

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
March 31, 2023

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

March 31: No School - Reserved Day 2

April 3-7: Spring Break No School

April 10: CBOC Meeting 6:00 pm - FOC

Next Board of Education Meeting April 12, 2023– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.

Business Services- Robert McEntire

Graduating this spring 2023 - our Budget Ambassadors!

Our inaugural 2023 Budget Ambassadors spent 8 weeks learning about WCCUSD's budget process, the importance of the Board for District finances, financial principles, and how they can contribute to our District's financial decisions. The weekly courses were embedded with weekly live discussions, chat boards, office hours and quizzes meant to empower members with financial literacy.

We will now honor and acknowledge their journey during our next board meeting on April 12th.

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

Montalvin Spelling Bee

On March 28, 2023, Montalvin held its annual Spelling Bee. The attached picture highlights Jackson Acosta-Verprauskus, a student at Montalvin. He is being cheered on in the background by his Principal (and mother) Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus. The person behind the camera of this picture is his father (Principal of Verde) Mr. Eric Acosta-Verprauskus. This really shows the trust that not only our parents place in our schools, but our own staff place in our schools when they send their kiddos to WCCUSD schools. Thank you Principals Katherine and Eric for trusting our schools with your children. We are WCCUSD - Your children are OUR CHILDREN!



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Grant Elementary - “Grizzlies”

Under the direction of Mr. Charlie Sedlock, Grant’s Grizzly Basketball Team has been very motivated to participate in the Elementary School Sport League sponsored by our District’s Athletics. They have been practicing and playing on campus at Grant with dedication and a sense of purpose.

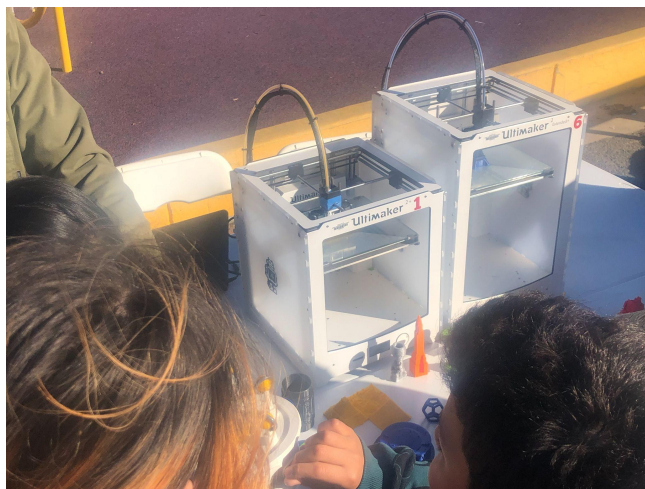
Photos courtesy of Mr. Allums, Grant VP.



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

Career Events

College and Career staff are supporting events at schools throughout the district this week. Fab Lab staff hosted a booth focused on 3D printing at the Fairmont ES Science Day.



They are also hosting several science night events at elementary schools during the evenings this week. Additionally College and Career staff and site-based College and Career Counselors are supporting career fairs at Richmond High, De Anza High and Pinole Valley High this week.

Students perform at CA Music Education Association Festival

Students from around the region convened at El Cerrito High School this past Saturday for the annual CMEA Band and Orchestra Festival. The Hercules High School Intermediate Orchestra achieved their first Superior marks under the direction of Arleen Wong. Symphonic Band achieved an Overall Excellent rating and HHS Advanced Orchestra was selected to perform at the State CMEA Band and Orchestra Festival on Friday, April 28, at Sonoma State University.

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

In preparation for SY 23-24, the following information was provided to site administrators by the Math Department (Mark Lobaco & Team):

Wednesday Collaboration Sessions: As you work with your ILT on next year's collaboration schedule, consider allocating at least one session per month on mathematics (for secondary schools--content-level work). To help build collaboration and focus on content, here are a few recommended protocols:

- [Unit](#) or [Lesson](#) Internalization protocols.
- Analyze data/reflect on practice using an [inquiry cycle template](#) or [student work analysis protocol](#).
- Teachers can document and submit their work using [this agenda template](#).

All documents are on the [math website](#) in the WCCMath Teacher Practices link.

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K-5 Pilot: We are due for a new K-5 math adoption for SY 24-25. Next school year, teachers will be piloting several high quality curricula. The process will include a smaller guiding Team and a larger Review Team with broad teacher representation. More info to follow.

Zearn Math School Licenses: We plan on continuing to offer full access to Zearn Math curriculum at all elementary and K-8 schools. The intention is to provide access to high quality digital and paper lessons and is intended for all students to complement whichever curriculum your teachers use. As was the case this school year, both the school licenses and Zearn School Leads stipends will be paid through a grant from the Cowell Foundation.

Grades 6 through Algebra I: We will be entering the last year of our 3-year Gates Effective Implementation Grant that provides support for teachers using the Illustrative Mathematics-inspired Desmos curriculum (and we will have roll-over money to continue this work through the SY 24-25 pilot year). Nearly 50 teachers have opted-in to use Desmos with about 4000 students at 20 different school sites experiencing this high quality and engaging instructional material. We are looking to increase our numbers for the coming year, so please endorse Desmos to any grade 6 through Alg 1 teacher. Info sessions for teachers are coming up later this spring. ECHS will continue its work using Illustrative Mathematics for Algebra I and will expand its usage with Geometry next school year.

Other High School Math Topics: With high schools currently working on master scheduling preparation for next school year, each comprehensive high school's math department, administration, and counselors are collaborating to promote various math course acceleration and additional advanced math course options for their students, including Data Science, Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications, and the Algebra II/Precalculus compression course. This work will enable students to select higher level math courses based on their interests and future aspirations. More math course sequence information [HERE](#).

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

This Friday, the Office of School Climate will be hosting two sessions at the professional development event geared towards both certificated and classified staff. The first session will be focused on the behavior escalation cycle and deescalation strategies. The second session will focus on creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students. Please encourage your staff to attend!

OAASA is gearing up for their college tour trip to Washington, DC next week. They are taking 36 high school students to tour several HBCUs in VA and Washington, DC. Most of the students haven't traveled outside of California and will be visiting their first colleges. We wish all of the students and chaperones a safe trip, a solid learning experience, and a lot of fun!

The much anticipated Youth Summit occurred this past weekend at DeJean Middle School. While attendance wasn't what we anticipated, the students who attended gave very positive feedback about the event. We are in the process of debriefing the event and gathering ideas to

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Our four social workers are currently seeing 55 students at various schools throughout the district. We will add several more students and groups in the week following spring break.

The Transfer Office continues to process applications. Interdistrict transfer approvals and denials are going out to families now. Intradistrict transfers continue to be processed. Families will be notified about those transfers in May.

The Attendance Office is sending midyear reports to sites. The chronic absentee rate across the district continues to be high. Strategies will be implemented in the next few weeks to help with attendance the last couple months of the school year. We ask that sites keep up with A2A, continue to reach out to families, and contact the Attendance Office for support if necessary.

The Student Bus Pass program still has space left for this school year. Currently 1700 students are enrolled in the program. There are 800 spots available. If a student would benefit from this program, please sign them up through PowerSchool.

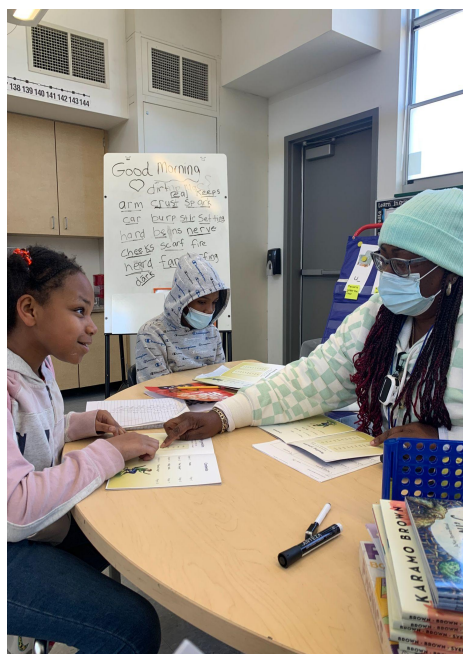
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Early Learning/TK-12
Literacy/Humanities/OAASA- LaResha Huffman (Elizabeth Henry & team)

The Mission Critical 7 initiative to support literacy with our African American students is getting off to a powerful start. Academic Support Providers have been hired to provide part time (15 hours/week) small group instruction during the school day using SIPPS at Bayview, Coronado, King, Peres K8, and Nystrom. A candidate for Lincoln has been recommended for hire which leaves only Stege with a vacancy. All Academic Support Providers are receiving ongoing Professional Development using SIPPS and all are receiving training in the Educlimber database system.

Ms. McCray, Nystrom Elementary



Ms. Louis, Bayview Elementary



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

This week, with the support of our incredible teachers and administrators, the department of English Learner (EL) Achievement has met and surpassed our district goal of reclassifying 625 English learners. That is 100 more students than last year. Congratulations to all of this year's Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) awardees. In honor of this EL Achievement, our community is having our annual 23rd Reclassification Ceremony on Tuesday, May 2nd from 5pm-7pm at Richmond High School. We are so excited to celebrate our incredible students.



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

On Wednesday, March 22, the Expanded Learning Office convened All Student Congress (ASC). Youth participated in a restorative justice circle to surface community values for ASC and ASC subcommittees previewed their work for the remainder of this school year. The four subcommittees and their objectives can be found [here](#). We are looking forward to codifying our ASC practices and purpose to ensure sustainability of authentic youth voice across our district.

District [Spring Break camp](#) will start at 6 Network 1 sites next week: Bayview ES, Coronado ES, King ES, Lincoln ES, Nystrom ES, Peres, K-8. From Tuesday, April 3 through Friday, April 7, 288 students will spend their mornings in academic intervention and the afternoon rotating through visual and performing arts; STEM; and gardening.

Summer program planning continues for the District's summer learning enrichment programs. There will be afternoon enrichment at all four of the elementary summer school sites: Bayview, Dover, Lincoln, and Obama. In addition, there will be full day summer hub programs districtwide. These programs differ from district summer school programs in that they will operate 5 days a week and will focus on academic enrichment including STEM, visual and performing arts, structured physical activity, debate/public speaking, gardening, and study trips.

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[Freedom Schools](#) will be serving 160 students between their two sites at Nystrom and King. [AIM High](#) will be expanding its footprint in WCCUSD with a new program at Helms MS serving 100 students. The original AIM High program will continue at Montalvin and serve 120 rising 6th through 9th graders. [YMCA of the East Bay](#) will be offering summer camp at Murphy and Downer and serve 300 students. We will continue to host a number of STEM summer hubs with [Edventure More](#) at Grant, Mira Vista and Stewart, each serving 120 students/site. The Expanded Learning Office will be partnering with two new District partners, [Champions](#), who will be operating a hub program at Harding ES serving 150 students; and [Headwaters Science Institute](#) who will be operating an environmental education program for 120 students at Verde.

Summer learning programs will prioritize enrollment for the District's currently enrolled unduplicated TK-6th grade students. The Expanded Learning Office will be doing targeted outreach to these students and families when everyone returns from Spring Break.