



November 21, 2025 Friday Memo

Upcoming Events

November 24 -28: No School

November 27 - 28: Thanksgiving Holiday, No school, District Offices Closed

December 2: Governance Committee Meeting, 9:00 a., PVHS-Library

December 2: Pinole Valley High School Band Performance at Warriors Game, 8:00pm, Chase Center

December 8: Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) Meeting, 6:15 pm, FOC

December 9: District Local Control Accountability Plan (DLCAP) Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, [Virtual](#)

December 10: Regular Board of Education Meeting, Public Session 6:30 pm, DeJean Middle School

Educational Services/TK-12 Operations - Summer Sigler

This past Saturday we completed our Marching Band season at the Rodriguez High Tournament of Champions. Our music students represented our school and community at a very high level and we should all be proud of them. We had several first this weekend and in total brought home four trophies.

In our division we received:

1st place Colorguard

2nd place Marching Band

3rd place Jazz Band

4th place Wind Ensemble

This is our Colorguard first 1st place!!! Our marching band got 5th overall for the marching which is a huge accomplishment for us as marching is often our biggest struggle. This is the first trophy our Wind Ensemble has earned at one of these events. The division for Wind Ensemble is very large and has some very difficult competition.

The biggest prize of all is that Monday and Wednesday marching rehearsals are now done for the year, as are the 14 hour Saturdays :)



Family & Community Engagement (FACE)- Summer Sigler (Martine Blake & Team)

On Wednesday, the Support Collaborative met to analyze data, discuss community schools strategies, and make sure that we are focused on continuous improvement. One effective community schools strategy highlighted was student lead committees around school climate. The video below shows the DeJean students in action! Their meetings have centered around planning lunch time activities. This thoughtful, student lead planning has increased productive student engagement during the lunch hour and decreased suspension by 50% year to day.

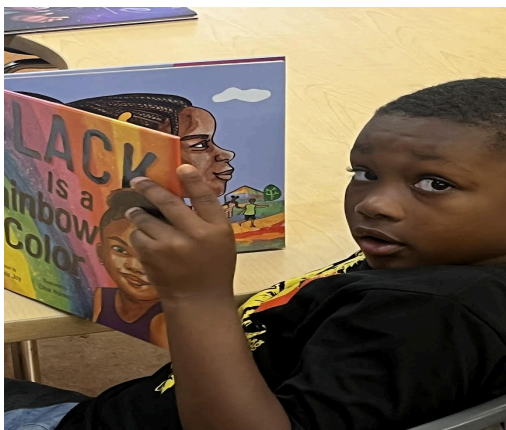
[DeJean Student Video](#)

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Early Learning/TK-12 Literacy/Humanities/OAASA-Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus (Sonja L. Bell & Team)

On November 6, The Office of African American Student Achievement (OAASA) hosted a three hour professional development for its Academic Support Providers. They learned more about the [Amira Learning](#) software that is being introduced to WCCUSD through the [Mission Critical Literacy Initiative](#).

The company describes Amira Learning as, “the world's first intelligent reading assistant that provides personalized tutoring to students at school, after school, or at home. Students working with Amira experience significant improvements in their reading fluency.” We have been using Amira Learning since last school year. Students love reading on Amira and getting real time data on their reading (i.e. words correct per minute).

OAASA employs nine part time (15 hours/week) Academic Support Providers to provide daily small group instruction in literacy to African American students at Bayview, Coronado, King, Lincoln, Nystrom, Peres, Riverside, Stege, and Tara Hills. The Academic Support Providers use SIPPS, Amira Learning, and other culturally relevant teaching and learning materials and strategies to support student achievement. Our Mission Critical students are not only showing improvement in their iReady scores, but are also building the confidence needed to foster an intrinsic love for reading.



Facilities - Ellen Mejia Hooper
Richmond High School Power Repair -

A power shutdown is planned for Richmond High to perform the repair to the main breaker over Thanksgiving week, with the goal of completing the repair and restoration to permanent power. We continue to partner with PG&E to restore power and appreciate their continued support.

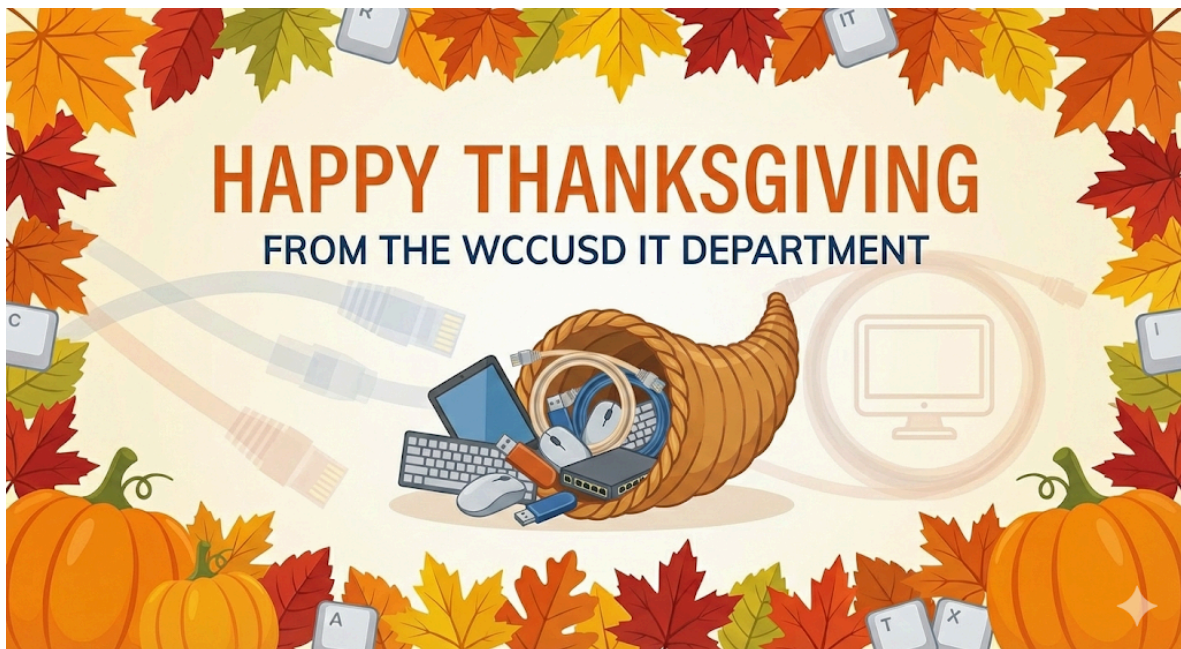
Reminder before Thanksgiving Break

Maintenance and Operations, and Facilities are reminding staff to prepare our buildings for the break. We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Please remember to:

- Pack up and take home any open food items from pre-holiday celebrations.
- Turn off and unplug electronics, appliances, and power strips.
- Secure classroom and office spaces, including closing windows and putting away valuables.

Information Technology- Laurie Wong Roberts, CTO



!!Urgent: Account Hijacking and Two-Step Verification

The Threat: The IT Department is receiving external notifications that WCCUSD employee email accounts are being compromised and used to distribute fraudulent documents via Google Drive that appear to originate from district leadership. Staff members whose accounts have been hijacked are often unaware of the breach. The common factor: these compromised accounts lack two-step verification, making them vulnerable to cybercriminals who only need a password—usually obtained through phishing—to gain access.

Two-Step Verification Explained: Two-step verification adds a second security layer to login: after entering a password, employees must confirm their identity by entering a code sent to their phone or by tapping an app prompt. The two steps in 2-step verification are something you know (the password) and something you have (your cell phone, or another email address in some cases). Having 2-step verification enabled blocks most automated account compromise attempts because even if a criminal obtains a password, they cannot access the account without physical possession of the employee's device.

IT actions: IT is strongly encouraging all staff to enable this protection immediately. We are also working on district-wide policy requirements given the ongoing security incidents that expose the district to legal liability, compromise official communications, and potentially expose protected student and employee information.

Immediate Guidance:

- Verify that two-step verification is enabled on your own district accounts.
- Be especially cautious about documents received via Google Drive, even from known district accounts.
- Report any suspicious communications purporting to come from district officials to IT by forwarding the email to unsure@wccusd.net

Human Resources - Sylvia J. Greenwood

Negotiations Update

The District continued its negotiations process with both Teamsters and the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) through formal fact-finding sessions held last week.

- **Teamsters - November 17, 2025:**

The District and Teamsters appeared before the assigned fact-finding panel on November 17. During this session, both parties presented their respective positions, supporting documentation, and cost analyses related to the outstanding proposals. The panel engaged in clarifying questions and requested additional information to assist in the development of its nonbinding recommendations.

- **United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) – November 18, 2025:**

On November 18, the District met with UTR and the appointed fact-finding panel. Similar to the previous day's proceedings, each party outlined key areas of disagreement, reviewed fiscal implications, and responded to inquiries from the neutral fact finder and panel representatives. Both parties committed to timely submission of supplemental materials requested by the panel to ensure a comprehensive review.

The fact-finding panels for both unions will reconvene, as needed, to finalize their reports. Under statutory timelines, fact-finding must be completed by **November 27 and November 28**, unless mutually extended. Once the panel issues its recommendations, the District and each union will have an opportunity to review the findings and continue negotiations in pursuit of a mutually agreeable resolution.

Recruitment Update

This past week, King Elementary hosted a successful parent engagement session titled “**Pathways to Employment with West Contra Costa Unified School District**,” presented by the Human Resources Team. The workshop drew approximately 30 parents, reflecting strong community interest in learning more about employment opportunities within the District. The HR Team will continue offering these workshops at additional school sites throughout the year to strengthen community engagement and expand the District’s recruitment pipeline.