

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
March 18, 2022

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

March 24: Richmond High x La Clinica de la Raza Vaccination Clinic, 11:00-4:00pm, Richmond High

March 24: MDAC Meeting, Via Zoom

Next Board of Education Meeting April 13, 2022– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Secondary- LaResha Martin (Gabriel Chilcott & team)

Math Department (Mark Lobaco & Team)

Desmos 6-8 Curriculum Update–As we near the completion of Year 1 of our three-year Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Effective Implementation Cohort (EIC) grant, [here is a data slide deck](#) demonstrating some of the work from piloting the Desmos 6-8 curriculum in about 20 classrooms at seven school sites (DeJean, Soskin, Hercules Middle, Pinole Middle, Helms, Chavez, and Olinda). The WCCUSD Math Department hopes to expand this network of middle grades teachers next school year to provide both high quality, engaging curriculum and ongoing professional development opportunities.

Science Department (John Iwawaki & Team)

New instructional materials have been selected for recommended adoption for three courses in high school science. Beginning in Fall of 2020, committees of teachers were formed by content area to review programs from six publishers. Using the evaluation and screening processes and rubrics based on [CA NGSS TIME](#), the committees selected two programs to pilot in classrooms with students in Semester 1 of 2021-22. Following the pilot process, each committee reached consensus on a program to recommend. Adoption of these new instructional materials will help WCCUSD align to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the [California 3-Course Model](#): “Physics of the Universe” (formerly “Physics”), The Living Earth (formerly “Biology”), and Chemistry of the Earth System (formerly “Chemistry”). The Educational Services department will bring this adoption recommendation to the Board of Education in April.

Update on School Facility Program Audits - Luis Freese

The District has received almost \$135 million in state funding through the School Facility Program (SFP) over the last ten years. Education Code §41024 requires that any District that receives SFP funds after April 1, 2017, complete an independent third-party close-out performance audit for each funded application. The District just completed the fifth successful audit with no findings and conclusions that the District properly accounted for the allowable expenditures. The table below summarizes the completed School Facility Program Audits to date.

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Site (Application)	State Dollars Received
Helms (58/61796-00-008)	\$5,341,020
Coronado (57/61796-00-047)	\$946,931
Gompers (57/61796-00-045)	\$2,071,166
Peres (57/61796-00-044)	\$1,101,173
King (58/61796-00-009)	\$2,106,032

Communications Update - Ryan Phillips

Thursday, March 17, 2022

[WCCUSD superintendent addresses campus safety after gun incidents | Richmond Standard | Mike Aldax](#)

Dr. Chris Hurst, West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) superintendent, said in a [public message](#) Tuesday that he is “deeply disturbed” by two incidents last week involving weapons on high school campuses, and discussed steps the district is taking in the short and long term to address safety. “Keeping our students and staff safe, both physically and mentally, is our top priority,” Hurst said.

Vallejo High School badminton team beats Richmond, Hercules - Times-Herald

The Vallejo High School badminton team began the season with a 17-0 win over Richmond last week. No. 1 girls player Rachel Contreras won her match

Bethel High boys tennis team defeats Pinole Valley - Times-Herald

The Bethel High boys tennis team defeated Pinole Valley 4-3 on Tuesday in Tri-County Athletic League play. Andrick Espinosa won 6-2,

Contra Costa County to intervene in West Contra Costa Unified's finances | EdSource

The Contra Costa County Office of Education will take authority over West Contra Costa Unified’s financial planning because the district is “no longer a going concern” after running a projected deficit and after the school board on March 9 [rejected](#) a proposal to cut about 200 teacher and school staff positions.

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

[COVID: Mask Mandate Lifted But Some East Bay Teachers Offer Students Incentives To ... | CBS San Francisco](#)

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The mask mandate may be lifted but teachers in at least one East Bay school district are offering incentives like candy and other treats, encouraging students to keep them on. On Tuesday, signs on the marquee at the school's entrance still flashed, "Masks are required". Marissa ditched her mask on the first day at Hercules Middle School when it became optional. But her history teacher Joseph Glatzer sent a note to parents over the weekend saying he would "give a piece of candy" and donuts as incentives to keep them on.

[End of school mask mandate brings relief, lingering concerns | EdSource](#)

West Contra Costa Unified officials announced Saturday – after conferring with its unions – that masking would be “strongly recommended but no longer required,” at high schools, middle schools and district offices. The district will continue requiring masks at elementary schools through April 15, when students return from spring break. District officials wanted to “move cautiously,” not knowing the vaccination rates of elementary students, said district spokesman Ryan Phillips. The district knows that 87% of students ages 12 and older are vaccinated.

[School Meals Transition to All-Organic Ingredients in Low-Income District | Hunter College NYC Food Policy Center](#)

[West Contra Costa Unified School District](#) (WCCUSD) has partnered with [Conscious Kitchen](#) to incorporate mostly organic, whole foods into school meals prepared from scratch. The school district has partnered with [Conscious Kitchen](#), a local nonprofit focused on feeding healthy, organic, affordable, and delicious breakfast and lunch using as many organic ingredients as possible to children in low-income school districts. For the 2021-2022 school year, breakfast includes a main course, fruit, and milk, with food costs averaging [\\$1.56](#) per meal. Lunch includes a main course, a vegetable side, and milk or water, and food costs an average of [\\$2.35](#).

Monday, March 14, 2022

[WCCUSD changes mask guidelines | Richmond Standard](#)

Starting today, masks are no longer required, but strongly recommended, at West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) middle schools, high schools and central offices, according to Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Chris Hurst. Starting on April 15, when students return from spring break, masks will no longer be required, but strongly recommended, for all schools and central offices, including pre-K, TK, elementary and K-8 schools, Hurst added. Until then, students on these campuses are required to wear masks while indoors.

[Many Bay Area students still masked as state mandate lifts | East Bay Times](#)

Though the San Jose Unified School District adopted the state's new ... Similarly, West Contra Costa Unified made masks optional for middle and high ...

[Bay Area schools face the first day in classrooms without a mask ... - San Francisco Chronicle](#)

In West Contra Costa Unified, district officials notified families and staff over the weekend that the mandate would be lifted as of Monday. For the first time in two years, California kids were permitted to walk into their classrooms without a mask Monday, [a moment of celebration for some and worry for others](#). While most Bay Area districts opted to lift the mask mandate Monday, not all did. Even in districts

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where students and staff were allowed to ditch face coverings, some families and staff opted to keep them on.

[**\\$50,000 reward offered for clues in San Pablo college student's slaying - San Francisco Chronicle**](#)

Dickson had graduated from El Cerrito High School, where he was a “star quarterback and standout basketball player,” according to the GoFundMe ...

[**Governor offers 50k in cold case involving Star Quarterback Tyler Dickson - NFL Draft Diamonds**](#)

Tyler Dickson was a football player at El Cerrito High, and was set to play ... at him but ultimately chose Contra Costa College a JUCO school.

Friday, March 11, 2022

[**Police investigating shooting at De Anza High School in Richmond - ABC7 News**](#)

Authorities are investigating a shooting at De Anza High School in Richmond on Friday. Police couldn't say what time the incident happened, but students were let out of campus.

[**Investigation Continues Into Shooting at De Anza High School in Richmond | NBC Bay Area**](#)

A shooting took place at Richmond's De Anza High School during a fight on the school's campus Friday, police said.

No one was struck by the gunfire, but a student was injured during the altercation that happened shortly after the final bell of the day, police said. The injuries are not life-threatening, according to police.

[**Fight Escalates to Gunfire at De Anza High School in Richmond - NBC Bay Area**](#)

Several students were involved in a fight Friday at De Anza High School in Richmond. One student pulled a gun during the fight and one person was ..

[**Shots fired during fight at De Anza High in Richmond, but no one struck - The Mercury News**](#)

Police are investigating a shooting that occurred during a fight between students at De Anza High School on Friday, though no one was struck by the gunfire. The fight involved several students and broke out shortly after the final school bell of the day. It took place in the campus' rear parking lot, which is designated in part for students, Lt. Matt Stonebraker of the Richmond Police Department said in an interview.

[**Walters: East Bay school shows how to improve low reading skills | East Bay Times**](#)

Nystrom Magnet Elementary School celebrates its renovated campus in ... by West Contra Costa Unified School District voters starting in 1998.

[**Richmond school fight leads to gunfire; no one shot - San Francisco Chronicle**](#)

In February, two Hercules High School students were suspended after they posted photos to social media that showed them brandishing guns in a ...