

District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



March 2021

UPCOMING DATES:

- **Full DAC Meeting—
March 18, 2021
6:00—8:00pm
via WebEx**
- **SAC Training—
April 8, 2021
6:00—8:00pm via
WebEx**

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Welcome

Welcome to March and hopefully warmer temperatures. It has been almost a year since regular school life was abruptly interrupted. We have all had to adjust and be flexible. One constant for all of us is the belief that every child should have the opportunity to succeed. Thank you to School Accountability Committee (SAC) chairs and members for pressing on and meeting remotely with families to continue this work. Thank you to families who have learned more about the work our teachers and staff do every day for students. You are appreciated as we are all in this together for students!

The district is rebuilding, rediscovering, and reimagining to give all students schools where they can learn, thrive, and grow. Major work is culminating. First, the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) recommendation was presented to the Board of Education. Final decisions will be made this month. Secondly, the Academic Master Plan (AMP) is adding more detail. More feedback will be requested in community meetings this month. Change is not easy, but we all want what is best for D11 students. Please continue to encourage families in your communities to give input to these plans as final decisions are made. We are all D11.

Another opportunity for families and community to communicate with the district is the final Beyond the Mask Trust Building and Listening Tour session on March 4 with the topic: Taking the Pulse: Community Thoughts for Moving Forward. Questions can be submitted ahead of time at the D11 website. Your voice matters.

The DAC and its Subcommittees are continuing to work in the virtual environment.

- The DAC reviewed, discussed, and provided input on the FMP. We were also informed about GoGuardian, a software tool currently being used at our middle schools to help teachers and students. Finally, we looked at the capacity data that is available for each school.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee reviewed, discussed, and provided recommendations on Incremental Budget Requests (IBR) for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Members of the Budget Subcommittee invested a considerable amount of time and energy in preparing these recommendations.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee spent time focused on data discussions. This included looking at D/F rates, Graduation rates, and the middle of the year Universal Screener Data. They also had a discussion with middle schools on what they are doing to prepare students for high school.
- The SAC Training and Support Subcommittee is starting to plan for the final SAC training scheduled on April 8 via Webex. Look for more details about this final training for this school year.

As a DAC, we want to support our School Accountability Committees. Be sure to look at the suggested agenda items for your meeting from the SAC Handbook. If there are areas your SAC needs support on, please let us know, we are here to help. We look forward to a productive March and a great Spring Break.

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek
Chair – District Accountability Committee

News & Notes

Chicago 5Essentials Survey Completed

- The latest Chicago 5Essentials Survey was conducted Jan 26 – Feb 19, 2021 (Deadline extended until March 5, 2021). The Survey included teachers, parents and students across the District. It was designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of each school and gave parents the opportunity to share their thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness.
- 5Essentials reports will be generated for D11 schools if their teachers and/or students met a response rate threshold of 50 percent. If at least 20 percent of each school’s parents completed the survey, a parent supplement report will also be generated. The reports will be available in April 2021. Check with your principal to see if your school met the response rate criteria and place this on your SAC agenda for later this spring to review the results.

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more”.

H. Jackson Brown Jr.



Beyond the Mask

- The next meeting will take place on March 4, 2021—Taking the Pulse: Community Thoughts for Moving Forward
- Join the Conversation Live on the [D11 Facebook page](#). All meetings will be from 6:00pm -7:30pm.
- To submit questions prior to this meeting go to: <https://www.d11.org/BeyondTheMask>

News & Notes Continued



2020-2021

The Crystal Apple Awards Program wishes to honor all District 11 teachers for their efforts to provide meaningful education to students in District 11 during the global pandemic.

- * Administrators/Parents/Students,
Please send your teacher's story
(in written form or video) to CrystalApple@d11.org.
- * The District 11 Media Services will create a program featuring some of the stories to air during National Teacher Appreciation Week in May.
- * All stories and videos will be available to the community on a 2021 Crystal Apple Awards website.

Please submit your stories by March 31, 2021. 2020-2021

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in D11

Did you know that D11 has;

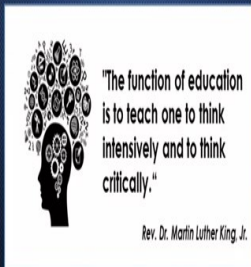
- One of the largest and most recognized CTE programs in the state
- The most number of articulated CTE courses for PPCC and UCCS college credit in the Pikes Peak Region
- The most number of industry recognized certifications in kind and number of students earning in the region; consistently in the top 7 in the state
- The most number of internships placed in the region; consistently in the top 5 in the state.
- 100% of instructors are CTE endorsed in proper content areas
- The largest middle school computer science program in the region
- State and nationally recognized programs in cybersecurity, game design, automotive technology, education, hospitality and media arts

Check out the details on the D11 CTE webpage at [Career & Technical Education / Welcome \(d11.org\)](https://www.d11.org/Career-Technical-Education-Welcome), and be sure to check out plans to upgrade and expand the overall D11 CTE program/offerings in the Academic Master Plan presentations coming in March and April.

Spanish/English Dual Language Immersion Program (DLIP)

District 11 is pleased to announce our new **Spanish/English Dual Language Immersion Program (DLIP) at Rogers Elementary School**. The Dual Language Immersion Program is:

- An academic program that enhances the development of content in two languages - English and Spanish, as well as literacy in both languages, so that students will graduate ready for college, career, and life in a globally changing world.
- A unique academic program develops student linguistic skills in reading, listening, speaking and writing in both English and Spanish. Students learn standards-based content as they simultaneously become literate and linguistically proficient in two languages.
- Students in kindergarten and first grade will receive 90% of their daily instruction in Spanish and 10% in English.
- Each year, students will receive more instruction in English as the percentage of instructional time in the second language (L2) decreases. By 4th grade students will receive 50% of their daily instruction in a second language and 50% in English.



Spark Online Academy

- Opens in August 2021 serving kindergarten through eighth grade students seeking high quality, personalized learning in an online school in District 11.
- [Applications are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 school year.](#)
- Space is limited and we encourage you to submit an application to hold your spot at Spark Online Academy. Once enrollments are complete, you can expect the best experiences at the start of the school year.
- If enrollment limits are reached, you will be placed on the waiting list in the order it was received and contacted by the school should a spot open up for your student.

SAC News

SAC Training/Information Session Information and Updates

SAVE THE DATE: SAC Training/Information Session April 8, 2021, 6:00 – 8:00 PM via WebEx:

This session will focus on updates and plans for 2021-2022 in several program areas. Watch for flyers and invites in the next few weeks providing details on the topics and agenda.

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- ◆ **State tests:** The Colorado State Legislature is considering eliminating state testing for 2021, however as of now all CMAS, PSAT, and SAT tests are scheduled in the period April 13 – May 14th. Check out the D11 testing calendar at [2020-2021 Assessment Calendar.pdf \(d11.org\)](#) for specific test dates.
- ◆ **Unified School Improvement Plans (USIPs):** Final USIPs are due to CDE by April 15, 2020 for posting to the CDE website.
- ◆ **D11 Facilities Master Plan (FMP):** The Cooperative Strategies FMP Report, with recommendations, will go to the Board of Education for one last work session on Wed Mar 3, 2021 and is scheduled for action at the Board meeting on March 10, 2021.
- ◆ **D11 Academic Master Plan (AMP):** The AMP final report and recommendations will go to the Board of Education for non-action on April 14th and for Action on April 28th. Look for notifications about presentations to community and school groups between late March and mid-April. Keep checking <https://www.d11.org/rebuilding> for all the latest on the AMP and FMP.

SAC Agenda Planning – March (Theme: USIP updates – if needed)

- ◇ 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 March meetings:
- ◇ Review/discuss topics from the D11 SAC Handbook, Agenda Planning Guide for previous months which have not yet been addressed.
- ◇ Review/discuss relevant 2nd round Universal Screener test results, or similar test results; in the context of USIP goals for 2020-2021.
- ◇ Review/discuss the school's progress in reading, writing, math, social studies and science. Is your SAC/school staff monitoring student challenges in academics, discipline, and attendance using current data available via the Hoonuit data application?
- ◇ Review/discuss your school's response to the latest District Return to Learn Plan updated Feb 23, 2021 available at [D11 Return to Learn Plan March 2021 - English.pdf](#).

Good Things Happening in the District



Adams Elementary School —

- Students designed Valentine's Day cards for a local Community Nursing Home project. This gave the students the opportunity to show compassion and love to a group of senior citizens who had to endure separation from their love ones during the pandemic.



District —

- Congratulations to Duane Roberson, Director of Career & Technical Ed, for receiving the Outstanding Administrator award from the Colorado Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (CATFACS).
- The CATFACS Outstanding Administrator Award is presented to an individual who is serving in an educational capacity which is directly or indirectly associated with FCS/career-technical education, and who has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to FCS/career-technical education in Colorado.

Fremont Elementary School —

- Congratulations to **Aly Millard**, 5th grade teacher, for winning the Colorado Association of Science Teachers (CAST) Award for Excellence in Science Teaching.

North Middle School —

- Congratulations to 7th grader, Cameron Wolkow. Cameron was awarded Second Place in the Pikes Peak Regional Science fair in the category of Biological, Environmental Science.
- Cameron's project was, "The effect of mushrooms on biodegradable products and plastics."
- North staff celebrated their building technician, Ismael Uribe becoming a United States citizen. Congratulations Ismael.

Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

Penrose Elementary School —

- Congratulations to Morgan Mauro, School Counselor, for being named the Colorado School Counselor of the Year by the Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA). The award honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates – and often lifesavers – for their students.
- Morgan Mauro was honored as the 2020 Colorado School Counselor of the Year at a District 11 counselor meeting. She will also be recognized at the Colorado School Counselor Association Annual Conference on October 6-8 in Keystone, Colorado. The Awards Dinner will be October 6, 2021, at the Keystone Conference Center.



Russell Middle School —

- Congratulations to the winners of the Austin Bluffs Sertoma Club National Heritage Freedom Essay Contest. The winner was Kara Swenson and Honorable Mention went to Elijah Mack.

Taylor Elementary School —

- On Friday, February 19th, Taylor Elementary students walked through the Patty Jewett neighborhood during the “Share the Love Parade”, The students wanted to show the community they care about them during the pandemic.



★ ALWAYS believe
that SOMETHING
WONDERFUL
is about to HAPPEN ★

If you have good news to share for the monthly newsletters, please send to Trudy.Tool@d11.org