

UPCOMING
DATES:

SAC Training
April 6, 2023
 6:00—8:00pm,
 Tesla, room 116/129

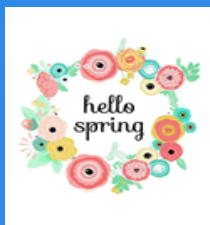
DAC Meeting
April 20, 2023
 6:00—8:00pm,
 Tesla, room 116 and
 via WebEx

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District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter

April 2023

Welcome

It's hard to believe April is here. Thank you for your work and dedication this school year. Now is the time to reflect and start planning for the next school year. What did your SAC accomplish this year? What are improvements that could be made? How can we provide opportunities for all families to have a voice? The answers to these questions are specific to your school community. Take a look again at the [Family-School Partnerships: An implementation guide](#) to consider areas where your school community can improve. Relationships and communication are keys to launching student success.

April is the month for testing. Remember that testing is only one measure of progress. Students will take the final STAR test to measure academic progress and growth. In addition, all students 3-8 will take the English language arts and math portion of the Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests. PSAT will be given in grades 9 & 10 and the SAT in grade 11, 5th, 8th, and 11th graders will take the science test. SACs should reach out to principals with questions.

The DAC and the subcommittees are continuing to work:

- The DAC learned about the Early Warning System (EWS) tool for on-track graduation. This tool allows schools to look at data in one place and then help students with interventions earlier. In addition, Steele Elementary presented their request to become the Interbaccalaurate (IB) elementary school in D11 and complete a pathway with North and Palmer.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee received an update on enrollment from Melissa Andrews. She also explained the support being given to schools to help with enrollment numbers next school year.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee provided a report of budget recommendations and questions to the Board. They will be discussing these recommendations with the Board this month.
- The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee is ready for the final SAC training scheduled on April 6th. The training will be headlined by Superintendent Gaal speaking on the strengths of the vertical area management structure and the role and functions of the Area Superintendents. The second half of the training, we will participate in breakout sessions with Area Superintendents, with the goal of getting to know the Area Superintendent for your area and understand how they can support your school.
- The DAC Charter School Review Subcommittee began reviewing the Colorado International Language Institute (CILA) charter School transfer application. Their review will go to the Board this month.

The D11 Family School Community Partnerships (FSCP) Collaborative celebrated Stratton Elementary and Adult and Family Education for their FSCP BrightSpots at the March Board meeting.

As a DAC, we want to support our School Accountability Committees. It is time to start preparing for elections for SAC Chair for next year. Ask your principal to be invited to your school One Plan symposium. If we can provide any help or support, please reach out so we can help. Once again, thank you for your partnership and dedication to launch student success.

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek
 Chair – District Accountability Committee

DAC Membership for 2023-2024

- It is important we conduct legal elections for DAC members and new officers in May, so we need to be thinking about who wants to be a member for the 2023-2024 school year.
- If you would like to be on the DAC for next year please contact Lauren Walker, our membership chair, so she has time to solicit new members and candidates.
- We will also need the following DAC Officer Positions filled for next year:
 - DAC Chair, DAC Training & SAC Support Chair, DAC Accreditation Subcommittee Chair

Please respond to Trudy.Tool@d11.org or respond to loryash@gmail.com to let us know whether or not you will continue on the DAC.

Spring 2023 - Public Review Window Opens: April 3 to April 10, 2023

Colorado Springs School District 11 will host a public review of new instructional materials and secondary courses submitted for the approval of the Board of Education. All community members are welcome to review the proposed instructional materials and new courses online or at the District 11 Administration Building, located at 1115 N. El Paso Street, from **Monday, April 3 through Monday, April 10, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.**

**High School Graduations****High School Graduation Dates/Locations**

- 5/ 23 Coronado HS 9am, Mitchell HS 3pm - World Arena
- 5/ 24 Palmer HS 9am, Doherty HS 3pm - World Arena

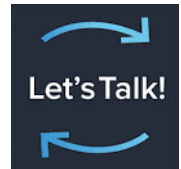
Alternative High Schools -

- 5/18 Bijou 9am, Achieve 1pm - **RJWAC**
- 5/19 Tesla 9am, Odyssey 1pm - **RJWAC**
- 6/1 Adult and Family Education 7pm - **RJWAC Auditorium**



News & Notes Continued

Let's Talk! Is Coming Soon



- In today's busy world, it's hard to know where to go to get the answers you seek. In a large school district, it's impossible to know every department and person to connect with to get the answers you seek.
- That's why we're adding **Let's Talk!** to the D11 set of customer service tools. **Let's Talk!** is an always-on online customer service and communication tool to help District 11 staff better serve our community.
- With Let's Talk! anyone can submit a question, comment, concern, suggestion, or compliment from their device 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive a timely response.
- The **Let's Talk!** tool will begin rollout shortly after spring break and will continue to be developed over the next several months. We look forward to hearing from you using the **Let's Talk!** online system!

SUMMER BRIDGE—

Extended Learning Opportunities Beyond The Traditional School Calendar



Summer Bridge

Summer School (Summer Bridge) plans for summer 2023:

- D11 will again provide a summer school program (Summer Bridge) in June 2023.
- Tentative plans are to provide one 4 week session (K – 12) starting Monday Jun 5th and ending Friday Jun 30th. Host sites will be grouped by area.
- The schools will operate 5 days per week, provide 5.5 instructional hours per day on core academics, enrichment, social emotional learning, range of other subjects and project-based learning experiences.
- Final details are being worked out with much more information coming out in mid to late April. Check with your principal to see how your school will be participating. To get an early look at current plans you can also check out the Summer Bridge briefing to the BOE April 5, 2023 Work Session at <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/d11/Board.nsf/Public> . Click on Board Work Session April 5, 2023, then click on “View agenda” and then the Summer Bridge topic on the left margin to get to the briefing.

Board of Education Briefs:

- Do you want to keep abreast of what the District and BOE are doing but do not have the time to listen in real-time or to video tapes of the BOE meetings and work sessions?
- Instead check out the well written “Board Briefs” summaries of each meeting and work session at <https://www.d11.org/Page/20424>

News & Notes Continued



We Want: **GIFTED & TALENTED CHAMPIONS!**

We Need: Your  and 

Extra time? Invest it with us.

Unique skills? *Please* share them.

Innovative ideas? We'd love to hear them!

If you would like to **learn more** about how you can support gifted students:



Colorado Springs School
District 11 Board of Education

TOWN HALL MEETING

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Thursday,
April 13

6 - 7 p.m.
Mitchell High School
Library
1205 Potter Dr. 80909

Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. This will be the last Town Hall Meeting for this school year.

Submit your question in advance at:
D11.org/TownHall

The online question form will close by 10 a.m., Monday, April 10. Questions submitted in advance will be addressed first, then live questions will be taken as time permits.

SAC Information

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- **State Tests:** Colorado 3-8th grade CMAS tests (ELA and Math) are scheduled in the period April 10th – Apr 28th. Colorado 5th, 8th, and 11th grade CMAS Science tests are scheduled April 10th – Apr 28th. Colorado 9-10th grade PSAT tests are scheduled April 12th -27th (including make-up dates). The Colorado 11th grade SAT is April 12th with a make-up date of Apr 25th. Check with your school for the specific test schedule for your school.
- **Acadience Reading (READ Act) EOY (end of year) tests K-3:** Scheduled April 24th – May 12th. Schools choose a two week window.
- **District Benchmark (EOY) tests grades 3 – 11:** Scheduled Apr 3rd – April 14th.
- **May 31 – Jun 2, 2023:** D11 One Plan Symposium for School Year 23-24 – Save the Date, SACs will be invited to participate
- **Election of New SAC Officers:** April is the month to elect, or be thinking about election of officers for the coming school year as outlined in D11 Reg. AE-R-2, School Accountability Committees. It is also a good time to set the SAC meeting calendar for the next school year.

SAC Training Session on April 6, 2023 In-person at Tesla 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM:

- We have an information-packed session scheduled for the April 6th training session.
- The session will be headlined by Supt Gaal speaking on the strengths of the vertical area management structure and the role and functions of the Area Supts.
- That will be followed by 75 minute breakout sessions of SACs with their area Supt with the goal of getting to know their area Supt and how to get his/her support. Some possible topics include, 1) Area Supt support to schools in meeting their One Plan goals for 22-23, 2) New area initiatives at each level, 3) Plans for transportation support for field trips, academic/sports events, etc.
- We strongly encourage you to attend. Please let Trudy Tool Trudy.Tool@d11.org know you are coming!

Agenda Planning Guide for APRIL (Theme: Assessment/planning for next school year)

- Principal/teachers provide relevant 3rd quarter data for progress monitoring. Review available Spring District Benchmark assessment results, other assessment results and One Plan Action Step monitoring data. Check with your principal on availability of the school's academic growth data.
- Discuss plans for school participation in D11 Summer Bridge summer school programs
- Discuss plans for school participation, including SAC participation, in the May 31st – June 2nd One Plan/USIP Planning Symposium.
- Elect/select SAC chair, secretary and other officers as appropriate for next school year.
- Set SAC meeting calendar for next school year.

Good Things

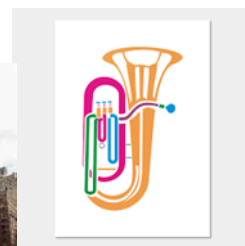
Good Things Happening at Schools

Chipeta ES—

- Congratulations to Chipeta ES who is a recipient of the Governor's Math Bright Spots Award for 2023.
- Chipeta is one of twelve schools in Colorado. They won this award for growth in math from 2019-2022, measured by Colorado Measures of Academic Success.
- The award comes with a monetary grant to support continued math achievement & growth.
- The funds will be used for teachers to provide after school tutoring in April, May, August and September, in addition to summer tutoring.
- Teachers will also have opportunities for Professional Learning to support student growth and achievement.

Jenkins MS—

- Congratulations to Jenkins MS student, Aria Pielak, who was nominated for the Honor Performance Series. This is a highly selective program that assembles some of the most promising young musicians around the country.
- She submitted an audition piece and ultimately was one of the 350 students selected out of thousands. She will be on her way to New York City in June to perform for a live audience at Carnegie Hall.



To read the full story go to:

https://www.kktv.com/2023/03/31/colorado-springs-8th-grader-selected-play-carnegie-hall/?fbclid=IwAR1ZhjP-fP-DmMgCFuENBy_XDzZkMxGlgjsKmpDj-I5TpVdk1z6ra6_bLw

Palmer HS—



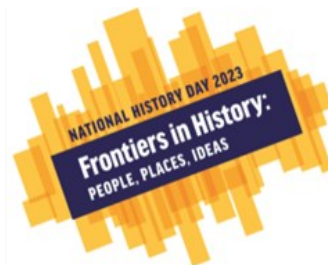
A large group of students and staff from Palmer High School, affectionately known as The Bald Terrors, raised over \$5,000 for childhood cancer research on St. Baldrick's Day. Rozie Sanford was the top fundraiser with over \$2,000. Many shaved in honor of people they hold dear. It was a fun and special event.

Good Things

Good Things Happening at Schools

Palmer HS (Continued) -

- Congratulations to Palmer High School students, Hannah Phillips, Ruby Atherton, Hannah Medina, Theo Buccholz, Ruth Mason, and Nathaniel Krill for winning projects in the National History Day competition that took place at Colorado College on March 18th.
- 2023 National Theme: *"Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas"*
What is History Day? *All Middle and High School age students (grades 6-8 & 9-12) are invited to "DO" History by preparing a research paper, a multimedia documentary, a web site, a dramatic performance or an imaginative exhibit on a topic of their own choosing.*
- They will participate in the state competition at CU Denver on April 29th.



RJ Wasson Academic Campus—



Over 200 students from schools across the district attended the Career Pathways Showcase at the RJ Wasson Academic Campus. Students were able to participate in three different Career Pathway sessions and explore options to gain college credits, industry certifications, and work-based learning skills.

Roosevelt Charter Academy —



COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

- Congratulations to Roosevelt Charter Academy as they are one of the schools that will receive \$50,000 dollars of federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds! Along with Chipeta ES, Roosevelt Charter Academy was also one of 12 schools to receive the Governor's Math Bright Spot Awards.
- This is for demonstrating exceptional growth in math achievement since 2019. For more information regarding this award see link below:

<https://www.kktv.com/2023/03/07/watch-live-colorado-governor-announces-historic-investment-math-education/>

If you want to share good things happening at your school, please email Trudy Tool at Trudy.Tool@d11.org