

SCHOOL DISTRICT 11

UPCOMING DATES:

SAC Training
April 8, 2021
6:00—8:00pm,
via WebEx

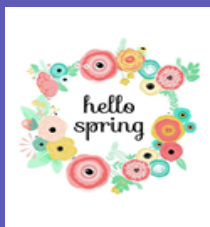
DAC Meeting
April 15, 2021
6:00—8:00pm,
via WebEx

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District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter

April 2021

Welcome

April is here! Hard to believe we are in the final quarter of the school year. We are thankful for your work and dedication this year. This has been a challenging school year for all of us. Now is the time to reflect and start planning for the next school year. Start considering the areas that your School Accountability Committee changed this year, like on-line meetings. Is this something that should be continued next year for more participation? How else can we provide opportunities for all families to have a voice? The answers to these questions are specific to your school community. Let's build on the lessons we learned from this year to provide opportunities for all families.

Family School Community Partnerships (FSCP) are important for our goal to inspire every mind. Just as a space launch relies on a team of people working together to plan and complete a mission, families, schools, and communities can work together to launch children's learning. This involves collaboration. When families, schools, and communities work together throughout the year on their shared mission, student learning takes off. Look later in this newsletter for some resources about FSCP.

The Academic Master Plan (AMP) was presented to the D11 community last month for feedback. It is exciting to see the opportunities for students at all schools as the district is rebuilding, rediscovering, and reimagining. Community feedback is valuable from every area. You know your school and community the best. The final AMP will go to the school board this month. Please continue to encourage families in your communities to give input to this plan as final decisions are made.

State testing will have changes this year. The federal government granted a waiver to Colorado to scale back standardized testing this year. Usually all students K-8 take the literacy and math portion of the test. The waiver allows the state to test students in grades three, five, and seven only in literacy. Math tests will be administered in grades four, six, and eight. Only eight graders will take the science test and no social studies tests will be given. The exams won't be used to evaluate teacher performance or rate schools. SACs should reach out to principals for any questions.

The DAC and its Subcommittees are continuing to work in the virtual environment.

- The DAC reviewed, discussed, and provided input on the Unified District Improvement Plan (UDIP), the Incremental Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, as well as looking at updates to Social Emotional Learning Surveys, Curriculum, and Counselor Updates.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee spent time focused on the UDIP.
- The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee is ready for the final SAC trainings scheduled on April 8 via Webex. The training will focus on the new Student Information System Update and the School Improvement Summer Symposium. Break-out sessions will be included for all school levels. More details are provided later in the newsletter. SACs and school principals are strongly encouraged to attend.

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. If we can provide any help or support please reach out so we can help. Once again, thank you for your dedication this school year!

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – District Accountability Committee

News & Notes

DAC Membership for 2021-2022

- 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 2021-2022 school year.
- If you would like to be on the DAC for next year please contact Joseph Mezzofante, our membership chair, so he has time to solicit new members and candidates.
- Velvet Stepanek is willing to be DAC Chair for another year, but if there is anyone else who would be willing to serve in other leadership positions (Accreditation Chair, Training & SAC Support Chair) on the DAC please let us know so we can hold elections as needed.

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

Announcing the Inaugural Colorado Virtual Career Fair for Youth

Virtual
XCHNG

- The inaugural Colorado virtual career fair for youth will be held April 19-22 from 4-6:30 p.m. each evening via Zoom and is completely free. This explorative & informative fair for youth will feature career panels representing a variety of industries throughout the state. Registration is open for youth attendees, parents, educators, and potential career panelists via the [website - https://youthcareerfair.org/](https://youthcareerfair.org/).
- The Colorado Virtual Career Fair is a collaboration between the Colorado State Youth Council, Colorado Workforce Development Council, Colorado Association of Career & Technical Education, other Colorado professional education agencies & organizations, and many Colorado school districts.

Change in High School Graduation Locations

High School Graduations will not be held at the World Arena this year, please see locations below for the updated sites:

High School Graduation Dates/Locations

- 5/ 18 Palmer HS 9am, Doherty HS 3pm - **Garry Berry Stadium**
- 5/ 19 Coronado HS 9am, Mitchell HS 3pm - **Garry Berry Stadium**

Alternative High Schools -

- 5/20 Tesla 8am, Odyssey ECCO 12pm - **Garry Berry Stadium**
- 5/21 Bijou 8am, Achieve 12pm - **Garry Berry Stadium**
- 6/2 Adult and Family Education 11am - **RJWAC Auditorium**

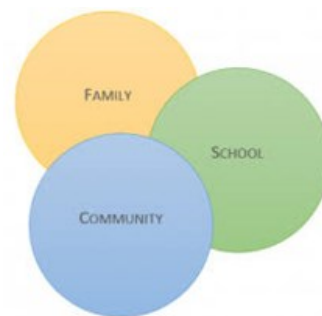


AWESOME
YOU DID IT

News & Notes Continued

Family School Community Partnerships (FSCP)

- The Colorado Department of Education, in collaboration with teachers, families, district leaders, and community members, defines family-school-community partnerships (FSCP) as families, early childhood programs, schools, and communities actively partnering to develop, implement, and evaluate effective and equitable practices to improve educational outcomes for children and youth.



Promising Partnerships Practices

- There are excellent examples of how schools are engaging parents/community at the website listed below:
- <https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/promising-partnership-practices-book-2020>

Family Engagement Ideas and Resources

- The National Alliance for Family Engagement has a wealth of new ideas and resources for improving family engagement with teachers and schools. Check out their website at [National Alliance for Family Engagement \(famengage.org\)](http://famengage.org).

Did you know District 11 schools work hard to build strong relationships between home and school?

Most all D11 schools have a Family Involvement Toolkit Coach, or F.I.T. Coach who designs plans throughout the school year to increase family involvement. Be part of your school's community to increase family involvement by joining the PTA, PTO, F.I.T. planning, or a variety of other opportunities. Together we all help our students succeed! For more information on the Family Involvement Toolkit, please visit d11.org/communications and click on the family involvement links, or call the main office to get involved.



Trades Panel Symposium

Join us at the Third in a Series of D11 Career Explorations - Virtual Trades Panel Symposium! Friday, April 9, 2021 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

- Are you a builder, mechanic or technician at heart? Good working with your hands? How about graphic design? If so, you may be interested in the virtual Trades Career Symposium.
- Hosted by the D11 High School Gifted & Talented Department. This event is open to all D11 high school students.

For more information go to this link: <https://www.d11.org/page/16678>



SAC Information

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- **State Tests**: The Colorado State Legislature (and the Federal government) has approved a streamlined testing schedule for Spring 2021. Tests are scheduled in the period April 12 – Apr 30th. Check out the D11 testing calendar (updated 03-30-2021) at [2020- 2021 Assessment Calendar.pdf \(d11.org\)](https://www.d11.org/2020-2021%20Assessment%20Calendar.pdf) for specific test dates.
- **Acadience Reading (READ Act) EOY (end of year) tests K-3**: Scheduled April 26th – May 14th
- **Universal Screener EOY tests grades 3 – 11**: Scheduled April 26th – May 21st
- **Unified School Improvement Plan Timelines**:
 - ◇ **Priority Improvement and Turnaround Schools**: Has your school received feedback from The Colorado Dept. of Education (CDE) on your school's USIP submitted in Jan 2021? Feedback should have been made available to schools through the online "Collaboration" tab. If this applies to your school, keep checking with your principal regarding feedback. Required updates, based on the feedback, should be submitted to meet the April 15, 2021 final submission date (may be optional – check with your principal).
 - ◇ **All Other Schools**: Final USIPs are due to CDE for all schools by April 15, 2021 (may be optional – check with your principal). Now is a good time to compare 3rd Quarter test results and performance data with USIP academic performance targets, and check implementation data for Major Improvement Strategies to evaluate how well your USIP is working and make changes as necessary before the April deadline.
 - ◇ **Looking forward to the 2021 – 2022 School Year**: Schools will be required to submit USIPs for the 2021-2022 school year no later than Oct 15, 2021 (see item below on the D11 School Improvement Summer Symposium coming the first week of June 2021). As SACs, ask your principal to be included in this process as part of your USIP role.
- **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 AE-R-2, School Accountability Committees. It is also a good time to set the SAC meeting calendar for the next school year. Looking for a great SAC website to show potential new SAC members? Check out the Sabin MS SAC webpage at <https://www.d11.org/Page/3152>.
- **D11 Academic Master Plan (AMP)**: The AMP final report and recommendations will go to the Board of Education for non-action on April 14th and for Action on April 28th. Look for notifications about presentations to specific school sites between Apr 5th and Apr 13th. Keep checking <https://www.d11.org/rebuilding> for all the latest on the AMP and FMP.

SAC Information

SAC Training Session on April 8, 2021 Via WebEx 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM:

We have an information-packed session scheduled for the April 8th training session with a focus on what will be new in Fall 2021;

- **Student Information System Update/Cyber Strategy:** John McCarron, Assistant Superintendent/CIO Technology Services and Tom Hunt SIS Project Officer will headline the session with an update on implementation of the new Power School Student Information System and all the applications being integrated into the SIS— plus more.
- **School Improvement Summer Symposium:** Dr David Khaliqi, Executive Director of Education Insights and Natasha Crouse, Director Student Improvement will provide details on the School Improvement Summer Symposium to be held for all schools the first week in June 2021. The goal of the symposium is to have key staff from each school review their key challenges and successes of the past year in the context of their 2020-2021 USIP and develop a draft USIP for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Breakout Sessions (There will be three— chose one):**
 - ◇ **Employee/Family Wellness:** Cory Notestine (and team), Executive Director, Student Health and Wellness will provide tips and resources for dealing with the severe workloads and stress associated with the COVID 19 environment we are operating in.
 - ◇ **Individual Career & Academic Plan (ICAP) Program – Status Update and Initiatives for 2021-2022:** Valarie Scates, Counseling Services Facilitator, and Dawn Boden, Career and College Access Specialist, will provide an update on all ICAP initiatives with a focus on implementation of the new Course Planning tool in Naviance. [Note: Naviance has also been purchased by Power School.]
 - ◇ **D11 Comprehensive Literacy Plan Update – Initiatives for 2021-2022:** Karol Gates, Director Curriculum and Instruction (and team) will provide an update on the status of this plan with a focus on READ Act requirements, teacher training, new K-12 curricular resources/strategies, and incorporating writing into the curriculum.



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

- Principal/teachers provide relevant 3rd quarter data for progress monitoring. Review available District/state assessment results and assessment challenges
- Discuss plans for development of the school USIP for the 21-22 school year (due to CDE Oct 15, 2021).
- 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

Coronado HS—

- Coronado has its own in-house non-profit that supports its students-in-need by partnering with them to help pay for class fees, providing school supplies, distributing emergency food assistance, and numerous other forms of support (Cougars Care).
- This is Coronado's way of helping their community. They raise all of their own funds and supplies, then grant roughly \$10,000 in assistance to Coronado students and community each year.



Doherty HS—

- Congratulations to Doherty DECA at the Virtual DECA state competition where Alexis Meadows and Mahriana Benson made it to top 12 finalists.
- Also, congratulations to Natalie Rodriguez who was reelected to be the DECA District 8 State Representative.
- Congratulation to the following Doherty students who won at Colorado's PTA Reflections.



Photography

Gold—Laura Fajardo-Riascos "Using My Voice"

Silver—Abigail Krueger "I'm Creative"

Visual Arts

Silver—Marley Harlow-Tafoya "We Can All Change the World"

Literature

Silver—Deztine Carter "A World Torn and Exquisitely Sewn into Me"

North MS—

- Congratulations to North Student, Cameron Wolkow who placed 2nd in the Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair. Her category was Biological, Environmental Science. Topic was the effect of mushrooms on biodegradable products and plastics. To view her complete presentation go to:
<https://www.d11.org/domain/6364>.
- North SPED teachers, Karen Zalmanek and Emmie Steinberg were honored by Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers for their hard work and dedication during COVID. Together they have redesigned North's SED program.



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