SPOTLIGHT

The 2019 Summer Enrichment Series (SES) will run from June 10 to June 21. All D11 students currently in kindergarten through fifth grades are eligible to participate free of charge. SES aims to deliver unique learning experiences that integrate science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) and extends student learning beyond the typical academic year. The 2019 host schools include Adams, Chipeta, Keller, McAuliffe, Scott, Taylor, and West. Adams will be piloting a full-day program this year while the other host schools will continue with a half-day model. The SES teacher application is open and will close on Sunday, April 7. Student registration will open in late April.

Curriculum and Instruction will provide schools with marketing materials such as flyers, posters, and banners after spring break. Any support schools can provide to help get the word out about the program is greatly appreciated. Schools can assist with marketing SES by:

- Including a blurb in the school newsletter
- Posting info and a link on the school website
- Pushing out blackboard notifications to families

Sharing information about the program with students and families during lunchtime, assemblies, school events, etc.

Visit www.d11.org/ses for program information and employment opportunities.
Celebrations!

Colorado Springs School District 11 is pleased to announce that West Middle School has been recognized as a 2019 Colorado Trailblazer Schools to Watch! The Colorado Association of Middle Level Education is proud to honor West with this distinguished designation. West is one of 100+ schools that will be recognized nationwide at the National Schools to Watch Conference on June 28, 2019 in Washington, DC.

Through the Adopt-A-Classroom Program, Burlington Stores chose Carver Elementary as a recipient of a $10,000 donation! Teachers will choose how to spend this generous gift in their own classrooms.

As a way to engage the community, McAuliffe Elementary will be featuring a military canine unit in an upcoming student awards assembly.

A brand-new PTA has been formed at Twain Elementary.

Keller Elementary staff have created new hallway murals, and are working to implement a "sensory-step" space for students.

Last week, Penrose Elementary fourth-grade students presented projects to authentic audiences. Their driving question: How can we reduce our carbon footprint at Penrose? These future environmentalists had some great ideas.

Steele Elementary student David Laybourne will be starring in Ben and the Magic Paintbrush at the Fine Arts Center! (March 8-April 7)

Steele Elementary held their annual STEAM Day, organized by parents! Topics included an aquarium experience focusing on life zones, sun light, and depth. Other topics were Bread from Farm to Table, and Mechanical Experiences with Water Energy.

Eric White is the first student in D11 to earn the FAA part 107 license for commercial drone operations. We are proud of you and your accomplishment! For those who do not know “drones”, Eric is now licensed to fly a drone in public spaces for commercial purposes. He could work for public utilities or private companies. He will go on to learn the design and engineering of drones as a part of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle program addition to the pre-engineering program at Coronado, instructed by David Steele who himself is FAA107 certified (and also a helicopter pilot).

Many schools recently celebrated Dr. Seuss and Read Across America with community events.

We would like to thank the facilities department, both centrally and at schools, for all of their clean-up efforts after the recent blizzard. We greatly appreciate their quick response to felled trees and other damage.
SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT/ACHIEVE TEAM
Jeremy Koselak, System Improvement Specialist

The ESSA Grant Launch is underway! This grant is empower the district to support six schools in a targeted manner (with Special Education challenges through SWIFT and with boosting the use of an Early Warning System through Talent Development Secondary), as well as a host of site based improvement initiatives (like Project Based Learning at Tesla, AV-ID at Odyssey and Standards Based Instruction & Assessment at Swigert).

Quarter 3 Step backs are underway at our ACT schools, including time to review data from the Aligned District Benchmark and implementation data for Major Improvement Strategies. These step backs are part of the yearlong improvement effort (using principles of strategic performance management).

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT
Sonia Urban, MTSS Specialist

Nearly 100 educators from across the district engaged in learning and contributed ideas to the D11 MTSS Framework. The work has centered on the key differences between MTSS as an overarching framework and RtI as a process. The guiding coalition will reconvene on April 30 to continue developing the framework.

The MTSS Leadership Team is now adjusting the Framework to incorporate the district’s new Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan.

On May 7 and 8, we will begin deepening our work with our Early Warning System. Secondary teams will be led by grant partners from Talent Development Secondary to develop school based resource and intervention maps, by tiers, around the key domains of attendance, behavior, and course performance. Additionally, schools will create a site-specific “start strong” plan, based on this year’s data, to help school teams focus on a great start to the 2019-20 school year. This work is also a thread in the Early Warning System Certification process a few partner sites will complete next school year.

UPCOMING

June 5 and 6 - End of Year ACT Step Back, Reflect, and Plan for 2019-20. Each ACT school is expected to send their team for the 2 days.

June 7 - The ACT EST will revisit the theory of action for school improvement and adjust the ACT Model to meet the needs of our schools and district.

April 30 - MTSS Guiding Coalition to continue work on the D11 MTSS Framework and Guidebook.

May 7 & 8 - Early Warning System training with Talent Development Secondary for secondary school teams.

August 1 — 2 - CDE MTSS Summit in Grand Junction, CO for those interested in learning more about MTSS. Contact Sonia Urban for details.
UPCOMING
May 3 (Tentative) - Building PLC leadership half-day reflection and learning (optional)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES
Toby Lefere, Elementary Content Specialist

The PLC Committee has identified two areas of focus to continue sustaining, growing, and optimizing PLCs in the district.

We see unlimited value in PLCs and the connection to the district’s strategic plan’s vision in which it identifies “...a dynamic collaborative community of energized educators . . .”

The committee will be working on focusing the work of PLCs on first instruction (standards, professional learning) and on the utilization of building PLC leadership teams.

We are in the beginning stages of planning an optional time for building PLC leadership teams to come together for two purposes: to reflect on the past year of PLCs and to plan for sustaining, growing, and optimizing PLCs next year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Dr. Nancy Homan, Lead SPED Facilitator

As April arrives, the Special Education Office is starting to prepare for the end of the 2018-19 school year and beginning to plan for the 2019-20 school year.

School staff are collaboratively planning for students who will be transitioning from Elementary to Middle School, or from Middle School to High School, as well as preparing for graduation ceremonies. Parents may be asked to participate in meetings to help develop these plans in an effort to make these transitions go as smoothly as possible for our students.

District 11 is also planning to open several new blended preschool classrooms to serve the increasing need for early childhood education. District Eleven hosts preschool in most of our elementary schools to help students build a strong foundation for their learning. Each of these classrooms serves typical students as well as students identified as needing specialized instruction with an emphasis on providing a language rich learning environment. If you are interested in seeing if your child would qualify to take part in the preschool opportunities available in District 11, contact Kathy Howell, our Early Childhood Coordinator at 520-2538.
GIFTED & TALENTED
Kristin Balsick, GT Facilitator

Registration is now open for the 2019 Gifted and Talented Plus and Whiz Bang Science Children’s Summer Program at Colorado College for students entering first through ninth grade next fall. District 11 GT partners with CC to make this affordable for our families with gifted students. Please call the GT office at 719-520-2464 to request financial assistance. For more information about specific classes and apply to the program visit: https://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/education/childrens-summer-programs/

Registration is now open for the 2019 UCCS STEM Academy for students entering sixth through twelfth grades next fall. The camp is FREE but students must apply ASAP as space is limited. Academy topics include web design, cyber security, robotics, drones, & CAD. Visit: https://lemp.uccs.edu/showcase/stem/

Gifted Magnet Programs at Fremont Elementary, Stratton Elementary, Sabin Middle School, and West Middle School are now accepting applications. For more information visit: www.D11.org/GMP

MULTILINGUAL
Talonna Hybki, Multilingual Facilitator

We will continue student observations at various schools for MTSS/RtI problem solving meetings.

Applications are being accepted for foreign exchange students for the 2019-20 school year. Please visit the Foreign Exchange tab on our website: https://www.d11.org/Page/2345

ACCESS 2.0 scores should be released in mid-April. We will update each ELL student’s ESL status with the new scores.

Students continue to work on the Imagine Learning Language and Literacy program at Swigert, Edison, Keller and McAuliffe for this year's pilot.

We are continuing our ELL middle school program evaluation with our ELL teachers. Now that we are in second semester, we will be making important decisions about our ELD programming at our D11 middle schools based on our teacher meetings.

UPCOMING
April 1—26 (4:00-5:30pm) - Spring Bemis Talented in Art classes at four sites

May 3 (4:00-5:30pm) - Spring Bemis Talented in Art Reception and Display at Bemis School of Art

June 22 - Pikes Peak Association of Gifted Students (PPAGS) will be hosting a Parent Workshop. More information coming soon.
Although March was a week shorter with spring break, the work accomplished was certainly impressive thanks to the collaborative spirit of the D11 community!

Thanks to the Achievement, Learning, & Leadership team members that assisted with the day-long 2020 Colorado Academic Standards Literacy Initiative training at the last K-12 meeting!

The Curriculum and Instruction team along with teams from the Achieve Cohort/System Improvement, EDSS, Professional Development and returning principals were a great help serving as table facilitators for principals, assistant principals, and teaching and learning coaches from all schools, who came to learn more about the 2020 standards transition and implementation planning.

All materials used for both the assessment literacy and standards literacy presentations can be found at the following link: https://bit.ly/2EARYYI.

Thanks, also goes to the incredible team that rearranged their Friday, March 15 after two snow days to participate in developing four prototypes for the graduate profile development process. This profile will be an integral part of the strategic planning process. Schools, community, district stakeholders, and most importantly, students participated in this important work. It was unanimous that the student voices were the highlight of the day. The draft prototype work will be shared during the strategic planning process for stakeholders to determine what the final profile will include.
Last month I highlighted the Shadow a Student challenge, and while the two-week period for the challenge has ended, you can always engage in this empathy building experience anytime school is in session. Did you Shadow a Student? If so, I would love to hear more about your learning.

Another approach in building empathy to guide innovation is through the use of a design thinking process. Design thinking invites a team comprised of diverse roles to come together and ideate about design challenges. Schools in D11 have engaged in design thinking to reimagine everything from building schedules to designing spaces for learning. Students are also getting in the mix, assisting in framing “How might we...” questions that lead to implementation of new ideas in our schools. Interested in learning more? Visit Stanford’s d.school site to learn how educators, community members, and students are working alongside one another to design solutions. Are you already familiar with design thinking? See how ideas from the d.school, have been adapted in equityXdesign as a way to approach achieving equity in inclusive innovation.

Speaking of designing and reimagining, the spring months bring opportunities for reflection on the current school year and dreaming up what new ideas we may want to explore for next year. As our minds start turning, I encourage us to embrace May as a great month to try that new idea on a small scale, in a short cycle implementation. When we implement our first iteration of an idea in May, we learn what we may want to scale, scrap or shift in taking the work forward into the new school year in August. If you are interested in learning more about any of these ideas, please reach out - nicole.ottmer@d11.org.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**  
Dr. Shelmon Brown, ELA Facilitator

SRD Funding: An additional $50,000 in spring SRD funding was distributed to schools mid-March.

Achieve3000: Ongoing personalized support available for all middle schools. If you have not already scheduled a professional learning opportunity, please reach out to Mykel Donnelly with needs and we will get this coordinated.

**PERSONALIZED LEARNING**  
Nicole Ottmer, Personalized Learning Systems Coordinator

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**UPCOMING**

April 22 (8:30-4:00pm) - Great Schools Partnership Cohort at Tesla PD Center
April 23 (8:30-12:00pm) - Great Schools Partnership Cohort at Tesla PD Center
MATHEMATICS
David Sawtelle, Math Facilitator

Coach Students to Use “Working Paper” to Support Working Memory

Here are two fourth grade prompts from an online CMAS practice test for math. Try to develop answers to these problems hands-free: just “do them in your head.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem 1</th>
<th>Problem 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A team runs a race. There are 4 people on the team and each person runs the same distance. The team runs a total distance of 5,280 feet. What is the distance, in feet, that each person runs?</td>
<td>Hayley has 272 beads. She buys 38 more beads. She will use 89 beads to make bracelets and the rest to make necklaces. She will use 9 beads for each necklace. What is the greatest number of necklaces Hayley can make?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Were you able to mentally divide in Problem 1? Are you confident in your answer? What about doing Problem 2 in your head? Could you hold the addition and subtraction results before attempting the division? Now imagine the likelihood of a typical fourth grader (or any typical Nth grader) staring at these sorts of CMAS math prompts on computer screens, attempting to solve them mentally, and providing accurate answers. Hmmm … probably not very likely.

Your attempt to solve either problem mentally placed significant burden on your working memory: keeping in mind anything you need to keep in mind while you are doing something. That burden would have been greatly relieved if you had recorded your process steps on a piece of paper.

As your site is making final preparations with students for computer-based, state testing, consider investing in helping students realize the limited capacity and duration of their working memory and coaching students to use “working paper” to support their working memory during testing.

Why call it “working paper” rather than “scratch paper”? A few years ago, I learned we were not intentionally promoting student use of paper in preparation for computer-based testing. Since then I have advocated for math instructors to formalize the use of scratch paper (which sounds informal or haphazard) by instead calling it “working paper” and by deliberately teaching students to format and use working paper as a routine, classroom practice. Train students to format blank paper by folding three times (hot dog—hamburger—hamburger) creating eight rectangular spaces on each side of the paper. Teach students to use those spaces to organize and record their mental processing when solving math problems. Explicitly expect and reward the classroom practice. Explicitly coach students for transfer of the practice into computer-based testing.

Of course, students do not naturally reach for paper during computer-based testing. Whenever they are in front of a computer, they touch only a mouse, a keyboard, or a gaming device. Given the cognitive load of CMAS math released items, we really must to coach students to do something that is counter-intuitive to them: use working paper to support working memory during computer-based testing.
SCIENCE & HEALTH  
Darian Founds, Science/Health Facilitator

The Pikes Peak Elementary Science and Engineering Fair is Saturday, April 27 at Mitchell High School. Fourth and fifth grade students placing top three in their category at the respective schools are eligible to participate in the regional science fair. Check [https://www.d11.org/Page/5377](https://www.d11.org/Page/5377) for event information. In addition, this event is not possible without dedicated time and support from our community. Please consider volunteering as a judge to ensure a quality event for our students. Judge registration is available at the link above.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT  
Darian Founds, Science/Health Facilitator

The Summer Enrichment Series (SES) teacher application is open and will remain open until April 7.  
SES ESP application will open in late April    
SES student registration will open in late April  
Program information and updates at [www.d11.org/ses](http://www.d11.org/ses)

WORLD LANGUAGES  
Claudette Murtha, World Languages TOSA

Common writing assessments for all first and second year language students will occur during fourth quarter. Our new writing rubric is friendly to ACTFL proficiency guidelines for Presentational Writing. Be sure to ask your Level I and Level II language teachers about this!  
Teachers will receive sample codes before spring break for the Assessment of Performance towards Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL). This proficiency exam covers the three modes of communication for all levels of language learning: interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive. The exam also perfectly aligns to National Standards for World Languages.  
We will begin our Standards-Based Measure of Proficiency (STAMP) assessment for all students in level three and higher beginning April 5. AAPPL will likely replace this exam for next year.
SOCIAL STUDIES
Joan Jahelka, Social Studies Facilitator

Our elementary social studies team has developed lessons for grades kindergarten – fifth using our very own Giant Map of Colorado. The lessons are unique for each grade and integrate Science standards, when possible. Now, when a school borrows the map for a week, every student can learn using this resource, while having a unique experience each year. In addition, teachers are welcome to develop their own lessons. For example, Edison Elementary used the map by having fourth grade students create a video about a Colorado place, link the video to a QR code placed on the map, and have third grade student use iPads to access the QR codes and learn about places to answer an essential question.

Sign-up for borrowing the Giant Map of Colorado by contacting Joan Jahelka.

UPCOMING AVID
April 22 and 23 (8:00-3:30pm) - AVID Digital Learning at Tesla.


AVID
Joan Jahelka, AVID Coordinator

D11 will be hosting the AVID two-day PATH training AVID Digital Teaching and Learning Foundations. This is best suited to participants whose school or district are in the early stages of 1:1 implementation—that is, districts in the pre-planning stages through the first three years of implementation.

Digital Teaching and Learning—Foundations: Secondary brings educators together to experience and explore digital strategies and resources, using collaboration, communication, and choice to engage students in their learning and knowledge creation. Come ready to connect with colleagues in building a technology-rich classroom culture, infusing AVID methodologies both digitally and face to face. This strand is designed to support experienced AVID elective and secondary AVID school wide teachers in blending WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) strategies with technology tools to prepare students with the skills that they need to be college and career ready. Participants are supported during the process with best-practice pedagogy, resources, and guidance on how to use technology to facilitate student learning and engagement.

Participants must bring a device, power cord, and earbuds/headphones with them to the strand. If a district-issued device is being used, be sure to log in to the device on the district network before attending. Device software and web browser need to be up to date.

- Acceptable devices include laptops, Chromebooks, Surface devices, iPads, and iPad Pros
- Unacceptable devices include mini iPads, Kindle or Galaxy tablets, and smartphones.
FINE ARTS
Tom Fleecs, Fine Arts Facilitator

April 1 – 5 - CHSAA Vocal Large Group Festival at the First Southern Baptist Church
April 2 – 5 - CHSAA Orchestra Large Group Festival at Mitchell High School
April 9 (5:00-6:00pm) - Middle Level Young Peoples Art Exhibition Artist Opening at Imagination Celebration Urban Space in the Citadel Mall
April 13 (11:15am) - All District 11 Elementary String Concert at Mitchell High School
April 15 – 19 - CHSAA Band Large Group Festival at Palmer High School
April 30 (5:00-6:00pm) - High School Young Peoples Art Exhibition Artist Opening at Imagination Celebration Urban Space in the Citadel Mall
May 20 (3:45pm) - End of the Year Arts Meeting and Retirements Celebrations at Tesla Professional Development Center, room 110/111