

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
December 10, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

December 10: DeAnza VAPA Showcase, 6:30 PM, DeAnza High School

December 10: El Cerrito Gaucho Dance Company Concert, 7:00 PM, El Cerrito High School

December 13: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, 6:00 PM

December 14: Korematsu MS Winter Concerts, Intermediate Band, 5:00 PM, Fred T. Korematsu Middle School

December 15: Betty Reid Soskin MS Winter Band/Orchestra Concert, 3:00 PM, El Sobrante

December 15: Helms Middle School Winter Performance, 4:00 PM, Helms Middle School

December 15: Korematsu MS Winter Concerts, Beginning and Symphonic Band, 5:00 PM, Fred T. Korematsu Middle School

December 15: Hercules High School Music Department Showcase, 6:30 PM, Hercules Middle & High School

December 15: Pinole Valley HS Bands Winter Concert, 7:00 PM, Pinole Valley High School

December 16: Pinole Valley Choir, Dance, and Piano Winter Performance, 7:00 PM, Pinole Valley High

December 16: El Cerrito High School Winter Band Concert, 7:30 PM, El Cerrito High

Next Board of Education Meeting December 15, 2021– Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr.

Contracts Update for the 12/15/21 Board Meeting – Robert McEntire, Mary Kitchen

Bay Area Community Resources – Chavez Elementary School

The Recess Coordinator will run a program focused on teaching and organizing safe and inclusive games during recess. They will teach and promote conflict resolution tools to encourage safe and inclusive play. This position is specifically designed to promote daily physical activity as the norm for students less likely to participate. The Recess Coordinator will implement structured recess activities to promote health and wellness at Chavez Elementary School. Promotes a positive school climate at recess. Tasks will also include support of the school's goal of minimizing childhood obesity. The Recess Coordinator will run a program focused on teaching and organizing safe and inclusive games during recess. They will teach and promote conflict resolution tools to encourage safe and inclusive play. This position is specifically designed to promote daily physical activity as the norm for students less likely to participate. Recess coordination 4 hours per day. The coach will implement culturally relevant programming by collaborating with school personnel (including school administration, Community Schools Beacon Director and Teacher Leader) to identify recess needs, design playground structure and expectations. The Coach will receive periodic training and coaching from the Teacher Lead on culturally relevant material. Additionally, the Coach will formerly teach youth the playground expectations, share the philosophy of being a physically active school as the norm, and share youth leadership opportunities.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

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Catholic Charities of the East Bay – Community Engagement – Richmond and Kennedy

Richmond HS: 2 FTE Program specialist and 1 FTE program coordinator, 2.5 days/wk. Onsite restorative practice training series provided to teachers focusing on tier (t) 1 practices. Onsite/online restorative practices coaching for teachers and support staff. 3 weekly t2 restorative student circles coaching trained school staff in developing and delivering restorative interventions that address discipline, build community and support a restorative school climate. Individual restorative check-ins with students upon request. Kennedy HS: 1 FTE health center director- 5 days/wk. 1 FTE program specialist - 2 days/week. 2 weekly t2 restorative student circles. Training is essential and foundational in the creation of a restorative school community and supporting the successful implementation of groups and school-wide restorative practices. Experience hope institution. Training offers participants the opportunity to learn and practice new skills in a safe and relaxed environment that fosters a sense of comm. Training modules include creating restorative trauma-responsive systems and skills for restorative and trauma-responsive systems data on health and wellness center use will be collected by the Community School Director, also working in partnership w/onsite providers. All students who use the center will be asked to complete a survey on their experience after their visit. We will work w/ school admin and central office to access other data required for monitoring and evaluating the implementation effectiveness of the center's services, such as 20-21 data on referrals to the health center and use of the center by students and District-wide survey data for current and comparison years. Catholic charities has an on-staff program analyst who is responsible for data management and analysis and who will help all necessary protocols for data collection are in place and leading on evaluation efforts. See additional AMOs on the proposal attached. Measures of success: improved school climate as measured by the youth truth survey; reduced disciplinary referrals as measured by school records; and improved student leadership as measured by an active group of restorative circle keepers. A post-assessment is given by a program analyst upon completion of student services measuring the following categories on a 1-5 scale: -self-awareness/personal autonomy -connection to a school community -understanding of restorative practices success is determined by an average mean of 4 in all categories reported by all students receiving ongoing services (3 or more contacts with experience hope staff) our three primary goals for the Kennedy health and wellness center are: 1. Ensuring coordinated and accessible services to the Kennedy high community; 2. Ensuring that intensive services are reaching those students who need it the most; and 3. Implementing tier 1 services that support a healthy and restorative culture and climate. RHS-120 participants KHS restorative practices-45 participants KHS health center- all students.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

Ed Theory – Special Education

Provides hard to recruit bilingual Speech and Language services for students with IEPs: direct services, assessment, scheduling, preparation and attendance at IEP meetings. In order to fulfill mandated IEP services, the department has entered into a contract with Ed Theory to provide direct services and assessment to students with IEPs in the amount of \$250,000.00. Due to the inability to recruit new personnel and the need to maintain services beginning August 2021 we are entering into this contract. Our first goal remains to hire qualified permanent staff members to serve our students, but staffing shortages could result in delays to service delivery and assessments to students in their primary language.

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KYO Autism Therapy LLC – Special Education

Provides hard to recruit specialized behavioral services for students with IEPs: direct services, assessment, scheduling, preparation and attendance at IEP meetings. In order to fulfill mandated IEP services, the department has entered into a contract with KYO Autism Therapy LLC to provide direct services and assessment to students with IEPs in the amount of 252,700.00. Due to the inability to recruit new personnel and the need to maintain services beginning August 2021 we are entering into this contract. Our first goal remains to hire qualified permanent staff members to serve our students, but staffing shortages could result in delays to service delivery and assessments to students.

Littera – English Learner Achievement

Bayview, Chavez, Collins, Coronado, Dover, Downer, Ellerhorst, Highland, Fairmont, Ford, Grant, Harding, King, Lake, Lincoln, Mira Vista, Montalvin, Murphy, Nystrom, Peres, Riverside, Sheldon, Stewart, Tara Hills, Verde, Washington, Michelle Obama, Betty Reid Soskin MS, DeJean MS, Helms MS, Hercules MS, Pinole MS, Korematsu MS

Teachers college readers and writers project high dosage tutoring curriculum Includes:

- 1:1 direct student support in Foundational reading, fiction and nonfiction pathways
- Decodable texts -Access to level text digital books from epic
- Structured assessments to properly identify students for tutoring placement
- Littera Academic Support Platform-Platform implementation and training
- Virtual tutors Approximate hourly costs per tutor \$21,000 per month

[Link to Additional Information](#)

School Specialty – Business Services

Procurement Contract R191815 (OMNIA Partners Piggyback). In order to reduce costs, starting upon board approval, schools will be required to utilize this piggyback contract for furniture and related items in order to support student learning activities. School sites will utilize their own funding source for furniture and related items as needed. The district will centrally support school sites with larger requests for furniture and related items. This will be a not-to-exceed amount. Staff will bring back to amend the dollar amount when it exceeds \$400,000.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

School Specialty – Business Services

Procurement Contract R201105 (OMNIA Partners Piggyback). In order to reduce costs, starting upon board approval, schools will be required to utilize this piggyback contract for athletic supplies and equipment in order to support student learning activities. Each school will utilize its own funding source for supplies and equipment as needed. This will be a not-to-exceed amount. Staff will bring back to amend the dollar amount when it exceeds \$200,000.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

West Contra Costa Public Education Fund-Aceera Productions – West County Mandarin

The program objective is to support African-American children in learning Chinese language, including character recognition, character writing, reading, speaking and listening. The program Aceera Productions

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Tutoring Services will support the African American students of West County Mandarin School to improve their Mandarin Chinese language skills. The program will achieve the Enrichment and Youth Development Annual Measurable Outcome by ensuring that at least 85% of students signed up participate. The program will ensure student participation by frequently emailing parents to make sure they have the time and zoom link for their student to attend class. The program will also be following up with parents in one-on-one 15 minute zoom sessions to follow the progress of their child's learning. For parents that are unresponsive, the program will contact the school principal to follow up. To meet AMO and program criteria, the program will issue skill development assessments three times an academic year to measure student growth in Chinese language acquisition (reading, writing, and listening). Assessments consist of ten questions: the first four are character recognition in which I present four Chinese character to the student to see if they recognize them, the next two are translation in which the program gives one English sentence for the student to translate into Chinese and another Chinese sentence for the student to translate into English. The next two focus on listening comprehension. The program will play a narrated video in Chinese then ask questions about the content. Finally, the last two questions examine character writing. The program will ask the student to write two Chinese characters with correct stroke order. The program will forward assessment results to their Chinese teacher and school principal. Finally, the program is culturally sensitive to black students. All slides and videos contain cartoon and real images of African-American people as well as African American historical and present figures. Students are more motivated to learn and their self-image and confidence is increased by seeing images of successful people that look like them.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

West Contra Costa Public Education Fund-Teacher Intern – West County Mandarin

This program provides an international exchange "student teacher/intern" from Taiwan to provide whole class instruction, small group instruction, and 1:1 instruction throughout the year. This program is part of a developing student exchange program with the country of Taiwan to provide students with the opportunity to visit a county that speaks Mandarin. Intern is a native speaker from Taiwan. Being placed in the kinder classroom and supporting school wide activities will create and support a culturally immersive experience for students 5 days of service, 7 hours a day/week

[Link to Additional Information](#)

West Contra Costa Public Education Fund-Coach Jamila Hornesby – King Elementary

The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund mobilizes resources for our students and aligns the efforts of our partners to ensure that all students succeed in college, career, and life. By modeling effective recess systems and supporting student leadership, Coach Jamila supports safe, healthy play at King Elementary during recess. Through this type of play and philosophy, Coach Jamila create a fun, same and inclusive playground for all. She will strive to change the atmosphere of the playground thus improving the overall school climate and culture. Coach Jamila will encourage all student at King Elementary to be their best and want to be fit. She makes games simple yet fun while highlighting that some fitness and movement is better than no fitness and movement. She will teach students how to plan, team build, respect themselves and their community. She will lead by example, modeling positive sporting behavior, feedback and words of encouragement. She will challenge everyone to do the same. She will teach students, teachers and staff to play hard, have fun and to respect the game. She will challenge each student to share, respect and

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include others so nobody feels left out or left behind. She will teach students to be encouraging rather than discouraging, to be good leaders and to do and give their best.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

The Office City – Business Services

Procurement Contract NCPA #11-18 (National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance Piggyback) The district will procure replacement filters for all of the existing air purifiers that have been installed in classrooms and offices throughout the district due to COVID. The district will procure extra filters due to the ongoing supply chain delays. The district will utilize the NCPA contract through The Office City.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

Remote Work Policy (Draft) - Human Resources

The West Contra Costa Unified School District’s Remote Work Policy and Guidelines will support the overall district efforts to increase workforce efficiency, work/life balance, cost savings and emergency preparedness. A remote work arrangement may be granted by the Superintendent or designee to an individual employee, upon request, provided that remote working does not hinder the daily operations of the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD).

WCCUSD Remote Work Policy allows district employees to work from home or a satellite location for all or part of their workweek or work year (full-time, part-time), or for a short-term period. WCCUSD considers remote working to be a viable, flexible work option when both the employee and job classification are suited to remote work.

[Link to the Remote Work Policy](#)

Student ages 12+ vaccination status by school - Tracey Logan, Nicole Joyner

As of December 10, 2021, there are **12,163 students** who are 12 years old or older. Of those 12,163 students, **4,716 students** have reported that they are fully vaccinated. The below tables display the number of fully vaccinated students and the total number of 12+ year olds by school.

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School	Fully vaccinated	Total 12+ Year Olds	School	Fully vaccinated	Total 12+ Year Olds
Bayview Elementary		20	Michelle Obama Elementary	5	19
Chavez Elementary	2	16	Mira Vista School	22	101
Collins Elementary	4	14	Montalvin School	4	107
Coronado Elementary	1	19	Murphy Elementary	2	9
Dover Elementary	1	29	Nystrom Elementary		21
Downer Elementary School		31	Ohlone Elementary	1	1
Ellerhorst Elementary	1	19	Olinda Elementary	2	12
Fairmont Elementary	10	17	Peres School	42	113
Ford Elementary	1	17	Riverside Elementary		16
Grant Elementary		26	Shannon Elementary	3	19
Hanna Ranch Elementary		1	Sheldon Elementary	4	15
Harding Elementary	5	14	Stege Elementary	1	9
Highland Elementary	2	11	Stewart School	23	104
Kensington Elementary	12	20	Tara Hills Elementary	2	17
King Elementary	1	22	Valley View Elementary	4	16
Lake Elementary	3	13	Verde School	38	61
Lincoln Elementary		24	Washington Elementary	3	19
Madera Elementary	7	13			

School	Fully vaccinated	Total 12+ Year Olds
Betty Reid Soskin Middle School	143	419
Fred T Korematsu Middle School	374	678
Helms Middle School	214	650
Hercules Middle School	217	479
LoVonya DeJean Middle School	187	416
Pinole Middle School	138	408
De Anza High School	473	1313
El Cerrito High School	807	1564
Gateway to College	56	82
Hercules High School	315	754
John F. Kennedy High School	154	833
Middle College High School	191	291
Pinole Valley High School	426	1289
Richmond High School	704	1513
Secondary Home Teaching	3	42
Sylvester Greenwood Academy	77	131
Transition	4	91
Virtual Academy K-12	5	83
Vista High (Alternative) School	22	142

Communications - Ryan Phillips

December 6, 2021

Richmond Confidential - [Unvaccinated students may push enrollment to the limit in WCCUSD's virtual high school in January](#) - Madeline Taub

Administrators at Vista Virtual Academy, West Contra Costa Unified School District's virtual K-12 independent study program, are scrambling to fill teacher positions ahead of a January deadline when unvaccinated students will no longer be allowed to attend in-person classes. If students at district schools are not vaccinated against COVID-19. by Jan. 3, they will be transferred to Vista Virtual by Jan. 17. The only other options for unvaccinated students are a medical exemption or to unenroll from the district, according to WCCUSD's vaccine policy. Board member Jamela Smith-Folds said Vista Virtual was developed to be a small program of under 100 students but that concept has been altered considerably. As of Nov. 9, Vista Virtual had 390 students and 22 full-time staff members, with approximately 250 students on a growing waitlist. LaResha Martin, said teachers also might transfer from other high schools to Vista Virtual, depending on the numbers of unvaccinated students who will need to be moved.

Richmond Standard - [Richmond High School alumni holiday ornaments for sale](#) - Mike Aldax

It's a great gift for Richmond High School alumni, and also something that's missing from their holiday tree. Richmond High School Alumni holiday ornaments are now for sale. It can be ordered with your choice of Richmond High School or Richmond Union High School.

December 7, 2021

The Mercury News - [COVID: No vaccine, no school for thousands of Bay Area kids?](#) - John Woolfolk

Thousands of Bay Area and California middle- and high-schoolers have yet to confirm getting a COVID shot — and could be forced back into remote learning starting next month. With deadlines looming 1,600 in West Contra Costa Unified school districts have yet to prove they are vaccinated. Educators are scrambling to get more students vaccinated while facing the prospect of schools closing their doors again to hundreds of unvaccinated kids. Gov. Gavin Newsom in October announced California will require all students to have the COVID-19 vaccine, adding it to a list of 10 immunizations kids must have to attend schools in the state. Last week, Oakland Unified delayed its deadline from January to February. In West Contra Costa Unified, 12,000 students ages 12 and older must be fully vaccinated by Jan. 3. More than 3,400 have already confirmed their vaccines, and about four out of five of the remaining students' families said they would do so before the deadline, spokesman Ryan Phillips said. "We're not looking to exclude any students from their education, that's not what this is about," Phillips said. "It's about safety. We're working to make sure every student has access to their education." With no personal or religious belief exemptions or weekly COVID-19 testing option, West Contra Costa Unified's student vaccine mandate has been among the strictest and most controversial.

NBC Bay Area - [Deadline to Show Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination Looms for Teachers in East Bay District](#) - Marianne Favro

Tuesday is the deadline for all teachers and staff in the West Contra Costa Unified School District to show proof they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The school district is one of the first in the Bay Area

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to issue a mandate for both teachers and students. Teachers, staff and volunteers must show proof of vaccination or get a medical or religious exemption. If not, they face termination. "If educators got the exemption, they'll be required to be PCR tested weekly and share the results with HR," United Teachers of Richmond President Marissa Glidden said. The district will provide the testing. As for the children, students ages 12 and up must be fully vaccinated by Jan. 3 to continue in-person learning. Glidden said, of the 1,600 United Teachers of Richmond members, 99% are vaccinated and most supported the new mandate. The district said, as of Dec. 2, 85% of all district staff, including substitutes, have been fully vaccinated.