are able to manipulate their variables on screen for other students and their teacher to see, and everyone is able to observe the effects and discuss them together. These activities explicitly support the Science & Engineering Practices (SEPs) in NGSS of Developing and Using Models, Designing Solutions, and Communicating Information.



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Math Department (Math Lobaco & Team):

The Math department is meeting with all high school math leads to explore more acceleration options (for STEM-interested students who wish to take Calculus as a senior). Site leaders then collaborate with site administration in preparation for master scheduling for SY 23-24. Find out more about Math course sequencing and acceleration [HERE](#).

Currently, 38% of seniors district wide are taking a 4th year math course (post-Alg II). Site percentages range from 23% to 55%. Offering additional 4th year courses (other than Precalculus) gives students more choice based on their interests, and data shows can increase the percentage of seniors taking a 4th year of math.

With this in mind, the Math department is going to be ramping up an Intro to Data Science course as a fourth-year course for SY 23-24. This would probably work in place of our current Prob/Stat course, with a distinctive focus on analyzing large data sets, some introductory programming, and statistical skills/concepts for building interest in the field of data science. The Math department is looking for teachers at each site to take the lead and teach this course next school year.

Curriculum options include [CourseKata](#) and [youcubed's Data Science course](#). [Study Groups for CourseKata start on January 12](#) and [youcubed PD](#) will be in June/July/Aug.

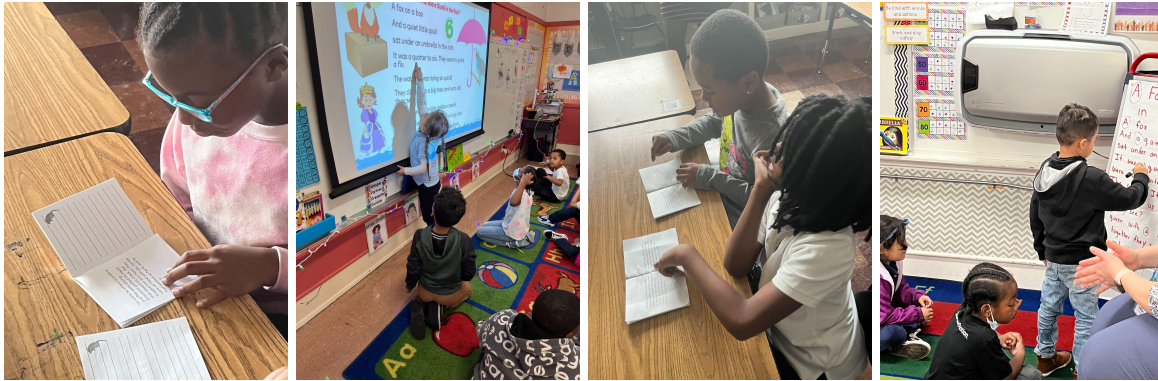
Another 4th year course option that is currently happening at RHS and KHS is Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications. The Math team is working to support sites in increasing course availability. [Here is the course outline](#).

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

Learning in Action:

The WCCUSD Literacy Department recently facilitated a learning walk at Stege Elementary! A Learning Walk is a classroom visitation tool that provides opportunities for observation, feedback and reflection.

The Literacy Team, administrator Nicole Ruiz and her coach visited K-2 classrooms to observe students engaged in foundational reading skills. It was a delight to see the teachers and students in action!



Upcoming Professional Development:

WCCUSD: SIPPS Virtual Professional Learning for School Leaders
Wednesday, January 25 · 3:15 – 4:45pm

Elementary administrators and literacy coaches are invited to this professional development opportunity on SIPPS implementation. The meeting time will include time for school leaders and coaches to collaborate about SIPPS implementation at their site.

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

HS Master Schedule Alignment Team Meetings

A-G alignment team meetings are being held this month with every high school. High school teams of administrators and counselors are planning for next year’s proposed course offerings and getting support from central staff in Departments such as the College & Career Dept, Curriculum & Instruction, and Multilingual Student Services. This collaboration is as energizing as it is critical, as it supports our focus on increasing equity and access to A-G courses throughout our district.

Careers in Healthcare Virtual Series for Students

In partnership with John Muir Health and Junior Achievement of Northern California, the College and Career Department is pleased to offer a Virtual Career Speaker Series exploring careers in the health sector. Throughout this series students will hear from healthcare professionals from a wide variety of careers within the health sector. Speakers will share details about their current role, their educational journey, and their unique path to career success, followed by a live Q&A with participating JA students. The series is designed for students in grades 8-12. The session will be held Wednesday January 25th 4:00pm – 5:00pm (PST). Students can sign up [here](#).

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

The office of EL Achievement has visited and supported the English Language Advisory Committee at Pinole Middle School, Peres K-8, Washington Elementary, Highland Elementary, Shannon Elementary, and Sheldon Elementary. Sheldon’s ELAC and Principal, Stephanie Sanchez organized a wonderful ELAC amidst the stormy weather. A workshop on Interactive

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Reading Strategies was presented and participating families also received two bilingual books of their choice for their home libraries. Thank you schools and keep up the great ELAC engagement!



Positive School Climate & OAASA- LaResha Huffman (LaShante Smith/Rachel Porzig)

This week marked the beginning of the Winter administration of mySAEBRS. In addition to the mental health screener for students in grades 3-12, 6th-12th grade students will be asked to do a midyear pulse check. The intention is to get a feel for students' perceived safety, access to support, and any issues that have come up on school campuses.

In addition to the student surveys, there are a number of professional development opportunities. Our office participated in the AP/VP meeting on January 19th, guiding PLCs as well as continuing the work around discipline norming. Next week, secondary teachers will have the opportunity to participate in a professional development focused on behavior deescalation and the impact that trauma has on the brain. CSSs will dig into best practices in supporting LGBTQ+ students.

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

King Elementary hosted a [Family Math Night](#) on Thursday, January 12 in the MPR. Families were able to move from [station to station](#) and complete different activities. If you collected a stamp from each station you were given a prize.

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