

UPCOMING
DATES:

School year 2020-
2021—tentative
dates

1st DAC Meeting—

August 20, 2020,
6:00—8:00pm, Tesla,
room 112/113

1st SAC Training—

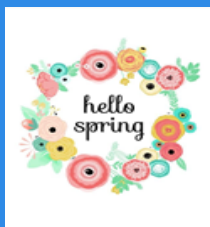
September 24, 2020,
6:00—8:00pm,
Tesla, room 116/129

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District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter

April 2020

Welcome

Spring is here, but so is social distancing and distance learning. In these uncertain times I try to concentrate on the many things for which I'm grateful. At the top of my list are the D11 administrators, teachers, and support personnel that are leading the effort for distance learning. As a parent to three students, one in elementary, one in middle school, and one in high school, I have a first-hand look at what is happening across the district and I am hopeful. The District Accountability Committee (DAC) is not meeting but continuing to support the district in their efforts to empower every student. Some of our key accomplishments this past month include:

The DAC presented final comments on the District's Improvement Plan (UDIP) at the March 11 School Board meeting. We had planned to continue to look at the Academic Master Plan but the March DAC meeting got cancelled.

The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee did a final review of the UDIP before the March 11 Board meeting to solidify comments. Thank you to the members of this subcommittee for their work thoroughly reviewing this plan.

The DAC Budget Subcommittee met twice in March before the school closures. Duane Roberson gave a presentation on concurrent enrollment and dual credit in District 11. The subcommittee discussed and voted on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget modifications. Finally, they produced recommendations for the AVID program going forward. Thank you to the members of the Budget Subcommittee for their diligence and effort in making important recommendations to the School Board.

The DAC Training and School Accountability Committee (SAC) Support Subcommittee met and defined the agenda for the final SAC Training of the year on April 2, 2020. Participation at the SAC trainings has continued to grow, unfortunately, this final training is cancelled. We appreciate all the work this subcommittee does to provide relevant training to our schools. We look forward to providing training for the next school year. Thank you to this subcommittee for listening to the needs and providing training to help our SACs.

Finally, keep yourselves safe and communicate with others. I am thankful for each of you. Volunteers make each of our schools a better place. Thank you for all you do.

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – District Accountability Committee

News & Notes

Distance Learning Resources

Official School Site distance learning begins Tuesday, April 7, 2020. The district website provides information on parent resources, staff resources and student information and support for Pre-school through High School. It also includes information on Special Education, Gifted and Talented, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education. To access see link below:

<https://www.d11.org/distancelearning>

D11 hopes this feature will assist students and their families to enjoy learning while at home.

One of the categories offered on the website is **Social / Emotional Resources for Staff and Families**.

Need help finding the right resources:

211 can provide resources all across the Pikes Peak region: <https://www.ppunitedway.org/get-help/>

Need someone to talk to during this crisis or is your student in crisis:

Colorado Crisis Services: Text TALK to 38255 Call 844-493-8255

Need help with Counseling Supports:

D11 Partners: Thriveworks - Call 719-266-3919 or email support.cosp@thriveworks.com

Walk-in Crisis Center:

AspenPointe
115 South Parkside Drive
Colorado Springs
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Parent Supports:

Tips to support families as they support students during this pandemic: <https://thriveworks.com/colorado-springs-counseling/parenting-through-coronavirus-anxiety/>

Talking with Children about COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

News & Notes Continued

Virtual Field Trips

During this time of distance learning there are many opportunities to visit websites that offer virtual tours, bringing art and fun tours into your living room. Below please find some of these opportunities. For the full list visit the d11 website at: <https://www.d11.org/Page/13301>

Museums and Art Galleries:

National Gallery of Art: Washington, D.C.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-gallery-of-art-washington-dc?hl=en>

Museum of Modern Art, New York City

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/sophie-taeuber-arp/swKioHNhYqZoLw?hl=en>

MetKids (Kid-friendly tour of The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/>

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-art-institute-of-chicago?hl=en>

The Louvre, Paris

<https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>

Smithsonian Access

Open Access makes more of the Smithsonian's collections available for use by the public. Open Access items include text, images, recordings, research data, 3D models, collections data, and more. Open Access makes the Smithsonian's resources available to anyone, anywhere. Open Access items are in the public domain and free of copyright restrictions. You can use Open Access items for any purpose, free of charge. All of the Smithsonian's 19 museums, nine research centers, libraries, archives and the National Zoo contributed images or data to Open Access. It includes content across the arts, culture, sciences, history, technology and design - from portraits of historic Americans to 3D scans of dinosaur skeletons. Open Access can be found at the link below: https://www.si.edu/openaccess?mi_u=3202233

Zoos, Aquariums and other fun tours:

Smithsonian National Zoological Park, New York City

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-zoological-park?hl=en>

San Diego Zoo, San Diego

<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>

Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, CA

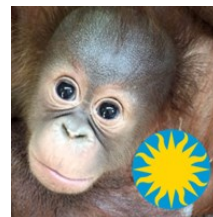
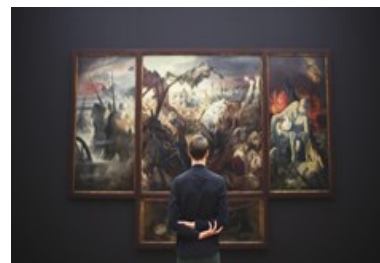
<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>

Virtual Farm Tours

https://www.farmfood360.ca/?utm_source=domain&utm_campaign=www.virtualfarmtours.ca&utm_medium=redirect

A Virtual Walk on Mars

<https://accessmars.withgoogle.com/>



News & Notes Continued

DAC Membership for 2020-2021

- Even though we will not be meeting in April, it is important we conduct legal elections for DAC members and new officers in May.
- To do this we need to know who wants to continue on the DAC for next year. Joseph Mezzofante, our membership chair, needs 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 like to do this important role or any other leadership positions 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.

#BethelLight

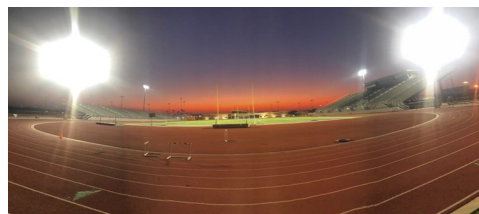
- #bethelightCO is a campaign that many high schools around Colorado are participating in.
- On Monday, March 30, and every Monday there after until this deal is over, the lights at Garry Berry Stadium will shine bright from 9:00 pm – 9:15 pm.
- D11 wants the kids and families in our community to know we are thinking of them during this time! We miss them! We are here for them and we want them to know there is a light at the end of the tunnel. No matter how far away, there is hope and there is a light.
- We also challenged our community to make one phone call a day to check in and connect with someone! Call, not text, not Snapchat, but call one person every day and check in and let them know they are loved. We challenged the D11 community to make the daily call and we want 1000 calls by Monday, April 6.

A video link to the challenge can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/EJW6SLXfy-k>

And an update to the challenge can be found at:

https://youtu.be/kZFzIGad_WA



Social-Emotional Well-Being for Students, Families, and Staff
Student Success and Wellness Department: Office of MTSS
Dr. Jennifer Schulte, MTSS Facilitator and Sonia Urban, LCSW, MTSS Specialist

"The most powerful buffer in times of stress and distress is our social connectedness; so let's all remember to stay physically distant but emotionally close. Reach out and connect; even a short text or smiling face on Zoom can help. Regulate, Relate, Reason." - @BDPerry (3/17/20)

"Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is how children and adults learn to understand and manage emotions, set goals, show empathy for others, establish positive relationships, and make responsible decisions." (CASEL.org) In times of uncertainty, it is imperative to support one another with empathy and compassion. These times are new to all of us, but we are working together to learn ways to best support one another throughout this distance learning time. Although this is a difficult time, it is temporary. We look forward to the day when we can get back to school and function in the more traditional way we are used to. In the meantime, we need to continue to focus not only on our students' social-emotional well-being but our adult social-emotional well-being as well. We can do this in a variety of ways. CASEL provides five key social-emotional learning competencies which include Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making. These competencies can be incorporated into our daily lives by helping to identify emotions, developing stress management techniques, setting goals, respecting others, communicating regularly, relationship building, and reflecting to name a few.

As we continue our distance learning, below are several resources and ideas to consider. Although this is not an all-encompassing list, it is a place for you and your family to further your understanding about social-emotional well-being for all.

Recommendations to support and protect children's emotional well-being during the pandemic:

- Understand that reactions to the pandemic may vary.
- Ensure the presence of a sensitive and responsive caregiver.
- Social distancing should not mean social isolation.
- Provide age-appropriate information.
- Create a safe physical and emotional environment by practicing the 3 R's: Reassurance, Routines, and Regulation.
- Keep children busy.
- Increase children's self-efficacy.
- Create opportunities for caregivers (which may mean yourself!) to take care of themselves.
- Seek professional help if children show signs of stress that does not resolve relatively quickly (consult District 11 Distance Learning: Support Resources for Families and Staff)
- Emphasize strengths, hope, and positivity.

Adapted from Resources for Supporting Children's Emotional Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic; Child Trend Article

Ideas and Resources to Consider:

Establishing daily routines:

- Practicing daily gratitude; we have much to be thankful for
- 8 hours of sleep per night
- At least 30 minutes of exercise per day
- Outdoor time while practicing physical distancing

News & Notes Continued

Food Distribution Sites



District 11 continues to expand food distribution sites—adding two new sites for this week. With each grab and go sack lunch, children (ages 0—18 years of age), receive a lunch and breakfast for the next morning.

Distribution Sites:

- Adams Elementary School
- Coronado High School
- Doherty High School
- Mann Middle School
- Monroe Elementary School (**new**)
- North Middle School
- Rogers ES (**new**)
- Roy J. Wasson Campus
- Russell Middle School
- Swigert School of Math & Science
- West Elementary School

YouTube Channels For Elementary Students

Alphabet/Numbers:

- Alphablocks
- Numberblocks
- Numberjacks
- Patty Shukla Kids TV
- Jack Hartmann
- KidsTV123
- Have Fun Teaching
- Kiboomers
- Super Simple ABCs
- Teaching Independent Learners - NYS Module Videos
- The Singing Walrus
- Harry Kindergarten Music
- Dr. Jean
- Sesame Street

Brain Breaks:

- Go Noodle
- The Learning Station
- The Kiboomers
- Koo Koo Kangaroo
- Scratch Garden
- Kidz Bop
- Pancake Manor

Social/Emotional:

- Howardbwigglebottom
- The Wiggle Tales
- We Do Listen Foundation
- PlayKids
- Sesame Street
- Everyday Speech
- Scratch Garden
- PBS Kids for Parents

Relaxing/Calmig:

- Go Noodle - Flow
- Moovlee
- Cosmic Kids Yoga
- Relaxed Breathing Training, Version B Puffer Fish

Science:

- Crash Course Kids
- Sick Science
- SciShow
- WhizKidScience
- Lab360
- Science Max
- Peekaboo Kidz
- Blippi
- KidsTV123

Social Studies:

- Kids Academy
- Homeschool Pop
- Kids vs Life
- Kids Learning Tube
- SoulPancake

Speech:

- Speech Blubs
- Echo and Friends
- Scratch Garden
- Preschool Prep Company
- PhonicsStories
- Patty Shukla
- Jack Hartmann
- Turtlediary
- Alphablocks



Colorado Springs District 11 Student Page

DISTANCE-LEARNING VIRTUAL SPIRIT WEEK!

WEEK OF APRIL 6TH - APRIL 10TH

MONDAY APRIL 6TH - PAJAMA/CRAZY SOCKS DAY

Wear your pajamas, crazy socks or both during this distance learning!

TUESDAY APRIL 7TH - SUPERHERO/HERO DAY

Wear your superhero gear or dress up like doctors, nurses, first responders, teachers, or others considered heroes during your distance learning!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8TH - CHARACTER DAY

Dress up as your favorite movie or book character during your distance learning!

THURSDAY APRIL 9TH - BEACH/VACATION DAY

Wear some beach gear, or something that you have from one of your vacations during your distance learning!

FRIDAY APRIL 10TH - SCHOOL SPIRIT/COLOR DAY

Wear your school spirit gear, or colors to show pride for your school and educators during your distance learning!

Post a picture or video on Facebook,
Instagram, or Twitter using our hashtag
#D11SPIRITWEEK



D11 Student Page



d11_student_page



@d11students

News & Notes Continued

READ Act and CPP Results Matter Spring Assessment requirements cancelled (from CDE)

- The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is suspending spring K-3 READ Act and Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) Results Matter assessment requirements for state reporting purposes. If in-person instruction resumes this spring, teachers should exercise their judgment on the feasibility of giving the spring assessments to provide information to parents and to inform their instructional planning.
- The department will not collect spring reading assessment data and instead will base per pupil intervention funding for the 2020-21 school year on 2019-20 information. At this time, the department is determining what it will require to be submitted in the spring READ collection beyond a budget and narrative for use of READ funds in the 2020-21 school year, and will be extending the submission timeline.

CDE Accountability Pause for the 2020-2021 School Year

- In response to the evolving conditions under COVID-19, the department is planning to pause the state and federal accountability systems in the 2020-21 school year.
- On March 18, the Governor issued an Executive order pausing both state assessments and state accountability to enable schools and districts to focus on providing alternative learning opportunities for students during this time.
- The department will work with the US Department of Education to get additional flexibility on federal requirements. For additional details on how this will play out go to:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/20-21pause>

CDE COVID-19 Resources for Schools

See links to important resources at, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools>

CDE suggested resources for learning at home

See links to important resources for learning at home <http://www.cde.state.co.us/learningathome>

Summer Enrichment Series for 2020:

- ♦ At this point, the 2020 Summer Enrichment Series (SES) is scheduled to run from June 8 to June 19. Registration has currently been put on hold.
- ♦ All D11 students currently in kindergarten through fifth grades are eligible to participate free of charge.
- ♦ SES aims to deliver unique learning experiences that integrate science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) and extends student learning beyond the typical academic year.
- ♦ The 2020 host schools include Adams, Audubon, Chipeta, Fremont, McAuliffe, Scott, Taylor, and West.
- ♦ Student registration for the Summer Enrichment Series is scheduled to begin in late April. Registration is currently on hold. Please check : <https://www.d11.org/ses> for updated information.



SAC Information

SAC Training Session on April 2, 2020 at Tesla 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The April 2, 2020 SAC Training Session had to be cancelled as a result of Gov Polis's order to close schools and move to a distance learning concept. We are still looking at the possibility of making some of the planned presentations available on the DAC webpage for your information/review.

Holding SAC meetings with Schools Physically Closed and in Distance Learning Mode:

- The fact that schools are physically closed and in "distance learning" mode does not mean that SACs and other committees cannot meet in a virtual environment.
- The District is currently actively using the WebEx application to conduct on line group meetings of staff working from home, committee meetings such as the Policy Committee, and other group activities.
- The Sabin MS SAC will conduct its first virtual SAC meeting on April 6th using WebEx with the meeting set up and "hosted" by Principal Welch.
- **Check with your principal to discuss the possibility of setting up a virtual SAC meeting.** Almost any parent who has a computer and internet connection can participate from home. Some key topics for April might be; a) How is our school responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and b) How is our school resolving the challenges of Distance Learning?

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs, also the focus of SAC Agendas for April

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 2020? Feedback will be made available to schools through the online "Collaboration" tab as it becomes available. If this applies to your school, keep checking with your principal regarding feedback. Required updates, based on the feedback, must be submitted to meet the May 15, 2020 final submission date.
- ◇ All other schools: Final USIPs are due to CDE for all schools by May 15, 2020 (extended from April 15, 2020 by CDE). Now is a good time to compare 3rd Quarter Aligned District Benchmark (ADB) (or similar test results) 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 May deadline.
- ◇ Looking forward to the 20 – 21 School Year: In mid to late May schools are traditionally expected to assess their academic strengths and weaknesses based on end of year Galileo K-12 ADB test results and supporting data and develop a preliminary "one page USIP" for the 20 – 21 school year. The approach for developing and monitoring USIPs for the 20-21 school year is in a state of flux given there will be no CMAS tests this spring and School Performance Framework ratings will be carried over for next year. However USIP requirements have not yet been cancelled for next year. 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>.

Good Things

Good Things Happening at Schools

During this time of adjustment we have heard from parents and staff discussing what they are doing to make distance learning easier on students. Below are examples from two schools.

Buena Vista:



- Karen Kight (1st—3rd grade teacher) is doing a “read a loud” with her students where she is recording herself reading so the students can listen to the Fantastic Mr. Fox, and she is sending them a postcard through the mail.
- Mrs. Mundie (4th & 5th grade teacher) has been e-mailing parents on a regular basis and has sent parents contracts of things their student (s) needs to be doing so they have a guide to help them through this.

Roosevelt Charter Academy:



Staff are extremely proud of all that they are doing for their students

- ◇ On Monday, March 30, 2020, staff members were available to hand out packets of learning resources at Roosevelt. They were able to distribute these resources to 77% of the student population!
- ◇ Arrangements are being made to get the resources to the remaining students who were not able to come and pick up their grade level packets.
- ◇ The staff at Roosevelt is also currently setting up and using Google Classroom, Google Hangout, and Dojo for online communicating and learning.
- The construction of the new addition is moving along great! They have made tremendous progress and we are looking forward to the completed project.



The DAC wants to thank all the administrators, teachers and all staff as they work hard to do what's best for our students and employees. Thank you also to the parents who are now in partnership with teachers, as everyone navigates the new style of learning. All your efforts are truly appreciated! Stay safe everyone.