Achievement, Learning, & Leadership Newsletter

THE DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION, CURRICULUM, AND STUDENT SERVICES HAS A NEW NAME

ICSS is now the Division of Achievement, Learning, & Leadership (ALL).

We believe our new name captures what we do now that Instruction, Curriculum, & Student Services, the K-12 Schools Executive Directors, Student Engagement & Support, and Title VI Indian Education are in one division.

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.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Dr. Shelmon Brown, ELA Facilitator

SRD funds are being calculated for each school. The first round of funds should be distributed by early October. More information is coming in the next two weeks.

STRIVE initial rounds of training for K-1 teachers and coaches are complete. November dates for follow-up support to be shared by the first week in October.

Wonders Walk-throughs/Implementation Review. The ALL team is beginning our mid-contract review of our Wonders adoption and implementation. Beginning in October, our calibrated teams will conduct walkthroughs of as many elementary classrooms as possible during designated literacy blocks. This non-evaluative review will not record teacher names and will be utilized at the district level for a generalized look at implementation trends.

Achieve 3000 level set testing and Read 180/System 44 Reading and Phonics Inventories should be complete. Encourage A3K students and teachers to visit the Career Center to select potential future options and goal set. Read 180/System 44 licenses are now being redistributed based on actual enrollment in order to maximize program use.

StudySync kick-off training was a success and well attended by 14 secondary schools. ALL is working with department chairs to coordinate distribution of print materials with the first distribution wave in October.

UPCOMING

October 1-12 — Read 180 Quarter 1 Reading Inventory Window. All Read 180 students must test during this window

October 11, 12 and December 12 — Data Dig & PD for middle school ELA

Oct 9, 10, 17 — Data Dig & PD for elementary ELA
A popular topic for conversations with teachers in the last month has been about how the CMAS for math assesses Reasoning and Modeling. I have been focusing these talks on the relevant Standards for Mathematical Practice, cognitive complexity and cognitive load, the role of reading and writing in responding to mathematics tasks, and some of the many challenging aspects that computer-based testing presents. Please contact me for more info – I am eager to work with your staff.

Test your visual reasoning with these challenges.

- Remove 3 matchsticks to leave 3 squares
- Remove 3 matchsticks to leave 5 squares
- Remove 5 matchsticks to leave 2 squares

The second and third of these puzzles are chances to think a bit divergently. Click for a source of solutions.

UPCOMING

Achievement, Learning, & Leadership is collaborating with EDSS to offer sessions supporting teachers in analyzing their students’ results on the first Aligned District Benchmark. Here are dates for sessions we currently plan to offer that would occur during the workday:

- October 10, 11, 18 — Grades 2-5 math
- October 9, 17 — Grades 6-8 math

Depending on demand, additional support opportunities could certainly be arranged, in a variety of formats and timeframes.

November 8 — A second ST Math Puzzle Talks workshop is scheduled. ST Math is a terrific tool to use for classroom math talks. The more opportunities students have to work on articulating their thinking, the stronger both their understanding and communication skills will become and student talk is a great source of formative feedback to teachers.
UPCOMING

October 5 — As a capstone project for Howbert’s Outdoor Education program through the Catamount Institute, students will be working with Rocky Mountain Field Institute on a service learning project at Rock Ledge Ranch.

October 18 — CDE and the Colorado Science Educators Network (CSEN) is offering a FREE one-day workshop in Colorado Springs to provide an introduction to the new science standards for educators in the Pikes Peak Region.

SCIENCE

Darian Founds, Science/Health Facilitator

K-12 School Science Leaders met in September to lay the foundation for our work in the upcoming school year centered on three primary areas of focus including implementation of new science standards, PLCs and data literacy, and horizontal and vertical articulation of K-12 science.

The Colorado Department of Education recently released standards implementation guidelines to assist districts, schools and teachers with this process. Collaborative teams of science teachers will begin delving into these resources to assist D11 with strategically and effectively implementing the new science standards to best benefit our students.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Claudette Murtha, World Languages TOSA

Sabin Middle School now has French courses!

World Language staff are having conversations about PLCs, how to support singletons, and how we are using data to drive our instruction.

We are planning a curriculum workday at Tesla for Spanish, Spanish for Spanish Speakers, and French classes.

High School French classes are talking about doing a group field trip next spring to the Denver Art Museum. More to come!

An experienced MYP trainer will provide PD for Palmer High School World Language instructors at Tesla, Sept. 24 & 25. Thank you Carolyn Derr and Clara Hoellerbauer for coordinating this PD.

UPCOMING

October 6 — Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers is holding a one day event in Denver. A few WL teachers will be attending.

February 7 - 9, 2019 — CCFLT Conference in Denver

Evaluation of our current assessment tools: STAMP and NY Regents proficiency.

Evaluation of WL rubrics in our district.
SOCIAL STUDIES
Joan Jahelka, Social Studies Facilitator

All District 11 American Government students are using the newly implemented resources.

Over 60 District 11 teachers and staff members attended the Discovery Education Day of Discovery on September 22, hosted by Jenkins Middle School. Teachers from across the region attended sessions conducted by expert teacher-practitioners and Discovery Ed professional staff.

AVID
Joan Jahelka, AVID Coordinator

All tutors have been hired and are in the process of training so that they can support our AVID elective students every Tuesday and Thursday. This year, we have three tutors who have been with our program for over four years.

Elementary teacher leadership will be creating our Giant Map of Colorado kit for schools to use throughout the year. Each school will be able to host the map for a week, through a scheduling process.

Middle school social studies department chairs have begun planning the development of our social studies interim formative benchmark assessments. The initial tasks will be for 3rd and 4th quarters and will be hosted in the Galileo K12 system.

Several AVID schools collaborated on September 4 at Coronado HS to hear Patrick Briggs, Northeast AVID Regional Director, share his message as to how we can close the Achievement Gap by closing the Opportunity Gap for all students.

UPCOMING AVID

October 4 & 5 — Over 32 District 11 teachers will attend the AVID regional training, with 120 other teachers from across the West, at Tesla. Classes include Culturally Relevant Teaching, Writing for School wide Implementation, and AVID Elementary: Inquiry for Students.

December 6 - 8 — AVID National Conference will be in San Diego, CA.

January (TBD) — Digital Teaching and Learning strand will be provided for D11 staff to explore how digital resources integrate with students learning through writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. This will be limited to 25 participants.

UPCOMING

October 16 — Advanced Placement American Government teachers will participate in professional development to learn how to maximize the impact of our new Pearson digital resources to support student success on the Advanced Placement exam in May.

October 25-27 — The 1968 Summer Olympic Team will hold their 50th reunion here in Colorado Springs. Mr. Tom Lough, pentathlon, will develop a list of athletes who will be willing to share their experiences and learnings with D11 students, either in-person or through Skype.

Saluting America will again support District 11’s Veterans Day activities with the cards that students complete to share with veterans in their families, our community, and around the world.
UPCOMING

October 1 (5:30pm) — GT Advisory Committee Meeting at Tesla PD Center.


November 5 (6:30pm) — Parent event with nationally known GT educator, publisher, and advocate, IAN BYRD at Tesla PD Center. (Visit Ian Byrd’s website to find out more about him: [www.byrdseed.com](http://www.byrdseed.com))

GIFTED & TALENTED

Kristin Balsick, GT Facilitator

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) will be given to all 2nd and 6th grade students beginning October 8. Please contact individual schools for exact dates/times, as this will vary between buildings.

Please notify GRTs of any student(s) who demonstrate high achievement and/or gifted potential. Areas of GT identification include: reading, writing, math, science, social studies, world languages, visual arts, performing arts, vocal and/or instrumental music, dance, psychomotor, leadership, and creative or productive thinking.

The GT Office welcomes budget input and ideas of ways to better support the GT program(s).

Find us on Facebook & Twitter!

MULTI-TIER SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

Sonia Urban, MTSS Specialist

MTSS Leadership Team is starting the work to draft the district MTSS Framework. We will be seeking input from educators across the district to ensure a collaborative process!

To see a draft of the MTSS Values and Shifts, please see this [working draft](http://www.coloradogifted.org/conference).

The SEL team is working closely with the CDE MTSS team to focus on quality implementation of CSSM in the district (starting with six partner sites!)

UPCOMING

Through our MTSS Grant with CDE, we have initiated partnership with four schools (Midland, Audubon, West Middle School, and Palmer High School). We are looking forward to learning with these teams about shifting towards and authentic MTSS framework.
MULTILINGUAL
Talonna Hybki, Multilingual Facilitator

W-APT and WIDA Screener testing continues for all newly enrolled English learners.

I-Ready Diagnostic Exam window is closed, and ELL students should be working on their assigned tutorials for at least 20 minutes a week. Starting Oct. 21st, all students will take the first Progress Monitor test to realign their tutorials.

We will be visiting/observing our new ELL teachers using the Reach curriculum.

We will hold a Day 2 Reach curriculum training on Oct. 17.

To conduct a program review of our Inside ELD curriculum, we will be visiting/observing our middle school teacher’s ELD classes to see how they are using the resource.

We will hold a Day 2 Inside Training for ELL middle school teachers on Oct. 16th.

We will be conducting ESL Professional Development in schools. These PD sessions are developed in conjunction with principals.

Imagine Learning Pilot school visits and professional development sessions continue in four of our schools.

Talonna will be working with administrators to schedule interpreters for Parent Teacher Conferences on Oct. 25th and 26th.

FINE ARTS
Tom Fleecs, Fine Arts Facilitator

I have acquired donated space in the Citadel Mall for all district art shows for the 2018-2019 calendar year. Details will be posted on the District 11 Fine Arts website.

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

Implementing Arts singleton PLCs and the Blackboard platform to support use of Office 365.

UPCOMING
November 6 — Close Reading Training
November 26 — Cultural Responsiveness Training

November 8 - 10 — Colorado Art Education Association conference, in Breckenridge, CO — Conference theme is “The Art of Play!”

October 30 (3 - 5pm) — All District Cultural Art Show student art delivery date to Imagination Celebration Urban Space in the Citadel.

November 13 (5 - 6:30pm) — All District Cultural Art Show Artist Reception in the Citadel Mall food court.
The Colorado Department of Education is seeking input regarding the development of a State Defined Alternate Diploma for students with significant cognitive disabilities. This is an important issue for many students and their families. Plan to join this conversation to provide your perspective on November 9, 2018 from 4:00 – 6:00 Tesla Professional Development Center.

Colorado Society of School Psychologists is meeting on November 1 - 3 at the Keystone Conference Center. This conference will provide important information regarding current best practices in the field of School Psychology.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Dr. Nancy Homan, Lead SPED Facilitator

The newly revised PLC Key Indicators with supporting resources are available on the D11 PLC Website — please visit and learn more!

The PLC Committee is meeting this week to identify best ways to optimize PLCs across the district and to balance the “shared leadership dynamic” between teacher teams and administration. More to come!

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES
Jeremy Koselak, System Improvement Specialist

UPCOMING

November 14-15 — The District is hosting a great 2-day workshop from Solution Tree with Eric Twadell. We recommend coming in teams to this opportunity to deepen your practice with PLC and RtI (Register in ERO: NST32341).
UPCOMING

October 15 and 16 — Great Schools Partnership Seminar 2

See something next gen happening out there? Tag it on social media with #D11NextGen

NEXT GENERATION LEARNING
Scott Fuller, Next Generation Learning Coordinator

As our second School Retool cohort launches, one of the activities participants will complete is the Shadow a Student Challenge. I encourage all school and central office leaders to participate. To learn more and download a toolkit, click here.

Many schools are working on defining the essential skills learners need to develop and possess for success in and beyond school. We have some great examples. The first is a Personal Learning and Thinking Skills Framework. The other is called Essential Skills and Dispositions. Check them out and let me know how I can support.

On September 24th, next gen schools held their second teacher-led professional learning event. To view the details, visit https://www.d11.org/Page/10586

Our work with Great Schools Partnership continues on October 15 and 16. To access the resources from our first two days of learning, click here.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL & COURSE APPROVAL
Anthiya Adams, Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent

Colorado Springs School District 11 will host a public review of new instructional materials & secondary courses submitted for the approval of the Board of Education. All community members are welcome to review the proposed instructional materials & new courses online or at the District 11 Administration building, located at 1115 N. El Paso Street beginning Monday, October 1 through Friday, October 5, 2018 from 8:00am-5:00pm.

The next material & course approval process begins January 14, 2019.