

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
February 26, 2021

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

February 26: Board of Education Study & Listening Session, 6:00 PM
March 1: Safety Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM
March 2: Read Across America Day
March 2: Agenda Setting, 4:00 PM
March 3: Board of Education Closed Session, 5:30 PM
March 5: Budget Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM
March 8: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Meeting: 2:00 PM
March 8: Academic Committee Meeting: 4:00 PM
March 9: DLCAP Meeting, 6:30 PM
March 10: Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM
March 12: Facilities Committee Meeting, 3:00 PM
March 12: CAC Meeting, 5:00 PM

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Rubén Aurelio (Gabriel Chilcott & team)

Science-John Iwawaki & Team

Elementary teachers in grades K-5 are using [Mystery Science](#), both synchronously and asynchronously. Every Mystery Science lesson supports our model of “phenomena-based instruction” where students make an observation, ask questions, and work to figure out the science behind it. Mystery Science offers NGSS-aligned “full lessons” or shorter grade-agnostic “mini-lessons.” They have also provided adaptations and recommendations for use in distance learning. Several of the [mini-lessons](#) cover contemporary topics like:

- “How do vaccines work?”
- [“Do masks really stop the coronavirus?”](#)
- [“How does hand sanitizer kill germs?”](#)

Math- Mark Lobaco & Team

K-8 Math Assessments--The midyear window for district math assessments in grades K-8 came to a close prior to Presidents’ week break. K-1 assessments this year are site-determined and data is not collected centrally. A district-provided, standards-aligned, distance learning-friendly K-1 assessment has been created by the Math Department to support teachers in collecting and analyzing data to determine intervention needs. Grades 2-8 are using the Star Math assessment this year, and after this testing window, growth data can begin to be analyzed to celebrate successes and identifying needs. The Math Department has provided [an informational slide deck](#) on Star Math’s growth reports with suggested actions for teachers and administrators.

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CTE Teacher Credentialing - Rubén Aurelio (Allison Huie & team)

The Department of College and Career hosted an information session this week for all interested in learning about the CTE credentialing requirements and process. [Here is the link](#) to the program application via Orange County Department of Education. New cohorts begin 4 times a year, with the next ones starting on April 8th, and then again on July 5th.

For questions about the credential program, please contact: Bridget Mondt: bmondt@ocde.us or Maureen Fechter: MFechter@ocde.us

Professional Development for College and Career Pathways - Rubén Aurelio (Allison Huie & team)

Educator teams from our College and Career Pathway programs will be virtually attending the annual Educating for Careers conference February 28 through March 2, 2021. The conference is an annual three-day professional development event focusing on career technical education (CTE). A variety of delivery systems, strategies, and industry sectors throughout the CTE system are represented in more than 200 sessions offered over the course of this three-day conference. Broad general breakout themes include: Assessment & Accountability, California Partnership Academies Model, Career Pathways/Industry Sectors, Curriculum & Instructional Strategies, Employer & Community Partnerships, Mentor & Internship Programs, Middle School Connections, Perkins & Policy Programs, Secondary-PostSecondary Connections, and Work Based Learning.

Literacy Intervention for 3rd-6th grade EL students - Rubén Aurelio (Christi Roscigno & team)

This week, the first of 2 rounds of online book clubs for English Learners began! Students will be using the books we sent to their homes. The second round of Book Clubs will begin in April.

DLI Community Event, March 2nd, 6:00-7:00pm - Rubén Aurelio (Christi Roscigno & team)

Please join us for a WCCUSD wide event to spread the word about our Multilingual programs. There will be a student panel, and breakout sessions to get more information on programs for families. [Click here to join Zoom event](#)

Bond Program Audit Schedule - Tony Wold & Luis Freese (Melissa Payne and Margarita Romo)

Each year that a school District is operating with Bond Funds, the District is required to complete a Performance and a Financial Audit of the active Bond Program, in addition to the District-wide financial audit. The District is currently working with third-party auditors to complete all three audits to meet the statutory completion date of March 31, with the Audits brought to the Board in April.

In addition to the three compliance audits, the District has engaged two auditors to complete supplemental Bond Program audits to verify the implementation of historical recommendations that stem from the 2016 Forensic Accounting Investigation. Staff believes that it is essential to finalize the verification process. The proposed audit schedule previously targeted March 2021 to initiate the supplemental audits. Based on existing resources, the staff recommends that the supplemental audits' initiation is postponed until mid-April to allow the team to focus and complete the compliance audits. These audits do not have a

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statutory deadline and will ensure that they are completed appropriately by starting after we finalize the required annual audits.

An overview of the current and upcoming audits are summarized below:

FY2020 Audit Schedules					
	District-Wide Financial Audit FY 2020	Bond Program Financial Audit FY 2020	Bond Program Performance Audit FY 2020	Supplemental Verification 1.5	Supplemental Verification 2.0
Auditor	Christy White, Inc.	Christy White, Inc.	Eide Bailly, LLP	Eide Bailly, LLP	Moss Adams LLP
Legal Deadline	3.31.21	3.31.21	3.31.21	N/A	N/A