

SCHOOL DISTRICT 11

UPCOMING DATES:

- December 8, 2022
5:30—7:00pm
T&SS Meeting
via WebEx
- January 10, 2023
5:30—7:00pm
T&SS Meeting
via WebEx
- January 19, 2023
Full DAC Meeting
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla Educational
Opportunity Center and via WebEx
- January 26, 2023
SAC Training
6:00—8:00pm
Tesla Educational
Opportunity Center and via WebEx

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District Accountability

(DAC)



DECEMBER 2022 / JANUARY 2023

Welcome

The District 11 DAC and its subcommittees are dedicated to our work as we reach the halfway point of the 2022-23 academic year. Thank you to SAC members for their dedication at each of their schools. Here are a few highlights on what was accomplished by the DAC:

- The DAC gained knowledge about Best First Instruction and brain science from Karol Gates, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The District has some great resources available here: [D11 Best First Instruction Information](#).
- The School Accountability Committee (SAC) Training and SAC Support Subcommittee hosted the second SAC Training Session on December 1. SACs learned about District testing and STAR testing reports available to schools, SACs, and parents. In addition, SACs learned about parent resources for Eureka Math Squared and Dreambox. SACs also began discussing communication between teachers, parents, and students. The third SAC Training Session is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2023. All SACs are encouraged to attend.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee continued to review and give input on School Improvement Plans for priority improvement and turnaround schools.
- The DAC Charter School Review Subcommittee reviewed and produced a final report on the transfer applications for James Irwin Charter Academy and Colorado Military Academy into D11. The BOE will begin looking at these applications on December 14. A final decision about the charter school transfers will be made in January. Thank you to the members of this subcommittee for their work on this review.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee did not meet in November.

We are continuing as a DAC to support the work of SACs at every school in District 11. Is your SAC meeting on your school calendar? Are all families invited? Are agendas and minutes being kept on the school website for families who don't attend? SACs should be continuing to discuss their One Plan at every meeting. Ask the questions: Is there any progress on major improvement strategies? Are the action steps being updated? Has the school had a One Plan review with their Area Superintendent? We're all working together for the success of every student at every school, the One Plan is an important part of that success.

DAC members have been reaching out to school SAC contacts at every school to get your input and build relationships. If you haven't been contacted then please make sure we have your contact information. We are continuing to work to get the latest SAC chair information and meeting times for **every** school. *Every SAC input is important. We want to hear how your school is doing and what we can do to help support you.*

Research indicates that family, school and community partnerships lead to improved students' attendance, higher graduation rates and a deeper sense of belonging. The D11 Family School Community Partnership (FSCP) Collaborative wants to celebrate "bright spots" of family engagement. We are planning to visit schools, present certificates, and give shout outs at Board meetings. Let us know if your school has a bright spot that we can celebrate.

Lastly, thank you to the support staff, teachers, and district administration for all the work you do to help support the DAC work.

On behalf of everyone at the DAC, I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season!
Velvet Stepanek, Chair-District Accountability Committee



*"Help one
another: there's
no time like the
present and no
present like the
time".*

James Durst

News & Notes

Who is a Learning Hero?

Every parent! According to Learning Heroes national research, there's a big gap between what parents think about their child's grade level progress versus how their child is actually doing. Learning heroes is focused on helping parents get the accurate picture they need and deserve so they can best support learning at home.

See: <https://bealearninghero.org>

The seventh annual national Learning Heroes research continues to go beyond the headlines and uncover actionable insights to help solve some of the biggest issues in education. Hidden in Plain Sight: A Way Forward for Equity Centered Family Engagement (<https://bealearninghero.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Parents22-Research-Deck-1.pdf>)

Conducted in partnership with UnidosUS, Univision, National PTA, and National Urban League, it provides an important snapshot into parents' and educators' desires and concerns two year into the pandemic and amid deep political polarization, ultimately highlighting how to overcome barriers and build stronger partnerships between home and school.



News about Career and Technical Education (CTE) and much more:

Beginning in January 2023, elementary and middle school parents will start receiving monthly tool kits that describe college and career options in D11. Topics such as: Concurrent Enrollment options, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), D-11 partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education (Harvard, Stanford, Penn, Colorado College, CSU-Pueblo, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak State College), all of the various CTE pathways (with focus on industry certifications, 2 year and 4 year degree plans), Common Black College Application (college applications to over 60 HBCU's- free for D11 students), work based learning options, streaming academic content across schools to enhance opportunities for all students and best utilize district resources, on track to graduate data (OTG), ASCENT and AVID. Also watch for upcoming presentations on college and career options in D11 at various D11 high schools (for more information contact Area Supt Scott Mendelsberg at scott.mendelsberg@d11.org).

News & Notes (Continued)

Multi-language Capabilities of D11 Communication Systems:

Did you know most D11 communications systems have robust language translation capabilities which can be used to support our non-English speaking families with appropriate training? A SAC meeting would be a good time to review your school's communication plans and effective use of the systems described below.

One Way (District/schools/teachers to students/parents/community):

- The D11 Blackboard/Loop system is the primary one way communications system. For all information on the Blackboard communication systems see <https://www.d11.org/blackboard>. The Blackboard/Loop system relies on PowerSchool data rollovers each night.
- Home language preference is a field within PowerSchool that families determine. Based on the family's preference, that data is integrated into the Blackboard system. When a message is sent from the District, the District always selects English and Spanish because those are the primary languages spoken. The message is then automatically delivered to the families based on their home language preference in PowerSchool. Schools often choose the primary languages spoken in their school communities when sending messages because they are more familiar with any other languages their families speak outside of the English and Spanish selections.
- The Smore newsletters feature both a translation feature and an accessibility feature (ADA compliant). The District and some schools use Smore for weekly/monthly updates on news from the District, school, and classroom. The District has a subscription to Smore, so schools do not have to pay anything to use this e-newsletter.
- The D11 and all school websites are also ADA-compliant and include a translation feature with over 100 language options, everything from Afrikaans to Zulu. The websites use a Google translate system, as do most schools, districts, and organizations around the country. There are critics of Google translate; however, the algorithms continue to improve and provide more accurate translations, and Google translate is the standard for most businesses and technologies.
- There are translation features for Facebook, Twitter, and IG (social media), but social media companies maintain them. Each one relies on Google translation-type functionalities.

Two-Way (District/schools/teachers to and from students/parents):

- D11 Blackboard/Reach system: Reach is a two-way text like system which also relies on the PowerSchool rollover each night. It was intended to be the District preferred two-way communications system between teachers/school/families, but because of some vendor issues with Reach and a recent buy-out of the Blackboard company, Reach will likely go away next school year. D11 may be relying on another system in the foreseeable future.
- Other systems: A significant number of D11 schools/teachers utilize platforms like ClassDojo and Remind as their classroom two-way communication systems. These systems also have robust language capabilities. For example, in ClassDojo the parent can set different preferences to include language. The teacher will send out a message in English and a parent will see the message in the language they have chosen. A parent can type a response message in the language of their choice and the teacher will see the response in English.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

The next SAC Training will be Thursday, January 26, 2023, 6:00—8:00pm Tesla Educational Opportunity Center and via WebEx

SAC NEWS/NOTES

SAC Training/Information Session Information

SAC Training Dec 1, 2022: The video recording of the Dec 1st SAC Training session is available at <https://www.d11.org/Page/17241>. The link for the Dec 1st session is on the bottom half of the page. Be sure to check out the excellent presentation by Dr Eric Mason, Director of Assessment, on best practices for effective use of STAR District Benchmark test results in informing instruction and monitoring One Plan initiatives (see Eric's presentation slides at <https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/SAC%20Presentation%2012-1-22.pdf>)

Also check out the Family Engagement presentation by Paul Bunge, D11 Math Facilitator, on supporting your student with Eureka Math and Dreambox (see Paul's presentation slides at: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xz14uOOOn4VKHJOrkwaTVwzC0WXZtEnxwz4GS11GbTkQ/edit?usp=sharing>).

SAVE THE DATE: The next SAC Training Session will be held at the Tesla building Thursday Jan 26, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00PM and also via WebEx. We tentatively are looking at bringing you updates on Concurrent Enrollment, dual credit, and District Career and Technical Education (CTE) related initiatives at all levels. Fliers on presentations and discussion topics will be sent out by mid-Jan 2023.

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- Any budget/funding recommendations for 23-24 must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2023.
- READ Act: Acadience Middle of Year (MOY) testing for K-3 will be Nov 28th – Dec 16th, 2022.
- District Benchmark (STAR) second quarter ELA and Math tests (grades 2-11) will be Dec 1st - Dec 16th, 2022 (2nd grade optional).
- ACCESS, the state test for English Language Learner (ELL) students (all eligible kindergarten – 12th grade students), will be given Jan 9th – Feb 10th, 2023.
- The Cognitive Abilities Test, CogAT, will be given to all 2nd grade students Jan 9th – Jan 30th, 2023. This test is used in identifying gifted and talented students for special instruction support.



SAC NEWS/NOTES (CONTINUED)

SAC Agenda Planning – December/January (Themes: Catch-up and Safe Learning Environment plus budget and funding priorities for school year 23-24)

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 the December and/or January SAC meetings:

- Review/discuss safe learning environment for the school (safety, discipline, attendance, etc.). Your principal has current discipline and attendance statistics, broken down by poverty and ethnicity sub-categories, for the entire school in summary format which should be shared periodically with the SAC to discuss trends. What is the chronic absenteeism rate for your school and how is it being mitigated?
- Review/discuss the school's focus on parent strategies for individual student support as well as teacher/parent communication. Are teachers using the communications capabilities in D11 Loop, Blackboard/Reach, Schoology, PowerSchool and/or other platforms (e.g. ClassDojo) to communicate effectively with parents and students? Have you assessed the language translation capabilities of those systems to see if they meet the needs of your non-English speaking parents? Note: Check out <https://www.d11.org/techtips> and <https://www.d11.org/Blackboard> for more ideas and resources.
- Review results of available performance monitoring data, e.g. STAR District Benchmark and Middle of the Year (MOY) Acadience data, and compare to "One Plan"/USIP goals/targets. How is your school doing on students meeting academic growth targets in ELA and math?
- Review/discuss school budget alignment with "One Plan"/USIP goals and identify school funding shortfalls, e.g.;
Instructional resources to meet multiple learning environments and close COVID related learning gaps
 - Technology resources needed for student learning/testing
 - Training needed for effective use of PowerSchool, Schoology, Seesaw, etc.

Note: Budget/funding recommendations must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2023 to be considered for the school year 23-24 budget.



*"It takes each of
us to make a
difference for all
of us".*

Jackie Mutcheson

Good Things Happening in the District

Buena Vista -

- After months of research, planning, cooperation and coordination, Buena Vista is now one huge step closer to zero waste for its lunch program by replacing foam lunch trays with reusable ones.
- This sustainability initiative aligns with Buena Vista's commitment to create a structured Montessori environment where children experience beauty and independence. With so much awareness about trash on our planet, implementing reusable trays is a source of happiness and empowerment for BV kids and adults alike!



Coronado HS –

Congratulations to Coronado HS Thespians who attended the Colorado Thescon Conference in Denver, December 1st thru 3rd. They had 32 participants and 25 competitors in attendance. The following students received Superior ratings at the event and will move on to Nationals:



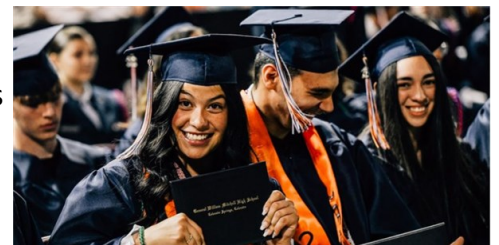
Corri R. – Musical Theatre

Milo R. – Stage Management

Wren F. – Musical Theatre

Mitchell HS—

- Mitchell Promise: Propelling Students to Excellence
- Mitchell High School, will provide a 100% tuition match from Pikes Peak State College for qualifying graduates enrolled in a two-year post-graduation college program. This program is for Mitchell High School graduates that meet academic eligibility requirements.





Good Things Happening in the District

Odyssey ECCO—

Our Awesome Speakers:



DR. MINGO
Professor, Lecturer,
Scholar, Entrepreneur



SHANTELE BRIDGES
Executive Director, AAYLC



ROMAN DANIELS
Odyssey EEOC Student
and Rising Star



SEAN NORMAN
Principal, Odyssey EEOC



2D ANNUAL ODYSSEY ECCO FAMILY NIGHT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022
5:30-7:00 PM
@WASSON ACADEMIC CAMPUS
AUDITORIUM

Join us and our community
partner, The African American
Youth Leadership Conference,
for an evening of food for the
body, mind, and soul.

Swigert MS—

Jack Swigert Aerospace Academy –

Students at Swigert helped test the Callisto Capsule communication system and sent their photo to the capsule in space.

The Callisto Communications System will demonstrate how voice technology, AI and portable tablet-based video conferencing can help improve efficiency and situational awareness on board a spacecraft. It is currently being tested in an unmanned spacecraft. What a unique experience for Swigert students.



If you have “good things” happening at your school that you would like in the newsletter, please email Trudy.Tool@d11.org