SPOTLIGHT

Nicole Ottmer has joined the Division of Achievement, Learning, & Leadership as the Personalized Learning Systems Coordinator. Nicole previously served as the Library Technology Educator at Trailblazer Elementary.

See Personalized Learning on page six to learn more about Nicole.

ACHIEVEMENT, LEARNING, & LEADERSHIP

VISION
Every student prepared for a world yet to be imagined.

MISSION
Achievement, Learning, & Leadership utilizes evidence-based curricular resources, instructional practices, and professional supports to ensure rigorous learning outcomes for the District 11 community, resulting in prepared, productive, informed, and engaged citizens.

FEBRUARY 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
K-12 Schools ............. 2
MTSS........................... 2
System Improvement.... 3
PLC.............................. 3
Gifted & Talented ....... 4
Fine Arts .................... 4
Curriculum/Instruction . 5
English Language Arts . 6
Personalized Learning .. 6
Mathematics............. 7
Science....................... 8
Summer Enrichment .... 8
World Languages....... 8
Social Studies .......... 9
AVID ......................... 9
Multilingual .............. 9
Special Education ...... 10
The MTSS Leadership team is deeply involved in collaboratively and iteratively developing a D11 MTSS Framework. We have partnered closely with educators across the district to begin the work and will be contacting more site-based teams soon to build a guiding coalition.

K-12 SCHOOLS
Sherry Kalbach, Executive Director of K-12 Schools

Jackson Elementary has been identified as a Showcase School for AVID!

We mentioned in a previous edition that Wilson was nominated as a CKH Showcase School. A big shout-out also goes to Stratton, Adams, and Jenkins for their nominations!

West Middle School is the proud recipient of the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Grant! This is a $20,000 prize for West MS students

The newly implemented PIVOT program has started and is delivering results. Three students completed semester one, and an additional nine will join this spring. This program allows students to take college courses that directly apply to their high school credits for graduation. This is 12 students re-engaged with D11!

The third ADB will be here before we know it - the last week in February! Principals are meeting with EDs in January to review quarter two results, and plan for instructional responses to the data. This process is helping all involved to understand the academic standards at a deeper level, as well as provide timely responses to demonstrated student needs.

Elementary schools have now completed the applications for the Comprehensive Student Support Model (CSSM) counselor for the 2019-20 school year. Final rubric scoring takes place later in January, and schools will be notified of their application status in February. We look forward to the hiring of six more MLO-supported counselors to support students’ social-emotional needs!

UPCOMING

FEB 6 (7:30AM-11:30AM) All Executive Professionals and K12 Leadership Meeting at Tesla PD Center

FEB 6 (12:PM-4:PM) Middle School Principals Meeting at Tesla PD Center

FEB 7 (7:30AM-11:30AM) High School Principals Meeting at CO Springs Country Club

FEB 20 (7:30AM-11:AM) Elementary School Principals Meeting at Tesla PD Center

UPCOMING MTSS

Work with a guiding coalition to develop the MTSS framework.

CDE is hosting a great MTSS summit on August 1st and 2nd for those interested in learning more about MTSS. Contact Sonia Urban for more details.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT
Sonia Urban, MTSS Specialist

The MTSS Leadership team is deeply involved in collaboratively and iteratively developing a D11 MTSS Framework. We have partnered closely with educators across the district to begin the work and will be contacting more site-based teams soon to build a guiding coalition.
SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT/ACHIEVE TEAM
Jeremy Koselak, System Improvement Specialist

We have been awarded an ESSA Grant to support six schools for the next two and a half years with evidence-based practices! This exciting work began in late January and continue through 2021, with a focus on Early Warning Systems, Project Based Learning, AVID, Standards-based Literacy, and Special Education using the SWIFT protocol. More details to come.

ACT schools have been doing great work with data step backs in the past few months (focused on the Aligned District Benchmark), and are leveraging resources to improve student outcomes.

The process that ACT schools use (Strategic Performance Management with an ACT Plan linked to their USIP) is being considered as a tool for the entire district.

We have finalized our list of ACT schools for SY 2019-20 and communicated with principals the tier of support to be provided (including eight schools for intensive, five for targeted, and nine for more universal supports).

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES
Toby Lefere, Elementary Content Specialist

D11 PLC Transfer

Jeremy Koselak has been the face of PLC across the district for the past several years. He has courageously led the district in re-invigorating PLCs and fueling its growth. Because of his strengths, he is now being shifted into working with broader systems.

In order to continue sustaining, growing, and optimizing PLCs in District 11, I will be stepping into many of the roles and responsibilities once filled by Jeremy. Professional Learning Communities are catamount to my core beliefs in the power of collaboration. I am eager to promote PLCs with the support of the D11 PLC Committee towards a district culture of collaboration so that all students learn at high levels.

2018-2019 PLC Survey Highlights

The PLC Survey focused on three areas; beliefs, skills and practices, and, shared leadership.

Here are a few district-wide findings:

- Many respondents (84%) believed PLCs are essential for improving teaching and learning.

- Only 57% of respondents say that they have enough time to do the work of PLCs effectively.

- 75% of respondents agree or strongly agree that PLCs improve analysis of student data and student work.

- Fewer respondents (63%) agree or strongly agree that PLCs improve interventions by name and need.

- Across elementary, middle, and high schools, respondents reported that PLC leadership was shared. Few reported PLCs being led by administration.

UPCOMING

JUN 5 & 6 - End of Year step back for all ACT schools at Tesla PD Center.

This summer we will be revisiting our theory of action around school improvement in alignment with the development of the district’s strategic plan. More details to come.

UPCOMING

The D11 PLC Committee will be utilizing the PLC survey results to plan for sustaining, growing, and optimizing PLCs across the district.
**UPCOMING**

**FEB 4 (5:30PM)** GT Advisory Committee meeting at Tesla Professional Development Center

**FEB 9** - District 11 Chess Tournament at Palmer HS Library ($5 fee).
- Elementary Division (8:30AM-1:PM)
- MS/HS Division (8:30AM-5:PM)

Online Registration: [https://goo.gl/forms/4hT2JKIzuUSpXlnk1](https://goo.gl/forms/4hT2JKIzuUSpXlnk1)
Information: [https://tinyurl.com/ybz7urem](https://tinyurl.com/ybz7urem)

**FEB 27 (8:30AM-3:30PM)** – Underachievement in GT Teacher Workshop at Tesla PD


**GIFTED & TALENTED**

Kristin Balsick, GT Facilitator

D11 GT and Pikes Peak GT are offering a full day PD on Feb 27, 2019 8:30am-3:30pm at Tesla. D11 teachers, counselors, and administrators are invited to register using this link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/underachieve](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/underachieve)

Early Access applications for highly advanced gifted children under age four for early entrance into Kindergarten and/or under age five for first grade are now being accepted. Visit [www.D11.org/EarlyAccess](http://www.D11.org/EarlyAccess) for more information.

Applications are being accepted for the Gifted Magnet Programs at Fremont & Stratton Elementary schools and Sabin and West Middle Schools. Please visit [www.D11.org/GMP](http://www.D11.org/GMP) for more information.

Nominate a 3rd-5th grade student who demonstrates talent in art for the Bemis Talented in Art after school programs. Scholarships are available for students who are on free & reduced lunch.

Registration is now open for the 2019 Gifted and Talented Plus Children’s Summer Program at Colorado College for 1st through 9th grade students. District 11 GT partners with CC to make this affordable for our families. Please call the D11 GT office if you need financial assistance. (719)520-2464

For more information and to apply, visit [https://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/education/childrens-summer-programs/gifted-and-talented.html](https://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/education/childrens-summer-programs/gifted-and-talented.html)

**UPCOMING**

**MAR 2** - CHSAA Elementary and Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival will be held at R.J. Wasson Academic Campus

**MAR 12 (5:PM)** - The Young Peoples Art Exhibition Artist Opening will be held at the IC Urban Space in the Citadel

**FINE ARTS**

Tom Fleecs, Fine Arts Facilitator

The Air Academy Federal Credit Union Art Scholarship Contest Awards Ceremony will be held in the Imagination Celebration Urban Space in the Citadel Mall (lower food court area) on Tuesday February 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

The Kennedy Center Partners in Education Annual meeting in Washington D.C. will be February 6 through 9. District 11 representatives will be attending with those in our Colorado College Partnership.
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
Karol Gates, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

It is exciting that we can finally report the official start of Nicole Ottmer as our Personalized Learning Systems Coordinator. She began working with the C&I team in January and has been very busy visiting school sites and targeting needs for key learning opportunities for all subjects. See her submission in this newsletter for more detail and please join me in officially welcoming her to the team. If you have a chance, invite her to visit your team/school.

The C&I team has been busy on many levels of support. In addition to their updates in this newsletter, they have all been tasked with updating a course code spreadsheet that aligns to D11 graduation policies. This encompasses the new shifts in course requirements in math and science as well as beginning to outline key courses and assessment details that will prepare the graduate class of 2021 on the new state PWR graduation guidelines. The team finalized the first draft of this support guide this week and now the experts in course assignments will be offering feedback as we begin a process of continuous improvement. The very exciting news on this front is that it has been a great illustration of cross-department collaboration with the full ALL team, EDSS, lead principals, teachers, and many more. There is much work to be done, but the talent and insight these members bring is quite an impressive synergy to be a part of.

Additional work on the horizon for February is the 2020 Standards Literacy Training with the full Standards and Instructional Support team from CDE. This will be the first cross department collaborative training to familiarize key central admin staff and principals at all levels with the changes in the new Colorado Academic Standards. Our C&I team will be sharing a timeline for this roll out and other details once they have a chance to become learners themselves and then begin a thoughtful D11 specific roll out plan.

In February, I am excited to join the D11 team that is part of the Partners in Education (PIE) arts integration network for their annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia at the Kennedy Center. I was given the privilege of writing a letter of support for D11 for this grant award in my previous director role at CDE and it is exciting to have a chance to see the work first hand by this innovative and creative team! The partnership and collaborative spirit by members like Tom Fleecs, Board Director Brown, Colorado College, D11 teachers and arts educators, Colorado Springs Imagination Celebration community partners, Academy D20, and UCCS is quite a powerhouse group. I have no doubt there will be many great opportunities for teachers and students as a result of this learning time together.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Dr. Shelmon Brown, ELA Facilitator

STRIVE: Differentiated opportunities for support were provided throughout the month of January. Thanks to all who participated in the workshops. We are excited to see the learning transfer to classroom practice and student growth and achievement!

SRD funds: Look for the application for additional funding requests in the coming weeks. Christy Feldman will reach out to buildings.

Secondary StudySync: Another round of StudySync overview training was offered in January. For teachers still wanting to get initial support, please take advantage of the Getting Started trainings available directly through StudySync.

SAT Strategies class for high school teachers was well received. Participants will also receive direct follow-up support throughout the next month. If you have teachers interested in participating, please communicate that directly to Mykel Donnelly.

Congratulations D11 middle schools for being highlighted in District Administrator magazine for outstanding work with Achieve3000.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING
Nicole Ottmer, Personalized Learning Systems Coordinator

Greetings!

I am so fortunate to be working as District 11’s new Personalized Learning Systems Coordinator and I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. I have been an educator in D11 for 16 years, with experience in general education classrooms, special education, and most recently as the Library Technology Educator at Trailblazer.

Over the past five years, I have invested in learning about and implementing personalized learning practices in classrooms and schools. During this time, I have taught students in personalized settings, designed professional learning opportunities, coached educators, and presented on personalized learning at district, state, and national conferences and workshops.

Throughout my experiences, I have had the pleasure to work with and learn from many talented teachers, devoted schools, supportive families, and bright students who all play a vital role in our District’s development of personalized learning for all students. In my new role I am eager to continue personalized learning work at a much larger scale. I look forward to working within all of our schools to build empathy and to assist in creating and reaching school goals connected to personalized learning.

I’m excited to co-create learner-centered models that are connected to deeper learning outcomes for students as we work toward personalization for all learners.

Thank you for the many warm welcomes I have received. My new extension is being set up at 520-2564 or you can reach out to me via email anytime to set up a time to visit your site and discuss personalized learning goals, aspirations, supports and implementation.
MATHEMATICS
David Sawtelle, Math Facilitator

How well is your site leveraging K–5 students’ time on ST Math?

Since the 2011–12 school year, District 11-wide math resources for grades K–5 has consisted of Math Expressions as our research-based, core curriculum; Exemplars as our extended, performance-based, problem-solving resource; and Spatial Temporal Math (ST Math) as our researched-based, universal, Tier I, supplemental program. Each of these three components offer students unique math learning support and opportunities that none of the other components do.

The contribution ST Math is designed to make to our students’ math programming is in supporting the development of their conceptual understanding. This means supporting students in creating a robust framework representing numerous and interwoven relationships between mathematical concepts, procedures, and patterns. Such a framework can be used to coherently integrate new knowledge and solve unfamiliar problems. The key to creating this robust framework is schema development. Schemas are neural networks and the way those networks get created and connected ends up defining one’s concept or understanding of a topic. When we talk about having “deep conceptual understanding in math,” we’re talking about building schemas of mathematical concepts that give students the ability to solve problems they haven’t seen before.

ST Math is explicitly designed to support students in building schemas by engaging them in the perception-action cycle through visually rich, non-linguistic, game-based learning (rather than gamification of typical, online content delivery) that is self-paced, mathematical problem-solving with immediate, informative feedback provided.

District 11’s first 2–3 years with ST Math generally showed strong usage and corresponding, statistically-significant changes in state testing (CSAP) data for grades 3–5 mathematics that could only be statistically explained by our adoption of ST Math.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District 11 Changes in Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) Mathematics Data Over Consecutive, Two-year Intervals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to ST Math 2009 - 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During ST Math 2011 - 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since those initial years with ST Math, other educational demands for K–5 computer time have significantly increased, and so resources dedicated for in-school usage of ST Math has declined significantly. Since there is no instructional time to waste, it is critically important that any time (either in-school or at-home) our students do spend on ST Math is maximally leveraged through the following practices:

Assure that ST Math objectives are deliberately re-arranged and made accessible to students in a timely, strategic manner to be aligned to use of Math Expressions.

Assure that data reports available from ST Math are accessed and actively used on a weekly basis to monitor and support students’ performance in ST Math.

Assure that students are supported in making intentional, explicit connections between the mathematics they experience with ST Math’s virtual manipulatives and the language-dependent, abstract-symbolic version of mathematics they experience during typical classroom instruction.

7
UPCOMING
February 21 – STEM PD from Challenger Learning Center of CO

SCIENCE & HEALTH
Darian Founds, Science/Health Facilitator

High school science teachers gathered in January to discuss the benefits and challenges associated with offering Biology to all incoming freshmen.

D11 is represented on a state level committee on 2020 Standards implementation. The committee is comprised of K-12, university, and informal educators from around the state.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT
Darian Founds, Science/Health Facilitator

Planning for the 2019 Summer Enrichment Series is underway. A few significant changes will be in place including:

- Elementary only, grade bands offered for K-1, 2-3, and 4-5
- Two-week program, June 10th to 21st

WORLD LANGUAGES
Claudette Murtha, World Languages TOSA

Middle school and high school Spanish teachers from across the district gathered Wednesday, January 16 at Tesla to review Entre-Culturas curriculum with hopes of replacing our current curriculum with more authentic materials in the near future.

Curriculum committee is revising 1st and 2nd year writing prompts for 4th quarter common writing assessments

Continuing evaluation of our assessments.

At least 11 World Language teachers are attending CCFLT in Aurora February 8-9th.
SOCIAL STUDIES
Joan Jahelka, Social Studies Facilitator

Middle School social studies leadership, with support from EDSS, has developed our first district-wide common formative interim assessments for 3rd quarter in grades 6, 7, and 8. Teachers selected items from our Tech Book, along with the Stanford Reading Like a Historian. They also developed tasks that aligned to Cal Social Science Literacy close-reading techniques.

AVID
Joan Jahelka, AVID Coordinator

Jackson Elementary School will be the first D11 school to be honored as an AVID Showcase school on February 15. Teachers and administrators from throughout Colorado will observe and learn how Jackson’s staff has leveraged AVID writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading resources to support rigorous student learning in an environment that supports college/post-secondary readiness for all.

Over 200 high school AVID elective students will participate in the AVID Denver Nuggets Leadership and College Fair event on February 25th at the Pepsi Center. Students will attend sessions to increase their knowledge of personal financial literacy, learn about careers in professional sports management, and interact with college admissions officers.

MULTILINGUAL
Talonna Hybki, Multilingual Facilitator

Potential English learners who are new to our district will be administered the WIDA Screener or W-APT exam as part of the state required identification process.

ACCESS testing will continue through February 15th for all identified English learners.

The 2019-2020 Foreign Exchange student application window will open on February 8th.

ELL teacher and EA allocations will be distributed to principals in February.

UPCOMING
FEB 5 (3:PM-5:PM) - Boardroom, Central Admin
2nd grade teacher review of possible social studies resources Open House

UPCOMING AVID
FEB 15 (8:AM-11:30AM) - Jackson Elementary School – AVID Showcase
FEB 25 (11:30AM-4:PM) - Pepsi Center, AVID Denver Nuggets Leadership and College Fair

UPCOMING MULTI
FEB 12 - Cultural Responsiveness training. Training will count towards new CLD license renewal courses now required by CDE.

FEB 21 - Strategies for Teacher English Learners PD. Training will count towards new CLD license renewal courses that required by CDE.

FEB 22 - Imagine Learning Pilot teachers will meet to review the mid-year progress monitoring data and continue our review of the program.

FEB 28 - Middle School ELL teachers will meet to review our Middle school ELD curriculum review process.
UPCOMING

FEB 1 (3:PM) - The Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities will recognize Kim Pogue, a staff member at Howbert, as Colorado’s Para educator of the Year at Howbert Elementary School.

FEB 7 (5:30PM) - Community Meeting featuring presentations on Post-Secondary opportunities for students with disabilities at Tesla Professional Development Center.

FEB 14-15 - The Inclusion Conference will feature students from Mitchell High School at the Denver Renaissance, Stapleton.

FEB 28 (9:15AM) Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) steering committee at Tesla Professional Development Center.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Dr. Nancy Homan, Lead SPED Facilitator

One of our District 11 paraprofessional staff is being recognized for her outstanding work with students. The Council for Learning Disabilities has selected Kim Pogue, a Paraprofessional at Howbert Elementary as the Colorado Para educator of the Year. Kim is an example of outstanding service for others as she makes the needs and success of all students her first priority. Congratulations to Kim for receiving this honor and thank you for your work with our students!

Students from Mitchell High School will be presenting at the 2019 National Conference on Inclusive Education in Denver. These students have already presented at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and are remarkable in their ability to speak about the challenges they face. The students are also presenting at the Special Education Staffing Coordinators meeting on January 29 at 3:30. If you want to know why you do the work you do in the field of education, come listen to these students speak and you will understand the positive difference your work can make for students who have unique learning needs.

Special education staff are working together to consider a variety of options that will enable the most effective deployment of our human resources as we begin to plan for the 2019-20 school year. Expect changes that will allow us to better serve our students.

Colorado Springs School District 11
Division of Achievement, Learning, & Leadership
1115 N. El Paso Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Phone: (719) 520-2045
Fax: (719) 520-2165
https://www.d11.org/domain/2041