

District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



March 2019

UPCOMING DATES:

- **March 3, 2020**
5:30—7:00pm
T & SS meeting
Volunteer Services
Conference Room
- **March 19, 2020**
6:00—8:00pm
Full DAC meeting
Tesla, room
112/113
- **April 2, 2020**
6:00—8:00pm
SAC Training

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Welcome

Welcome to March! The District 11 DAC has continued to work hard through a snowy February. One of the main efforts this month has been in reviewing the District's Improvement Plan (UDIP). The mapping of the UDIP to the District Strategic Plan is valuable for our community to see the strategic plan realized. I want to thank all the DAC members for continuing to keep the advancement of our students and schools as the main objective in all we do. Below are highlights of what we worked on:

The DAC spotlighted Grand Friend, Peggy Cummings, for her volunteer work at Rogers Elementary. Peggy is an inspiration in her volunteer service of 20 years. The full DAC took a look at the Unified District Improvement Plan (UDIP) with Dave Engstrom's assistance to start our review. Christy Feldman helped the DAC look at information about the Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act and the READ data to help understand the work being done at the elementary level. We look forward to hearing more about the Academic Master Plan this month.

The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee met with Dave Engstrom to review the UDIP and provide valuable feedback. Thank you to the members of this subcommittee for the work to thoroughly review this plan. The UDIP will be a Non-Action Agenda Item at the March 11 BOE meeting. The DAC will provide feedback at this time.

The DAC Budget Subcommittee is still working diligently on the review of the AVID and gifted and talented programs to be presented to the Board of Education (BOE) on March 18.

The DAC hosted the 3rd SAC Training Session on February 6, 2020. Representatives from 26 district schools attended. Linda Slothower, the principal at Rogers Elementary gave an update about great things happening at Rogers and being chosen a Bright Spot school from the Colorado Turnaround Network. Glenn Gustafson presented an overview on the Budget Equity Exercise and Stephanie Atencio talked about the Core Value Card Sort that Wilson used as a precursor to their budget equity exercise. SACs were also able to learn about the Signs of Suicide (SoS) program at West Middle School, understand the Hoonuit data system, or learn about the efficient use of the Galileo K-12 Aligned District Benchmark (ADB) results in delivering classroom instruction. The 4th and final SAC Training Session is scheduled for April 2, 2020.

As a DAC, we want to support our School Accountability Committees. Be sure to look at the suggested agenda items for your meeting from the SAC Handbook. If there are areas your SAC needs support on, please let us know, we are here to help. We look forward to a productive March and a great Spring Break.

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek
Chair – District Accountability Committee

News & Notes



Science Fair Judges Needed— There is a need for judges to serve at various science fairs around the district in the coming months. If interested, please contact Janit Pollard at janit.pollard@d11.org or 520-2202.

- Edison Elementary—March 20, 2020, 8:00—10:30am
- Fremont Elementary – April 3, 2020, 7:30 – 11:30am
- Keller Elementary—April 3, 2020, 8:05—10:00am
- Madison Elementary—April 6, 2020, 12:30—3:00pm
- Stratton Elementary—March 31, 2020, 7:45—10:45am
- Taylor Elementary—March 19, 2020, 7:40—9:30am
- Regional Elementary Science Fair—April 25, 2020, 8:00am—12:00pm

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more”.

H. Jackson Brown Jr.



ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 2020

TIME: 8AM to 10 AM

WHERE: North Middle School Cafeteria

Please enter through the side door of the Annex

COST: \$6.00 for ages 6 and up, \$3.00 for ages 5 and under

All proceeds will go to fund the Fairview Cemetery Veteran’s Project.

Additional donations are welcome.

News & Notes Continued

Academic Master Plan Commitments and Direction (Engstrom)

- During late February and the month of March, the Division of Achievement, Learning & Leadership (ALL) will be conducting the next round of collecting input for the development of the Academic Master Plan.
- Initial inputs were received in 2019 by conducting community World Cafés, commissioning a demography study, considering the Capacity Committee recommendations, and reviewing the Pikes Peak Business Alliance Employment Sectors study.
- To solicit responses and feedback, the Deputy Superintendent of Achievement, Learning & Leadership, David Engstrom, will present District 11's commitments and direction to numerous committees, teams, and groups in District 11 during the month of March.
- David Engstrom will be presenting to the DAC on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at Tesla, room 112
- A community World Café will be scheduled, in addition to the District presentations.

District 11's Commitments

- Quality Schools in Every Community
- Consistent Core Instruction
- Personalized Approach to Learning
- Rigor for College, Career, and Life Readiness

District 11's Direction

- Strong Neighborhood Schools
- Distinctive Magnet Schools and Programming
- Aligned Programming Pathways
- Expanded College and Career Options
- Equitable Access Supported by Transportation

DAC Membership



The DAC Membership for school year 2020-2021:

It is not too early to start thinking about DAC membership for school year 2020-2021 . If any SAC and/or DAC member knows of parents or community members who would have an interest in participating in DAC for the next school year, please contact Joseph Mezzofante, DAC Membership Subcommittee Chair, at mezzofantej@gmail.com

- All current DAC members will be asked of their interest at a future DAC meeting.
- The DAC will also have the Training & SAC Support Subcommittee Chair position open for the 2020-2021 school year

Please contact Joseph Mezzofante at mezzofantej@gmail.com if you have an interest in this position.

United States Census 2020

What is the census and when does it happen?

- Every 10 years, everyone living in the United States is asked to complete a simple, but very important constitutional task: respond to the census.
- The 2020 Census is a questionnaire that asks a few basic questions. For example: age, sex and number of people who live or stay in your home. (including young children and newborn babies)
- The next census starts in March of 2020 and responding is easy, safe and important.

Why is counting young children important?

- Newborn babies and young children under five are often missed in the census. The 2020 Census helps determine which areas qualify for the critical resources that children and families depend on for the next 10 years.
 - ◆ The 2020 census count will be how the Federal government determines the amount of money that will be given to our schools for the next ten years.
 - ◆ Most of the programs funded from the count are for serving our students living in low-income households and students with disabilities.
 - ◆ Historically, the ten-year census has undercounted populations in large urban areas like ours, and we would like to work towards making sure our community is properly funded with an accurate count. Everyone counts. Documented status has no bearing on if you should or should not take the census.
 - ◆ Learn more at: www.2020Census.gov



News & Notes (Continued)

African American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC)

A promotional poster for the African American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC) 2020. The poster features a black background with white and yellow text. At the top left, it says 'MARCH 7th 2020' in a yellow box. To the right, it says 'Colorado Students 6th - 12th Grade' and 'Free Registration' in a red banner. Below that, it says '7:30AM - 4:15PM'. A hashtag '#SeeBeyondNow' is on the left. In the center, there is a circular logo with 'AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE' and a globe. Below the logo, it says 'COLORADO COLLEGE, EL POMAR SPORTS CENTER' and '44 W CACHE LA POUDE ST, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80903'. At the bottom, it says 'Prize Giveaways, Entertainment, Breakfast & Lunch' and 'Engaging Workshops'. The workshops listed are: Leadership Development, Entrepreneurship, Black History, Workforce Readiness, S.T.E.A.M., Personal Growth, Financial Management, and College Prep. The website 'WWW.AAYLC-CO.ORG' and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are at the bottom. There are also photos of students and a teacher.

The AAYLC will take place on March 7, 2020 from 7:30am—4:15pm, Colorado College, El Pomar Sports Center. This is an excellent opportunity for students to engage in meaningful workshops shops available:

- Leadership Development
- Entrepreneurship
- Black History
- Workforce Readiness
- S.T.E.A.M
- Personal Growth
- Financial Management
- College Prep

District 11 is one of the major sponsors of this event that has over 700 students attend. For additional information see link below:

<https://www.aaylc-co.org/our-annual-conference>



The Colorado Springs School District 11 Summer Enrichment Series is currently in its planning stages!

- Available to all current District 11 students (including D11 charters)
- Available to all students currently in kindergarten through fifth grades.
- 2020 Dates: Monday, June 8th to Friday, June 19th
- Student registration will open in April
- 2020 Host Schools
 - Adams ES (full-day program)
 - Audubon ES
 - Chipeta ES
 - Fremont ES
 - McAuliffe ES
 - Scott ES
 - Taylor ES
 - West ES

Stay tuned for more information by visiting: www.d11.org/ses

SAC Training/Information Session Information and Updates**SAVE THE DATE:****SAC Training/Information Session April 2, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla:**

- * More detailed information will be forthcoming for this final SAC Training of the 2019-2020 school year
- * The February 6, 2020 SAC Training was well attended. There were 51 attendees representing 26 schools. We appreciate your participation and hope to see you at the training on April 2nd. Check out the hand-outs from this training at:

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/SAC%20Training%20Hand-outs%202-6-20.pdf>

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- Galileo K-12: Third Quarter Aligned District Benchmark (ADB) ELA and Math test (grades 2-8) will be Mar 2 – Mar 6, with make-up week Mar 11-16, 2020. School results district wide should be available by Mar 25th.
- State tests: Almost all state tests will be given in the month of April. Check out the D11 testing calendar at <https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/541/Calendar.pdf> for specific test dates.
- Unified School Improvement Plans (USIPs): Final USIPs are due to CDE by April 15, 2020 for posting to the CDE website.

SAC Agenda Planning – March (Theme: USIP updates – if needed)

Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics that meet the broad responsibilities of School District 11 SACs. This is just a reference tool and individual SACs should tailor agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the agenda topics that are recommended for March meetings:

- Review/discuss topics from the D11 SAC Handbook, Agenda Planning Guide for previous months which have not yet been addressed.
- Review/discuss relevant 3rd quarter Galileo ADB test results, or similar test results; in the context of USIP goals for 2019-2020.
- Review/discuss the school's progress in reading, writing, math, social studies and science. Is your SAC/school staff monitoring student challenges in academics, discipline, and attendance using current data from the Early Warning System?

“Never underestimate
your ability to make
someone else’s life better
- even if you never know
it”.

Greg Louganis

Good Things Happening in the District

Coronado HS

- Congratulations to Coronado senior Angel Flores after winning the 126-pound 4A state title during his wrestling match against Mountain View senior Malachi Contreras during the 2020 Colorado State Wrestling Championships at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.
- Congratulations to Coronado senior Jenna Salvat who was awarded the first place special award from the Geological Society of America and & American Geosciences Institute at the 2020 Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering Fair that was held at UCCS on Saturday, February 22, 2020. This is a judged competition open to any secondary student (grade 6-12).

Doherty HS

- On March 10, 2020 Doherty High School will be offering Mental Health First Aid training for staff and parents. This groundbreaking eight-hour training course gives people the tools to identify when someone might be struggling with a mental health challenge and to connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary.
- Congratulations to Doherty senior Tyson Beauperthuy after winning the 170-pound 5A state title against Pine Creek junior Draygan Colonese during the 2020 Colorado State Wrestling Championships at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

Mitchell HS

- Congressman Doug Lamborn from Colorado's fifth Congressional district honored Mitchell HS, JROTC Cadet, Abigail Estampador with a nomination to West Point. Cadet Estampador endured a rigorous application process that involved writing essays, showing examples of leadership and commitment and a three-person panel interview. Congratulations!
- Mitchell HS Career & Technical Ed (CTE) students went to Denver on February 12, 2020 to meet with legislators at the "CTE Showcase" to thank them for supporting Career and Technical Education in Colorado.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT.



Sabin MS

- Sabin Teacher Named Special Education Educator of the Year. The EduCtr has selected Tonya Crawley to receive the Special Education Educator of the Year Award. This award is given to Educators of Color in the State of Colorado who exemplify high standards of excellence in education. Congratulations Ms Crawley!

Odyssey ECCO

- Congratulations Odyssey teacher, Annie Friesema, who won the 2020 Colorado Association of Teachers and Family and Consumer Science Teacher of the Year Award.

Palmer HS

- Congratulations to Palmer sophomore Kathryn Kummel who was awarded a second place category award in Plant Sciences at the Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering Fair on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at UCCS.
- Colorado State University Pueblo hosted more than 700 middle and high school students from across Colorado to participate in Colorado Southern Regional Science Olympiad Tournament on February 29, 2020. Palmer HS team finished 7th in the Olympiad for the south half of the state, which secures them a spot in the State-wide competition to be held in April.