

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
January 8, 2021

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy
January 9: Board of Education Retreat, 9:00 AM
January 12: DLCAPS Meeting, 6:30 PM

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COVID-19 District Protocols and Current Trends - Tony Wold (Michael Booker)

As we turn the calendar into January and the focus toward potential re-opening and planning for the next school year we wanted to update the board on our current protocols in response to growing numbers of positive COVID diagnoses within the District and community. The District has created a dedicated email for reporting: covid@wccusd.net which immediately notifies our response team. We are seeing a very sharp increase in the number of reports from District staff who report being either exposed or testing positive as you can see in the chart below:

These are staff cases that have been reports of exposure or positive cases. These numbers do not indicate whether or not they have been on site. The increase is related directly to the increase in community spread, which started in October and has been increasing rapidly.

Overview

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as handwashing, staying home when sick) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered in this document. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school administrators can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread during school sessions and activities.

Common COVID-19 symptoms among children include fever, headache, sore throat, cough, fatigue, nausea/vomiting, and diarrhea.

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non-compliance with safety protocols by employees within the district with warnings and progressive discipline for acts of non-compliance that put others at risk up to and including potential termination.

Contracts Update 1/8/21 – Tony Wold (Mary Kitchen)

The January 13th board summ

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Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Rubén Aurelio (Gabriel Chilcott & Team)

Science - John Iwawaki & Team

Freshman Physics

One of the many differences in New Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is a shift toward an emphasis on scientific practices and concepts and away from memorizations of formulae. This shift pushes Physics courses toward a more skill-based conceptual approach. One positive outcome of this shift is increased accessibility: because Physics must no longer be a high-level course intended only for college-bound upperclassmen, all high school students may take Physics, allowing all students access to all standards. As neither the [NGSS Standards](#) nor the

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College & Career - Rubén Aurelio (Allison Huie & team)

Business and Industry Partnerships Lead to Opportunities for Students - Allison Huie & Team

A critical component of [high-quality Career and Technical Education](#) programs includes nurturing strong relationships with business and industry partners. These partnerships benefit students by providing opportunities for students to engage in a variety of authentic work-based learning experiences. At the same time, our business and industry partners benefit by helping to develop their future workforce.

In a recent example, Headstream, one of our Information & Communications Technology partners, launched an exciting new opportunity for students in our Information Technology pathways. This program is recruiting students who have ideas about how to utilize the internet for youth health and wellbeing. Headstream staff is looking for young people who have a vision of how the internet can be a more beautiful place for youth to join a new, student-driven tech incubator. Selected WCCUSD students will participate alongside other students throughout the United States who are working on innovations that address an aspect of youth wellbeing, especially issues specific to Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and LGBTQIIA+ youth. Participating students will be eligible to earn \$1,500 for their efforts.

Know of a business that you think would make an amazing partner? We encourage you to share [this link](#) widely with all of your networks. Interested individuals can complete a quick survey to let us know how they might be able to help.

COVID Conditions Continue to Impact UC/CSU Admissions - Allison Huie & Team

We have seen numerous impacts on college and university admissions processes in recent months in response to our current health crisis. Fortunately, many of them actually benefit our current high school seniors. Both UC and CSU have delayed their system-wide admissions deadlines at least once this season to better accommodate potential applicants' successful submissions. Most recently, CSU announced Tuesday 1/5/21 that 18 CSU campuses are still accepting applications for Fall 2021 admission.

Additionally, CSU released the following statement regarding their plans for returning to in-person learning:

“In keeping with previous efforts to provide current and prospective students and families with information, clarity, and time to plan, the California State University (CSU) has announced that it is planning for an anticipated return to delivering courses primarily in-person starting with the fall 2021 term”.