

District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



February 2020

UPCOMING DATES:

- February 6, 2020
6:00—8:00pm
SAC Training
Tesla Professional
Development Building
- February 20, 2020
6:00—8:00pm
Full DAC meeting
Tesla, room 112/113

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Welcome

Welcome to 2020! We hope everyone had a restful holiday season. The DAC is back to work. The DAC was excited in January to spotlight four new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs). These teachers worked long hours to gain this certification at the highest level. Congratulations to Brenda Miller, Sara Miller, Amber Plucknett, and Cindy Gordon. The DAC also began looking at the status and plans for concurrent enrollment, dual enrollment, and other college credit opportunities in D11. This is a fast-growing area that is important to students and families. The DAC Subcommittees have also been hard at work.

- The DAC Budget Subcommittee provided its recommendations on the mid-year budget modification requests to the Board of Education (BOE) during the January 22nd work session. Michael Reyes and members of the Budget Subcommittee invested a considerable amount of time and energy in preparing these recommendations. The subcommittee is also in the process of reviewing and preparing a report to the BOE on the Gifted Magnet Program, Gifted & Talented Program, and AVID Program.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee began work with a new chair, Jane Tucker. They started the year by looking at graduation and completion rates for the district. The subcommittee is also getting ready to review the Unified District Improvement Plan (UDIP) which will be available in February.
- The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee is hosting the third SAC Training Session on February 6, 2019. The training will provide help for SACs with the Budget Equity Exercise, learning more about using and understanding Aligned District Benchmark data, and the new Hoonuit Data System. West Middle school will also be sharing information about Sources of Strength, a nationwide suicide awareness program. We encourage everyone to attend.

In closing, the DAC wants to help support schools. We encourage schools and SAC members to use all the DAC resources to effectively communicate to parents and community. We welcome any questions, comments, and suggestions from you. We are always willing to meet with you individually or attend one of your meetings to support you.

Happy Valentine's Day from everyone at the DAC!

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – District Accountability Committee

NEWS & NOTES

*"No act of
kindness, no
matter how small,
is ever wasted"*
Aesop

News & Notes

High School and Middle School Chess Tournament

February 7, 2020

4:15—8:00pm

Palmer HS



The School District 11 High School and Middle School Chess Tournament is Friday, February 7, from 4:15 to 8:00 p.m. in the Palmer High School library. Participation is open to all district high/middle school students. Cost is \$0/student, thanks to the [Palmer Alumni Association](#). This no-cost tournament includes 5-6 rounds of play (Swiss-style), and pizza/bottled water between rounds. This tournament is open to students of all abilities, from beginner to advanced; participants are asked to understand the basic rules of chess. Everyone plays every round – win, lose, or draw.

See <https://www.d11.org/Page/6751> for more information and to register online.

Information: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CwiQVd_gWb2HcPDs_WoknuB8Pcb3EW8LQPjk2sBXotY/edit?usp=sharing

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

WHEN: Saturday, February 15, 2020

TIME: 8 to 10 AM

WHERE: North Middle School Cafeteria

Please enter through the side door of the Annex.

COST: \$6.00 for ages 6 and up, \$3.00 for ages 5 and under

All proceeds will go to fund the Fairview Cemetery Veteran's Project.

Additional donations are welcome.



News & Notes (Continued)

Science Fair Judges Needed— There is a need for judges to serve at various science fairs around the district in the coming months. If interested, please contact Janit Pollard at janit.pollard@d11.org or 520-2202.

- Edison Elementary—March 20, 2020, 8:00—10:30am
- Keller Elementary—April 3, 2020, 8:05—10:00am
- Madison Elementary—April 6, 2020, 12:30—3:00pm
- Stratton Elementary—March 31, 2020, 7:45—10:45am
- Taylor Elementary—March 19, 2020, 7:40—9:30am
- Regional Elementary Science Fair—April 25, 2020, 8:00am—12:00pm



SchoolCHOICE

Find the right school for your student and apply today for the 2020-2021 school year. Visit d11.org/choice to learn more!

Choice window now open



The priority choice open enrollment window is still open through February 15, 2020 for school year 2020-2021.
For additional information please go to: d11.org/choice

Special Opportunity for Parents and D11 Staff

School District 11 is partnering with the Colorado Education Initiative and Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to offer Meaningful Career Conversation Training at the Tesla Professional Development Center. This training is for anyone wanting to learn more about engaging in conversations around careers and helping students develop meaningful connections between what they are doing now and the world of work. D11 will be offering two trainings (click on blue links below to register—note this is not listed in ERO).

- March 9: 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.—4 Hour Training @ Tesla Professional Development Building

[March 9th: 8am – 12pm – D11 CO Springs 4 Hr Training \(open to anyone\)](#)

- April 6: 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.—2 Hour Training @ Tesla Professional Development Building

[April 6th: 6pm – 8pm – D11 CO Springs 2 Hr Training \(open to anyone\)](#)

(From Dawn Boden, Ph: 719-520-2575, D11 Career and College Access Specialist/ICAP Coordinator)

News & Notes (Continued)

2020 Census is Rapidly Approaching: (All should receive notice to participate by April 1, 2020)

Did you know that El Paso County experienced the largest county population increase in the state? Did you also know that the Census Bureau has identified several areas in D11 as likely to experience low self-response rates (more than 30% not expected to respond), especially in the south-east quadrant of the district? Did you know that more than \$675 billion are spent supporting state, city, county, and community vital programs based on census data? All of these are important reasons to team together as a district and work towards securing the highest response rate possible from D11 families. As a trusted community partner, D11 is in a unique position to positively impact response rates. Check out more on the Census in the Pikes Peak area at <https://coloradosprings.gov/pikespeakcensus> (Friday Night Notes Sep 20, 2019)

On Jan 29, 2020 the D11 Board of Education passed a Resolution on the importance of an accurate Census for D11. Here are key excerpts from that Resolution;

“ WHEREAS, the 2020 Census count of children living in the District will be the basis of federal education funding allocated to our schools over the next ten years, specifically the federal programs serving our students living in poverty and students with disabilities; and”

“WHEREAS, it is paramount for the school board, superintendent, principals, teachers, parent organizations, and all local leaders in Colorado Springs School District 11 to communicate the importance of Census 2020 to families and community members to ensure everyone is counted;”

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District 11 Board of Education encourages the District to work in partnership with other local civic, business, and community leaders, the State of Colorado, and others to engage, educate, and count every resident in the 2020 Census.”

Please do what you can to advocate for your school community to provide an accurate Census!

School District 11 Offers An Amazing Gifted and Talented Program

- All students 2nd through 7th grade have the opportunity to apply for our Gifted Magnet Program (GMP)
- This is unique to Southern Colorado—it is an amazing opportunity for gifted students in the Pikes Peak Region to participate in a program that provides long-term academic and social-emotional benefits
- Two parent information nights have already been held (West MS on January 22nd and Sabin MS on January 30th)
- There will be an Elementary GMP Schools information night on February 27, 2020 at 6:00pm at the District 11 Administration Building (1115 N. El Paso St)



*“Never doubt that
a small group of
thoughtful,
committed citizens
can change the
world; indeed, it’s
the only thing that
ever has.”
Margaret Mead*

SAC News

SAC Agenda Planning – February (Theme: Mid-year USIP progress review)

Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics that meet the broad responsibilities of School District 11 SACs. This is just a reference tool and individual SACs should tailor agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the agenda topics that are recommended for February meetings:

- Review/discuss topics from the D11 SAC Handbook, Agenda Planning Guide for previous months which have not yet been addressed.
- Review/discuss relevant 1st semester achievement data including 2nd quarter Galileo ADB test results, or similar test results; middle of the year DIBELS Next test results (for READ Act), Achieve 3000 test results, ACCESS for ELLs test results, etc.
- Review/discuss the school’s progress in reading, writing, math, social studies and science.
- Review/discuss progress on RTI/MTSS and associated achievement gap and/or social emotional learning (SEL) strategies. What strategies is the school using to assist students who are struggling the most, and are they working?
- Review/discuss progress on parent engagement for student learning. Has your school implemented any new initiatives with a parent engagement focus this school year?

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- Galileo K-12: Third Quarter ADB ELA and Math test (grades 2-8) will be Mar 2 – Mar 6, with make-up week Mar 11-16, 2020. School results district wide should be available by Mar 25th.
- ACCESS, the state test for English Language Learner (ELL) students (all eligible kindergarten – 12th grade students), is being given Jan 13 – Feb 14, 2020.

SAC Training/Information Session February 6, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla:

Check out DAC Chair Stepanek’s opening letter, third bullet for details on this upcoming training. We will have a number of very informational presentations for SACs at all levels. (Also see flyer on next page) We hope to see you there.

SAVE THE DATE: The next SAC Training/Information Session will be held April 2, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00PM at Tesla. Fliers on presentations and discussion topics will be sent out by early-mid March 2020.



School Accountability Committee (SAC) Training

FEBRUARY 6, 2020

This training will provide information on:

- **Testimonial – Rogers ES-** Linda Slothower, Principal - selected as a “Bright Spot” school by the Colorado Turnaround Network for exemplary efforts in four key improvement areas
- **Budget Equity Exercise** – Glenn Gustafson, Deputy Superintendent/CFO
 - ♦ **Core Values Card Sort Activity** – How Wilson ES approached this exercise – Stephanie Atencio, Wilson ES Principal
- **Break-out Sessions (Choose 1):**
 - * **Family Learning Institute** – Sources of Strength (SoS) – A nationwide suicide awareness program – Tena Logan, West MS Teacher
 - * **Galileo K-12 Aligned District Benchmarks** (Sharing strategies and utilizing data) – Eric Mason, Director of Assessment
 - * **Introduction to new Hoonuit Data System** – Gina Daugherty, Assessment Specialist, EDSS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Child Care will be provided for children ages preschool to 12

Please RSVP to Trudy Tool at Trudy.Tool@d11.org with number of people attending from your school and if child care is needed

When:

February 6, 2020

Time:

6:00 – 8:00pm

Where:

Tesla Professional

Development

Center-room 116/129

(2560 International

Circle)

**Highly recommended
for School Administra-
tors, SAC Chairs & SAC
Members**

**Open to all parents and
community members**

Good Things Happening in the District

CIVA

- CIVA received the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award for 2019. This is the third time CIVA has received this award.
- The Governor's Distinguished Improvement Awards are given to schools that demonstrate exceptional student growth on the school performance framework used by the State to measure academic growth.

District

- Congratulations to **Queen Palmer ES, Monroe ES, Adams ES** and **Wilson ES** for becoming nominees for the 2019-2020 Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School. Capturing Kids' Hearts campuses across the country are considered for this award. Those campuses that have most of their classrooms living the *Capturing Kids' Hearts* processes qualify for submission. This award recognizes outstanding school administrators, teaching staff and faculty for producing exemplary outcomes with the Capturing Kids' Hearts process.

Jenkins MS

On January 16, 2020 Jenkins MS received a donation from the Nor'Wood Foundation. The Nor'Wood Foundation was founded by a member of the Frances Jenkin's family. It was presented by Nicholas Frances Jenkins, the great-grandson of Frances L. Jenkins, for whom Jenkins MS was named. Nicholas shared the career of Frances, which included teaching, being a leader in District 11 and serving on the District 11 School Board.



Mitchell HS

- Mitchell HS celebrated the grand opening of the new Peak Vista Health Clinic at Mitchell High School by having a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on January 24, 2020 at 4:00pm.
- On Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 1:00—4:00pm the Peak Vista's Family Health Center at Mitchell High School is having an open house
- Also on February 8, 2020, Mitchell HS will host United 2 Celebrate from 12:00—3:00pm showcasing Audubon ES, Henry ES, Madison ES, McAuliffe ES, Monroe ES, Penrose ES, Queen Palmer ES, Rogers ES, Twain ES, Wilson ES, Galileo School of Math & Science, Mann MS, Sabin MS, Swigert Aerospace Academy. It is a great opportunity to highlight opportunities available at Mitchell HS.

Monroe ES

- Children's Hospital Colorado in Colorado Springs has begun an initiative to build "resiliency" among children through coaching. Two local schools are participating in this initiative, and fifth grade students at Monroe Elementary School is one of them. This pilot program provides coaching to address adult-child relationships, self-sufficiency and control, adaptive skills, and "mobilizing sources of faith, hope, and cultural tradition." This initiative will help students have the tools they will need to work through life's hardships, disappointments and challenges in a healthy, positive way.

Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

Roosevelt Charter Academy (RCA)

- Roosevelt is very proud to announce that they are now a Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS)! Becoming a member of NEHS is a prestigious honor! Angelina Barela, 2nd grade Team Lead/Teacher worked diligently at the end of last year with RCA administration to make this happen. She is also the advisor for their NEHS Chapter. In order to be considered for NEHS, student grades were looked at, as well as, each student had to fill out a form asking what they do in and out of school in the areas of responsibility, leadership, and service. The induction ceremony was held on January 29, 2020 for nineteen, 4th and 5th grade students to be inducted into NEHS.



NEHS (National Elementary Honor Society) members who were inducted 1/29/20.

- It's the start of basketball season for both boys and girls! There were 35 students who tried out for the basketball teams, of those 30, 10 boys made the boy's team and 10 girls made the girl's team. This year Roosevelt will be playing against other District 11 elementary schools at the intermediate level. In the past, they have only played against other charter schools. February 1st is the first game. The coaches, Erick Gossage, Sharis Gish and Tiffany Unseth are very excited about the season and the wonderful players.



West Middle School

- West Middle School will go on to compete nationally in Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow contest. For the second consecutive year, a group of students is the only Colorado winner in Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow contest. As the winner, the school receives \$15,000 in prize money and the chance to compete against 99 other schools in the nation. Eleven 7th and 8th grade students at West MS are working on a project called "Oh, Hail No," which proposes a new, improved way to protect vehicles from damage during destructive hail storms. The team is currently narrowing down the final three designs. A three-minute video due by February 20 to the contest organizers, will showcase their chosen prototype design.

