Achievement, Learning, & Leadership Newsletter

GIFTED & TALENTED SPOTLIGHT

District 11 Gifted & Talented is part of a group of professional educators in the Pikes Peak region who have been selected as the recipients of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Professional Development Award for their work in creating the Talent Identification for Pikes Peak (TIPP) assessment opportunity for students. D11 GT will receive the award at the November national convention in Minneapolis.

FINE ARTS SPOTLIGHT

The Colorado Art Education Association (CAEA) has named Tom Fleecs, to receive the Colorado Art Education Association Marion Quin Dix Leadership Award at the State Art Conference in Breckenridge this November. This award recognizes excellence in outstanding contributions, dedicated service, and professional achievements to visual arts education. Award recipients exemplify highly qualified leaders and advocates active in art education today, and in performance and/or development of specific programs, goals, or activities.

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

All schools have now completed the first draft of their Unified School Improvement Plans. These plans focus the work of schools on Major Improvement Strategies, which are designed to eradicate their root cause(s). USIPs will be reviewed by School Executive Directors and School Accountability Committees.

Principals continue to seek exemplary teaching practices, and to videotape those practices in their schools. Videos are then vetted with fellow principals, and are uploaded to a video library that is available for all school administrators to use for coaching teachers.

Executive Directors, Principals, and school leadership teams are currently engaged in the first quarterly data cycle review process. School teams are using the data from the first benchmark assessments (and other applicable data at high schools) to plan appropriately for second quarter instruction and re-teaching needs.

Our Aspiring to Leadership group is learning more about leadership in District 11, with two learning sessions already completed (Emergenetics and Strategic Leadership/School Improvement). In November, they will be learning more about Leading for Culture and Equity.

Administrative Mentors and Mentees met in October to learn more about Principals’ Plaza and prioritizing their time to focus on the most important tasks. We would like to thank Shantelle Nix for her leadership in teaching this group about the uses of Principals’ Plaza!

UPCOMING
Many schools will be honoring our veterans in November. Please contact schools directly if you are interested in learning about programs they may have planned.

At a November work session, the Board of Education will hear a summary of the work done by school teams in the first data review cycle of the 2018-19 school year.
UPCOMING

Key highlights of the work in November will be focused on:

Building a team identity and key shared goals and actions steps. These items, once developed, will be updated on the C & I webpage.

Reviewing and revising the short cycle curricular program review process based on district and school leader feedback.

Providing feedback and coaching on the first quarterly data cycle review process.

Consulting with district teams to determine cross-connected work among offices to determine how to streamline and connect work for school level support.

Conducting the first phase of literacy program check-ins through Wonders Walk Throughs.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
Karol Gates, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Hello, I am Karol Gates, the new Director for Curriculum and Instruction. I am very honored to join the D11 ALL team. I recently worked as the Director for the Standards and Instructional Support team at the Colorado Department of Education. Please visit the Curriculum and Instruction webpage for more information.

The Curriculum and Instruction team has been busy becoming a new team for District 11. The members of this dynamic team include the subject specific content facilitators, instructional coaches and Title VI support team, view the team’s org chart for details.

Many heartfelt congratulations to Tom Fleecs, our Fine Arts Coordinator. Tom is the well deserving recipient of the 2018 Colorado Arts Education Association award! Visit his Fine Arts page for all details.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Dr. Shelmon Brown, ELA Facilitator

SRD funds are being distributed. If you have not submitted your proposed budgets, please get these to Christy Feldman ASAP.

Second round of STRIVE training happening in November.

Kindergarten GOLD assessment is complete!

First round of Aligned District Benchmarks and corresponding data digs are complete. We are looking forward to reviewing and revising our processes in anticipation of Round 2.

StudySync consumables have been delivered to most buildings that requested them. The rest will be distributed next semester.

UPCOMING MTSS
NOV 14-15 — RtI and PLC Conference with Eric Twadell from Solution Tree. Teams can still register in ERO using course code (INST32341)

We will be promoting collaborative opportunities to build out the MTSS framework for D11, including paying teachers for their critical insight.

MULTI-TIER SYSTEM OF SUPPORT
Sonia Urban, MTSS Specialist

Now that the values and definition for MTSS are in solid draft form, the MTSS Leadership Team (MLT) has started the development of a full MTSS Framework. This will shift to a collaborative process in the coming months and will need extensive school input to help us shape a powerful MTSS direction for D11.

Four partner sites (Palmer HS, West MS, Audubon, and Midland) are deepening the exploration and implementation of MTSS at the building level. The work is focused on their development of strong guiding coalitions, better BLT structures, incorporation of Social Emotional Learning, and enhanced data analysis.
In the two weeks (Oct. 8–19) immediately following the testing window for our first Aligned District Benchmark (ADB), several facilitated work sessions were offered for grades 2–8 math instructors to analyze student data with colleagues. The design of these sessions is based on a theory that student data will be more impactful on subsequent learning opportunities if instructors “do the math” of the assessment items for themselves.

Therefore the first, “Understand” phase of these sessions require instructors to work (as their students did) through items/tasks from the ADB which have been organized into a set according to the math standard being assessed. During this phase instructors are guided to analyze the nature of the math tasks posed (their fit to the standard and levels of rigor), the presentation of the tasks (factors contributing to cognitive complexity such as reading load and mathematical representations used), the characteristics of possible incorrect answers (to anticipate mistakes or misconceptions), and then how the item set as a whole assesses aspects of the standard.

Then in the second, “Diagnose” phase instructors are guided to consult three reports in the ATI Galileo K12 interface which present their students’ data: the Detailed Analysis report (item-level results from traditional multiple-choice tasks), the Test Monitoring report (item-level results from tech-enhanced tasks), and the Development Profile report (standards-level results from sets of items/tasks). In this phase instructors are asked to directly relate their previous work in analyzing an item set to their students’ results as generated by that item set.

Lastly, in the third, “Take Action” phase instructors are challenged to explicitly and intentionally plan instructional responses to their students’ data. Instructors are asked to identify What particular aspect(s) of the standard is/(are) unfinished learning, Who specifically have these needs, When/Where they will provide students with opportunities to re-engage with this standard in the course of on-going instruction in other standards, How they might provide these students a new learning experience, and their Progress Monitoring Plans for these students with re-engaging this standard.

Feedback from instructors who have attended these work sessions has been universally positive with notable appreciation expressed for being afforded enough time to be thoughtful during all three phases of the protocol. Site-specific work sessions for this sort of post-ADB analysis can be arranged by contacting Dave Sawtelle. Similar math work sessions will also be offered post-ADB #2 in December and early January.

**Homework in China for elementary school students: how tall is the table?**

Here is this month’s opportunity to exercise your algebraic and/or visual thinking:

Click here for source and solutions.
SCIENCE & HEALTH
Darian Founds, Science/Health Facilitator

Several secondary science PLCs have begun using ATI to develop common formative assessments in order to guide instruction.

Initial discussions are underway on how to strengthen D11’s high school health program.

D11 teachers (elementary, middle, and high) participated in an introduction to the new CO science standards hosted by CDE and the CO Science Educators Network (CSEN).

To support the safety of our students and staff, initial steps are underway to formalize the Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) science rep role in secondary schools.

WORLD LANGUAGES
Claudette Murtha, World Languages TOSA

We are coding and inputting supplemental reading materials in the Destiny system so that more teachers and students will have access to the materials throughout the year.

World Language teachers are reflecting on the use of The New York Regent’s and Standards-Based Measure of Proficiency (STAMP) to drive instruction. We are looking at other proficiency tests that might allow us to streamline data trends for our students moving from one level of language to another. Some World Language teachers are taking different versions of the Assessment of Performance towards Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL). We will have conversations about the pros and cons of current assessments and the pros and cons of switching to a different proficiency assessment.

UPCOMING
NOV 9 – Colorado Science Conference in Denver https://coloradoscienceconference.org/

Survey coming soon to elementary and secondary science teachers to determine professional learning needs.

UPCOMING
PLCs will use webinars and TED talks to strategize ways to use more target language in the classroom. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) recommends at least 90% use of the target language for instruction.

World Language teachers will be evaluating the use of 3rd quarter writing assessment data to drive instruction and PLC conversations.

We are waiting to hear about curriculum writing and common assessment time for Spanish for Spanish Speakers teachers, French and possibly Spanish.
SOCIAL STUDIES
Joan Jahelka, Social Studies Facilitator

Beth Montgomery will be providing DBQ Project professional development for 5th grade teachers, middle school social studies and high school social studies teachers on Thursday November 1st at Tesla from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

Please look for Saluting America cards to be delivered to schools by the Warehouse on your regular delivery date.

The elementary leadership team is developing the kit for sharing our new Giant Map of Colorado, which will include the lessons and instructional resources developed by the Colorado Geographical Alliance.

AVID
Joan Jahelka, AVID Coordinator

AVID tutors have been hired and trained to support all AVID elective classes by using Socratic questioning.

Over 30 teachers attended the AVID PATH training to learn how to support students through topics ranging from Culturally Relevant Teaching and Inquiry for Elementary to school wide writing instruction.

All AVID seniors submitted an application to a Colorado public college and/or university on October 30 because the application was waived for this one-day only for Colorado residents.

The middle school department chairs will be loading assessment items into Galileo K12 for 3rd and 4th quarter interim formative assessments. The tasks will assess content knowledge unique to that quarter’s pacing guide, yet each test will always assess the same skills so that teachers and students can monitor student progress.

UPCOMING

McGraw-Hill is finalizing professional development dates for our new American Government resources. Two days will be face-to-face, while teachers will have the opportunity to participate in monthly webinars to support PLC work.

Elementary leadership has begun investigating possible resources for 2nd grade social studies that includes primary source analysis, aligned to the CAS, so that students read, think, talk, and write like historians.

UPCOMING

DEC 6-8 — Sara Miller, principal of Jackson Elementary, will be attending the AVID National Conference in San Diego to represent the Colorado AVID Principal Collaborative.
UPCOMING

NOV 3 (9am) — Chess Tournament for 2nd-8th grade students at Trailblazer Elementary School (gymnasium).

https://www.d11.org/Page/1375#calendar1860/20181118/event/59111

NOV 27 (5:30-7pm) — Secondary GT Opportunities Night at the Tesla Professional Development Building. Students and parents are invited to see all the great opportunities our D11 secondary schools have to offer our gifted, talented, and high achieving students!

DEC 3 (5:30-6:30pm) — GT Advisory Committee Meeting

DEC 6 (5:30-7pm) — Elementary Family Opportunities Night at the Tesla Professional Development Building. Families are invited to a fun night of high-level and interactive activities hosted by each of our Elementary schools.

Registration for the spring sessions of SENG Parent Discussion Groups will be opening just before winter break.

GIFTED & TALENTED

Kristin Balsick, GT Facilitator

District 11 GT is part of a group of professional educators in the Pikes Peak region who have been selected as the recipients of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Professional Development Award for our work in creating the Talent Identification for Pikes Peak (TIPP) assessment opportunity for students. We will receive our award at the November national convention in Minneapolis.

The Cognitive Abilities Test for all 2nd and 6th Grade students is in process. The purpose of this universal screening in elementary and middle school is to collect data for potential gifted identification. Parents and teachers will receive individual student score reports that will help inform, guide and personalize instruction for all students.

Websites with great resources and information to support gifted students and families:

- www.nagc.org
- www.byrdseed.com
- www.hoagiesgifted.org
- www.mensa.org
- www.cde.state.co.us/gt/parents
- www.D11.org/GT
- www.D11.org/GMP
- www.D11.org/EarlyAccess

Like and Follow
Colorado Springs School District 11
Gifted & Talented on Facebook
Follow @D11Gifted on Twitter
Implementing Arts singleton professional learning communities.

Working with Arts teachers to utilize the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region - Peak Radar website to promote student performances and art shows.

Supporting arts teachers in the use of the new Blackboard platform and Office 365.

The Citadel Mall has donated space for all district art shows for the 2018-2019 calendar year. Details for all District wide art shows will be posted on the D11 website.

NEWLY ENROLLED ELL STUDENTS ARE BEING IDENTIFIED BY ELL TEACHERS.

WIDA Screener testing continues for all newly enrolled English learners.

ELL students should be on I-Ready for at least 20 minutes a week.

We will be visiting/observing new ELL teachers using Reach during their ELD lessons throughout the district.

We will be visiting/observing our middle school ELL teachers using the Inside curriculum.

Imagine Learning pilot school visits and professional development on Nov. 13th continue at our four schools.

We will be holding a Close Reading training with Kristy Khoury for ELL teachers on Nov. 6th.

Talonna will facilitate a Cultural Responsiveness training on Nov. 29th.

UPCOMING ARTS

NOV 5 (7:00pm) — Middle School Honor Choir Performance at the Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus Auditorium.

NOV 6 — Middle School Honor Choir Tour at Russell, Galileo, Mann, Sabin, and Jenkins.

NOV 8-10 — Colorado Art Education Association conference, in Breckenridge, CO

NOV 13 (5-6:30pm) — All District Cultural Art Show Artist Reception in the lower Southwest corner of the Citadel Mall food court.
UPCOMING

NOV 14-15 — RtI and PLC Conference with Eric Twadell from Solution Tree. Teams can still register in ERO using course code (INST32341)

A survey is coming in early December similar to the one 900 teachers participated in during the 2017-18 school year. We plan to leverage data from that survey to guide improvement efforts and to ensure optimization of PLCs district wide.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES
Jeremy Koselak, System Improvement Specialist

This year we are offering more PLC classes than in previous years! The District PLC Committee continues to work on the complex topic of “Shared Leadership” and will be sharing a set of guidelines and recommendations soon.

We are observing teams across the district using the Key Indicators for reference—great growth is evident across the district!

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
Jeremy Koselak, System Improvement Specialist

We continue to support and coach principals and teams with their School Improvement Plans, including providing resources to best meet goals.

All ACT schools have scheduled or completed a quarterly step back to review their plan progress and adjust next steps.

Achievement, Learning, & Leadership hosted a “Promising Practice” dinner to learn from and celebrate with teams from across the district whose students made the best growth on last year’s CMAS. We will be sharing the key findings from their focus group conversation. Videos will also be shared soon!
Representatives from the School District 11 Special Education Department have been selected to present at the Urban Collaborative Conference in November. The Urban Collaborative is a national network of school districts committed to improving outcomes for students with disabilities. The Collaborative seeks to bring timely and critical issues in the field, as well as solutions, to the forefront of district leadership. The District 11 Team has been asked to discuss the lessons we have learned in our journey from delivering special education services in segregated, restrictive settings to more inclusive practices.

The Special Education Department is continuing to work with District staff to explore and implement solutions to improve outcomes for students with disabilities and assure special education services are provided for students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. Assuring students with disabilities have access to the same curriculum as their peers with the appropriate accommodations to address their unique learning needs is a key factor in the success of this group of students. Regular education staff working collaboratively with special education staff to promote success for all students is a crucial component to this effort. Site based, individualized support for school leadership and staff is available on an ongoing basis to support our students as part of a seamless service delivery model. Contact your Special Education facilitator to learn more.