

Friday Memo
December 15, 2017

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

December 15: Minimum Day All Schools

December 18-January 1: Winter Recess

December 19: Facilities Subcommittee, FOC, 4:00 PM

January 2: Classes Reconvene

January 3: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 PM

January 6: Tentative, Board Retreat, TBD

January 8: Technology Committee, IT Center, 4:00 PM

January 8: Special Education CAC, 7:00 PM, Cameron

January 9: Solutions Team, UTR Office, 1:00 PM

January 10: Citizens Oversight for Parcel Tax Committee, 5:00 PM Pinole Middle

January 10: Joint Board Meeting with Richmond City Council, Richmond Council Chambers, 6:30 PM

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Schools and Offices Closed

Sanford Harmony Social Emotional Learning Program – Steve Collins

Currently in West Contra Costa Unified School District each Elementary School Learning Center teacher has been provided with the Sanford Harmony kits for all grade levels. Learning Center teachers have received a comprehensive training by the company and have achieved the status of being a certified Stanford Harmony Champion. With this level training, the Learning Center teachers will be able to order materials for each classroom and will be able to provide the training at their sites to implement the program school wide.

In addition to the Elementary Learning Center teachers, each Special Day Class teacher has been provided with the appropriate kits and training to implement the program in their classrooms with their Special Education students.

Sheldon Elementary School and Wilson Elementary School are in their first year using the Instructional Support Program (ISP) model and will implement the program school-wide to support the General Education classrooms with a tool to create a more inclusive and accepting community. These schools will each have a school-wide training and will fully implement the program in Spring of 2018.

Sanford Harmony is a research-based, Social Emotional Learning program and Teaching strategy that strengthens classroom communities by helping each child understand and appreciate diversity in others.

By breaking down barriers, Sanford Harmony provides a tool to help teachers enable students to connect and collaborate at much deeper levels. Early adopters have indicated that children feel more comfortable and connected in their classrooms, leading to more harmonious interactions and improved academic achievement.

Sanford Harmony is underwritten by T. Denny Sanford through the Sanford Education Center and National University, and is currently used in thousands of classrooms across the U.S.

The program:

- Is designed for students of all ages and can be modified to serve students at any grade level
- Improves student cooperation, collaboration, and problem solving
- Helps to reduce teasing, bullying, and aggression
- Establishes trust and encourages connection and empathy
- Promotes harmonious peer-to-peer relationships
- Provides easy to follow lesson plans, social stories, games, activities and worksheets
- Includes online resources and training videos
- Includes materials for parent communications

College Board Contract on January 3 Board Meeting agenda: AP Testing - Nia Rashidchi

During the January 3 board meeting, a College Board contract for AP testing will be on the agenda for approval.

In 2016-2017, 2935 students (89% of enrolled AP students) took an AP exam in West Contra Costa Unified School District. One of our LCAP goals is to increase that number to 95% of eligible students this year.

The AP exam costs \$85 per student, full price and there is a fee reduction of \$32 for each qualified low income student. We recognize that we have many students who do not qualify for the fee reduction, but would find it difficult to pay the fees for these exams, especially for multiple courses. This contract provides access to all students enrolled in AP classes, as well as advantages of having taken the AP exam before they enter college.

By taking an AP course and scoring successfully on the related AP Exam, our students will be able to get a head start on college. Most colleges and universities in the United States offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam scores. These credits can allow students to save college tuition, or provide extra room in their busy college schedule to study abroad, or pursue a double major.

Contract Outcomes:

To provide a supportive environment for students to take a rigorous College Board Exam.

To increase the participation rate in AP testing, of eligible students to 95% (16-17 rate was 89%)

To provide access to AP Testing for all students regardless of test cost.

SBAC Math Interim Assessment Blocks Results to Be presented at the Jan. 3 Board Meeting - Nia Rashidchi

In support of drastically improving math achievement for our students, we are administering the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB) for the first time for grades 3-8. These assessment blocks are organized by Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) target area, and we have selected two IABs to be administered at each grade level. We will be sharing the results with the Board of Education at the January 3 board meeting.

IABs are Mastery assessments, which means that they test students for end of year skills. It is not expected that students will have been taught all of the content prior to the benchmarks. We have

selected blocks that contain key standards for the grade level and have a large number of items on the Smarter Balanced Assessments, in the Concepts and Procedures claim.

Using the IABs allows students to practice in the actual testing environment of the SBA, and allows us to try out the universal supports and accommodations, to make sure students have what they need for the State Assessment.

The pair of IABs will be administered twice this year, in October and February, as benchmarks in preparation for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. **This first IAB is a pre-assessment** that will provide us with valuable baseline data to target instruction.

Grade 3-8 Fall Interim Assessment Blocks

Grade	Fall Benchmark IAB 1	Fall Benchmark IAB 2
Grade 3	Numbers and Operations in Base 10	Operations and Algebraic Thinking
Grade 4	Numbers and Operations in Base 10	Operations and Algebraic Thinking
Grade 5	Numbers and Operations in Base 10	Operations and Algebraic Thinking
Grade 6	Number System	Expressions and Equations
Grade 7	Number System	Expressions and Equations
Grade 8	Number System	Expressions and Equations 1

Frequently Asked Questions

Can we share the test questions with our parents?

No, the items in this assessment are secure. Because this is a relatively new assessment, there are a limited number of questions available and none of them have been released for the public. To use the IABs, district staff sign the same security affidavits that are required for the State Assessments.

Can students practice using the IABs?

At this time, there is only one interim assessment block available for each target area, so unfortunately we will not be able to use the IAB target areas, that have been selected as our benchmarks, for practice or instruction.

How do we prepare our students for this assessment?

We can use the Smarter Balanced practice test to help students get familiar with the types of questions they will encounter on the assessment. There are also lessons and activities in the Smarter Balanced Digital Library that we can use to supplement classroom instruction.

How can this assessment be useful if we have not taught all of the content yet?

This is a mastery assessment that allows us to identify what students already know and what they need to learn to be successful at the end of the school year. The reports will include item analysis to help teachers identify content that they may need to spend more time on and misconceptions that students may have, in time to address them.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

How will the assessment results be used?

Benchmark assessment results are not intended to be evaluative. Our progress towards our goals for the Smarter Balanced Assessment will be monitored at the site, District, and Board level. The results will be used to identify areas of success and need so that we can adjust instruction and support accordingly.

Public Records Log – Marcus Walton

Included in this week's memo is the log of public records requests received by the district. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Public Records Request Log 2017 - 2018
Week Ending December 14, 2017

	Date of Receipt	Requestor	Requested Records/Information	Current Status
8	8/17/17	Kyra Worthy For Richmond	Electronic Communications / Various – Beginning January 1, 2015 – November 1, 2017	10/18/17 BATCH#1 10/26/17 BATCH#2 Ready to be Picked Up Reviewing Additional Documents
26	10/23/17	Sarah Valdez / Legal Assistant Law Offices of Young, Minney Corr LLP	WCCUSD Elementary School, Middle School and High Schools' Records/Documents/Data	11/22/17 BATCH#1 Emailed with Links 11/22/17 ITEM#5 DOCs Available for Review at FOC Gathering/Reviewing additional Docs 12/8/17 Additional Docs Available
34	11/30/17	Anthony Narducci Northern CA Tile Labor	DeAnza High School / Building 10 Project	11/30/17 Acknowledgement email sent
35	11/30/17	Mary Amenu Northern CA Fire Protection Compliance Group	Kennedy High School / Welding Lab Project	12/11/17 Acknowledgement email sent
36	12/1/17	Laura Pomerance National Council on Teacher Quality	WCCUSD Student Teaching Documents for 2016-17 and 2017-18 School Years	12/11/17 Acknowledgement email sent
37	12/13/17	Ivan Kranjec SmartProcure	WCCUSD Munis/P.O. Report beginning September 5, 2017 – Present	12/13/17 Acknowledgement email sent
Public Records Request Log / Ongoing 2016 - 2017				
29	9/14/16	Matt Cagle American Civil Liberties Union	Surveillance Technology and Digital Searches beginning January 1, 2013 – Present	12/2/16 Documents sent via email 3/31/17 Documents sent via email 5/5/17 Documents sent via email 7/13/17 Documents sent via email 9/22/17 Documents sent via email 10/27/17 Documents sent via email 12/1/17 Documents sent via email Gathering/Reviewing additional Docs 1/12/18 Additional Docs Available