West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

October 3, 2025 Friday Memo

Upcoming Events
October 6: Superintendent Introduction to San Pablo City Council, 6:00 pm., Council Chambers
October 8: Regular Board of Education Meeting, 6:30pm, DeJean Middle School
October 9: College & Career Night, 5:00pm., DAHS
October 9: Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC), 6:00pm., Virtual
October 9: Fiscal Stabilization Planning Meetings: Examining Budget Impact, 6:30pm. HHS
October 13: Classified Training Day, No school

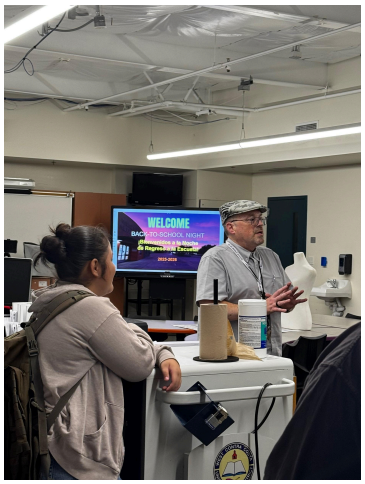
Superintendent's Updates

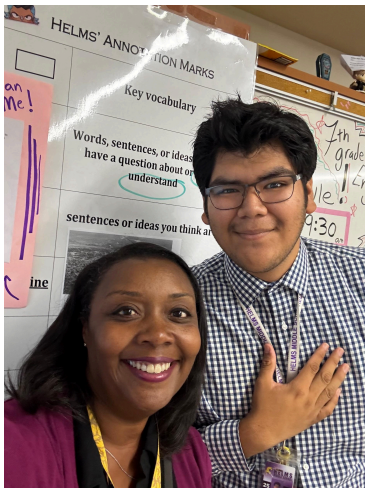
Retired Teachers Association - We value our teachers and our retirees! Last week, I had the opportunity to bring greetings to our Retired Teachers Association, introduce myself, and answer questions about immigration supports for our students and families, impacts of federal funding on our district, and suggestions to address our fiscal challenges. I even ran into my Leadership Teacher, Marilyn O'Brien from El Cerrito High School!



Back to School Nights - Parent attendance was on the rise for our secondary Back to School Nights. I attended Helms Middle School's Back to School Night and popped into a few presentations with students and their families. I was honored to join a first year teacher at his first Back to School Night. So much excitement for a great year!







I also want to lift up Kennedy High School who hosted a talent show during Back to School Night with student performances to encourage parent attendance and engagement.

Parcel Tax Survey - I met with Godbe and Associates along with the Business Services. We worked with Godbe to develop and vet thorough survey questions that will provide us with detailed data as we proceed with the parcel tax process. It is our intention to have the survey kick off the week of October 13.

Business Services

The first District Budget Engagement Committee Meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025. The agenda and slide presentation are linked for your information and review. Discussions were meaningful with lots of engagement among committee and community members alike.

We also held the second session of the Budget Stabilization Series at both Helms Middle School and El Cerrito High School this week. The presentation decks for Session One and Session Two are linked for your review. We look forward to holding our final Session Two community meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at Hercules High School beginning at 6:30 PM.

Human Resources

Representatives from the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR), Teamsters, and the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) met at Helms Middle School on September 30, 2025. Following mediation, the mediator determined that both negotiations will proceed to factfinding.

As part of the factfinding process, a three-member panel must be established. Each party will designate one representative to serve on the panel, and together they will mutually agree upon a neutral chairperson. This panel will review evidence and presentations from both sides before issuing findings and recommendations.

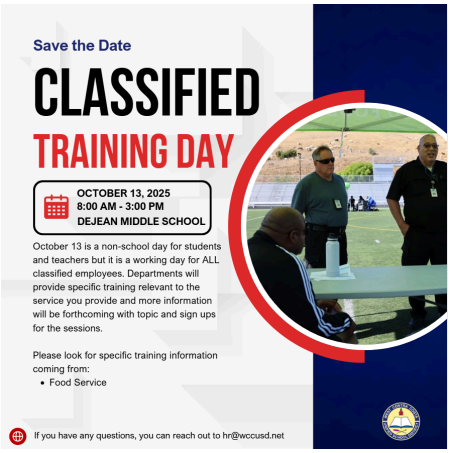
Health and Safety

We will be hosting an in-person shoe drive October 13th



Please invite your team to join us October 13th at the DeJean Parking Lot for in person shoe fitting and pickup.

Classified Training Day - October 13



District Job Fair - October 25, 2025





K-12 Schools

Back to School Night - De Jean Middle School

Parents, students, and teachers came together for a great evening of connection and collaboration at DeJean's Back-to-School Night! From classroom visits to meeting dedicated staff, it was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the learning environment and build strong school-home partnerships. Take a look at some highlights from the night!









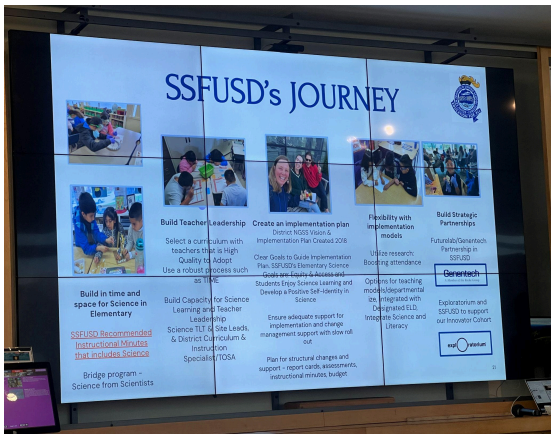


Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment TK-12 STEM

Partnership with Exploratorium

WCCUSD Administrators in Science were invited to a special gathering at the Exploratorium in San Francisco on September 18. The event offered an opportunity to network with Exploratorium staff and other Bay Area administrators in science, including those in South San Francisco who use Twig Science in elementary grades to support learning in ELA and ELD. Participants did some science together, heard

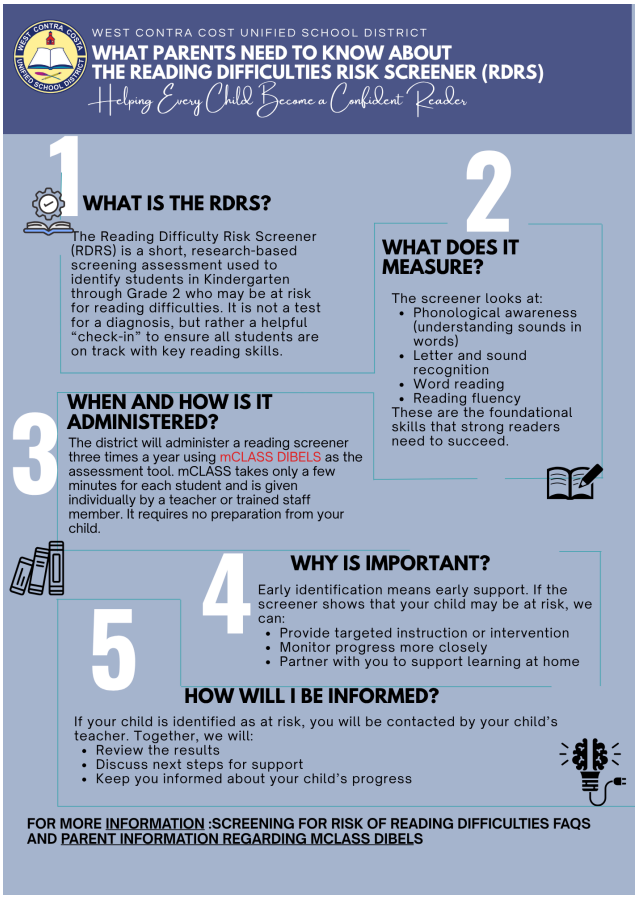
more about the many ways the Exploratorium supports and collaborates with Bay Area science educators, and were able to attend the special Back-to-School-themed After Dark event.





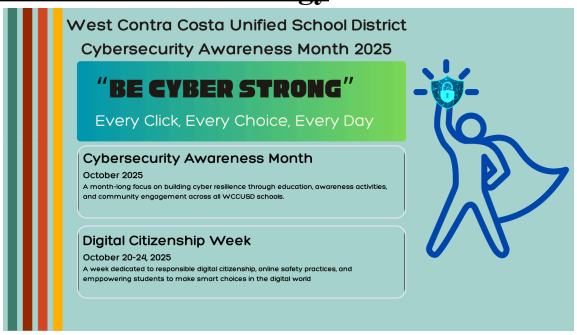
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Early Learning/TK-12 Literacy/Humanities

WCCUSD is using the RDRS (Reading Difficulties Risk Screener), administered through the board-approved mCLASS DIBELS assessment, to identify students who may be at risk for reading difficulties early and connect them with timely support.



What to expect:
Short screenings given by classroom teachers using mCLASS DIBELS.Clear family reports that explain results and recommended next steps.
Opportunities to review results and home strategies at parent-teacher conferences or by appointment.
Family resources and workshops to support reading practice at home.

Information Technology



🛡️ October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month – Be Cyber Strong!

October is here, and that means it's time to flex our cyber muscles! This Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we're embracing the theme **"Be Cyber Strong: Every Click, Every Choice, Every Day"** to help our entire WCCUSD community build stronger cyber habits and stay safe online.

All WCCUSD employees are invited to participate in our **Cybersecurity Tic-Tac-Toe Game** for a chance to win raffle prizes! Here's how it works:

- Start with square #5 (Pledge 2 Protect), then choose two more squares to complete three in a row
- Each completed row = one raffle entry (complete multiple rows for more chances to win!)
- Activities include password tips, phishing awareness, QR code safety, and more
- Complete your squares by **November 1st** to qualify – winners announced **November 8th**!

CLICK IT SAFE by strengthening your passwords, avoiding phishing scams, and always logging out of shared devices. Every small action you take helps protect our students, staff, and school community.

Gear up for Digital Citizenship Week: October 20-24

WCCUSD will be celebrating Digital Citizenship Week with grade-level lessons (15-20 minutes each) on topics like online safety, digital responsibility, and making smart choices online.

College & Career

De Anza High School Law Academy Mentorship Program begins for the 2025-2026 School Year

The Law Academy Mentorship Program at De Anza High School kicked off its first session last Friday, September 26, 2025, in the school library. Students were welcomed to the program, introduced to their

mentors, and engaged in conversations about program goals, the legal profession, and law-related career pathways.

As part of the California Partnership Academies (CPA) standard to provide career mentoring for all 11th grade academy students, the De Anza High School Law Academy has offered consistent mentorship opportunities with the strong leadership of its Advisory Board leads since 2012: Judge Judy Johnson, Patricia Lee, and Ruthe Ashley. Their vision and commitment have made the Law Academy a model of a high-quality CPA Academy.

Additional sessions are scheduled throughout the school year, including *Know Your Rights* with law enforcement (December 5, 2025), Job Readiness and Professional Skills (February 13, 2026), and a culminating *Law Day Celebration* on May 8, 2026, highlighting the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.





Team 841, Richmond High School's Robotics Team, has won Chezy Champs 2025!

Chezy Champs, hosted by Team 254 in San Jose, is widely recognized as one of the most competitive FIRST Robotics off-season events in the nation. This year, 41 top teams, including last year's winners and multiple championship-level squads, came together to compete at the highest level. Our students rose to the challenge, showcasing remarkable innovation, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition.

Why is it important?

Winning this event is an incredible way to kick off the season, and it serves as a powerful reminder of what our students can achieve when given the opportunity to thrive in STEM. Year after year, Team 841 continues to raise the bar, and this year, our students rose to the challenge and excelled, setting a new standard for excellence. Their dedication and perseverance are truly inspiring, and we could not be prouder of their accomplishments.

How do our students prepare for this?

Since the start of the school year, our students have been working tirelessly to prepare for moments like this. Over the summer, veteran members sharpened their technical skills, while new student leaders recruited and mentored incoming members, fostering a strong culture of collaboration and leadership. In

just three weeks, the team designed, fabricated, programmed, and tested a brand-new competition mechanism, tackling a highly ambitious challenge head-on.

How does it all tie to education and work we do?

This project perfectly illustrates Career and Technical Education (CTE) skills in action. Students applied engineering design principles, CAD modeling, precision fabrication, electrical wiring, and software programming, directly connecting classroom learning to real-world problem solving. Along the way, they strengthened professional skills such as project management, teamwork, and critical thinking. By translating knowledge into practical application in a fast-paced, high-stakes environment, our students are growing not only as robotics competitors but as academic learners and future STEM leaders.

Richmond High's Robotics program continues to be a cornerstone of STEM education in our community, serving as a hub for innovation, learning, and inspiration. This victory belongs to our students, and it would not have been possible without the support of mentors, families, sponsors, and the community. Together, we are building champions. Not just in robotics, but in learning and life.

Here's to a season filled with growth, success, and even more opportunities to showcase the incredible talent of Richmond's students.

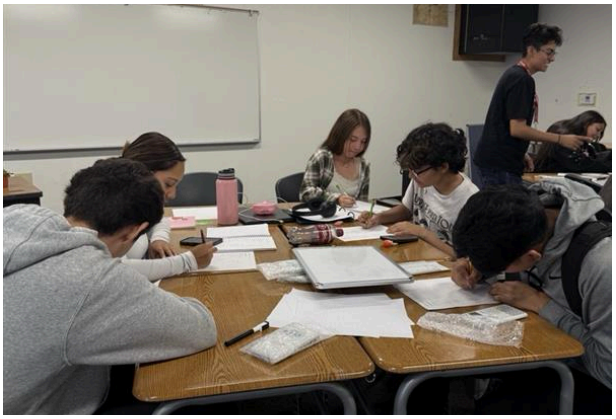
Our next event is this coming week CALGAMES 2025 at Woodside High School on Friday, October 3 - Sunday, October 5, 2025.

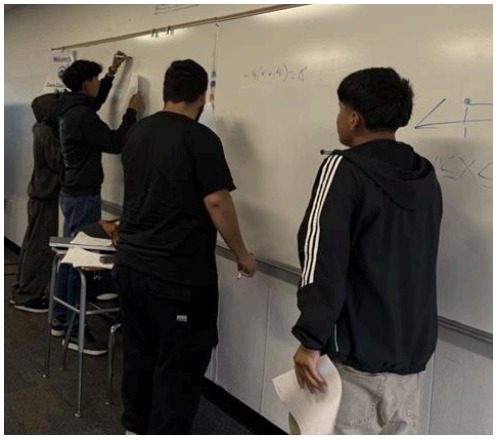


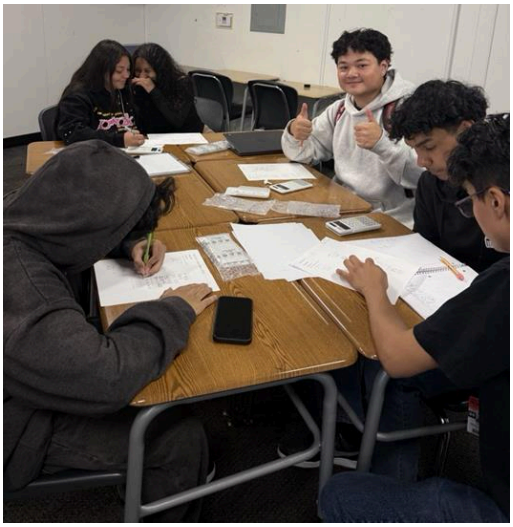


Hardwork & Collaboration in Math 118 Tutoring at Kennedy High

The students at Kennedy High are working hard together during tutoring sessions for the Dual Enrollment Math 118 class.









Monthly Suite of Bond Financial Reports & Annual Reports for Fiscal Year 2025
The bond team prepared the monthly suite of financial reports for the Bond Program as of August 31, 2025, as well as the Annual financial reports for the fiscal year 2025.

Monthly Suite of Bond Program Financial Reports as of August 31, 2025

Annual Suite of Bond Program Financial Reports for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Central Kitchen Modernization Project Update
The Central Kitchen Modernization Project is underway. The facility, originally built over 26 years ago, has served the district-wide community by providing meals for children for more than a quarter of a century. However, much of the kitchen equipment is now outdated and no longer serviceable. Parts are unavailable, manufacturers have gone out of business, and many vendors will not service the existing equipment.

The project was competitively bid, and on August 27, 2025, the Board approved the award of the construction contract to Lathrop Construction Associates with a contract amount of $14,390,000. The Notice to Proceed was issued on September 8, 2025, with construction mobilization beginning the week of September 15.

Currently, WCCUSD Food Services serves 30,000 meals each day. To facilitate construction, the Central Kitchen office staff will be relocated to the Facilities Operations Center office.

Stege ES Campus Replacement Project Update at the Community Meeting

On September 16, 2025, a Community Meeting was held at the Booker T Anderson Community Center to provide an update on the construction schedule and the design. The project update reviewed the completion of the demolition and status of Increment 1 for site utilities and grading, and Increment 2 for the building phase. The design update consisted of a site plan map, as well as an activity for the community to vote on the color schemes for both the interior and exterior designs. Please check out the presentation and what our Stege community voted on here: Stege Project Update