



DPSCD Outperforms M-Step State Average!

DPSCD Shows Improvement Across All M-STEP Tested Grade Levels (3-7) in Literacy and Mathematics While Also Outperforming the State Average Across Grade Levels.

M-STEP results offer encouraging signs of improvement and reinforce confidence in the District's transformation strategy.

To learn more please visit detroitk12.org.

Academic Subcommittee Recap

During the August Academic Subcommittee Meeting, Superintendent Nikolai Vitti reported on DPSCD's vision for Cody High School and its feeder pattern with the neighboring elementary-middle schools. This coming year, DPSCD will work with partners to develop these plans and strengthen ongoing programs at Cody. In addition, the District is in its planning stages of developing wraparound health services to the Cody community. With the launch of the new high school standards-aligned curriculum, the District is looking forward to providing increased resources to assist with ESE students, while intentionally focusing on grade 9 students entering high school to ensure their needs are met as they make the transition from primary to secondary education.

In addition, the Academic Subcommittee approved the "Expect Respect" resolution which *commits to hold the value of respect at its core and establishes an expectation that mutual respect is necessary to enhance our strategic priorities of Transformative Culture and Whole Child Commitment.*



"Rise Up Read More" Independent Reading 2019-2020 Kickoff

We are excited to announce that between January and June 2019, our K-12 students read over 138,000 books! Schools won competitions for having the highest number of books read, proportional to their overall enrollment. Last year, DPSCD launched the K-12 independent reading initiative, Rise Up Read More. Students engaged in independent reading at home and then worked with their families to track each book they finished. We are pleased this initiative will continue for the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers will again support students in schools by reflecting on their completed books and model with students the rich conversations and thinking that can happen as a result of reading texts independently.

Students, teachers, and parents are encouraged to check our website for more information on this exciting opportunity for students to reach and surpass their independent reading goals. Visit detroitk12.org/curriculum.

REMINDER

**Curriculum/Academics
Subcommittee Meeting**

Fisher Building, 12th Floor
Monday, September 30 | 11 a.m.



Let's Read volunteers are trained and work with assigned K-3 students to build the foundational skills of literacy. To foster an environment where children can view reading as a life-long, empowering process, students choose their own books based on their interests. Volunteers then assist with reading and tracking student progress in their DPSCD Let's Read planner.

For more information and to volunteer please visit, detroitk12.org/LetsRead.



National Hispanic Heritage Month Writing and Arts Contest!

In commemoration of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15), DPSCD will engage in a District-wide Writing and Arts Contest **to empower students to demonstrate knowledge of Latinos who have positively impacted the USA (within their own families or in their communities) or demonstrate cultural competency of the Latino culture through written or artistic expression.**

QUALIFICATIONS

- Essay or poem (max. length 10 pages, typed 12' Times Roman)
- Artwork (should be hand delivered)

Submit only one piece of work from one of the three categories: essay, poem or artwork, per school for the final award. **The deadline for all submissions is Friday, October 11, 2019.** Participation is voluntary. Include your student's name, school and grade level. Winners will be contacted.

Questions? Contact Audry Hawkins at audry.hawkins@detroitk12.org



MAIL TO

The Office of Bilingual Education & Related Programs
3011 West Grand Blvd. 9th floor Detroit, MI 48226

Detroit History RESILIENT PAST. BEAUTIFUL FUTURE.

Kindergarten:
Transportation over Time



Students to Continue Learning the History of Detroit

This school year, after a successful Kindergarten pilot in Spring 2019, all students in grades K-5 will experience the Detroit History curriculum. This program stems from a parent who had a vision of students across the district learning about moments and movements in Detroit's history. Through the work of each unit, DPSCD students will experience social studies in a new way: it will be relevant, interactive, and promote curiosity and critical thinking. For more information, visit detroitk12.org/DetroitHistory.

The Montessori Method of Education

DPSCD is happy to offer the Montessori Method of learning to students across the District at the following schools: Edison Elementary, Edmonson "Wall to Wall" School, Maybury Elementary School, and Palmer Park Preparatory Academy.

The Montessori Method of teaching and learning was developed by an Italian doctor, Maria Montessori, in the early 20th century. Dr. Montessori's goal was to develop a learning environment that fostered a child's natural desire to learn. Through observations, this educator believed children absorbed knowledge from their surroundings. In addition, Maria Montessori further supported student's learning through uniquely designed learning materials.



There are several guiding principles that highlight the Montessori Method of teaching and learning. Mixed-age classrooms, peace education, individualized curriculum, teacher as facilitator, and student-initiated learning are a few of the principles that give life to this unique learning opportunity. For more information, visit detroitk12.org/Montessori



DPSCD Implements New High School Curriculum

Students in grades 9–12 are beginning a new State Standards aligned curriculum in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics this fall. DPSCD’s Office of Curriculum and Instruction convened a committee of high school teachers and leaders, as well as hosted Curriculum Chats with families throughout the community for the new high school ELA and Mathematics curriculum. The Board approved myPerspectives curriculum (ELA) and CPM Educational Program (mathematics), which students will begin this fall. Over the summer, DPSCD high school teachers attended week-long professional development training sessions on the new curriculum. Our teachers have immersed themselves in learning the techniques and lessons that will go into successfully implementing the curriculum moving forward.



Homework Hotline 833.466.3978

DPSCD’s Homework Hotline is a free resource available for all DPSCD students. The use of the hotline encourages outstanding achievement by providing students with an additional platform to seek help and emphasize their problem-solving skills. Students and families are encouraged to call the hotline for support with literacy and/or math homework. The Homework Hotline is offered during the academic year on Monday – Thursday, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. The Homework Hotline is closed on holidays, during school breaks and school closures.

To contact the Hotline please call
1-833-466-3978.

For more information,
visit detroitk12.org/HomeworkHotline
Language assistance is available.



PSAT/SAT Prep Available for High School Students

DPSCD high schools will continue to offer SAT Prep Courses for 10 and 11 grade students. During the summer months teachers and administrators engaged in professional learning focused on course expectations and ways to use supporting resources such as Khan Academy. The District is excited to continue this opportunity for students to deeply engage in sophisticated coursework to better their chances at college and career success. For more information, encourage your students to speak to their teachers or counselor for accessing Khan Academy at home.



Constitution Day

DPSCD’s Social Studies Department is excited to announce this year’s celebration of Constitution Day on **Tuesday, September 17**. On this day across the District students will take time to learn about the Constitution and its importance. Constitution Day is a federally mandated day to commemorate the signing of our Constitution on September 17, 1787. This year we celebrate 232 years since the signing. Besides marking this anniversary, Constitution Day also helps remind us of our privileges and responsibilities. In support of the District’s commitment to outstanding achievement, and to facilitate accordance with federal law, the Social Studies department of Curriculum and Instruction has put together lessons for all K-12 social studies classes. We can’t wait to see students engaged in Constitution Day lessons!

Summer Learning in Italy



On August 7 DPSCD’s Outstanding Achievers embarked on a trip to Italy allowing them to broaden their horizon. Fully funded by a District grant that supports our students, 54 of our high school students indulged in history and culture for ten days while exploring various destinations such as Rome, Venice, Florence, Sorrento, Capri and Napoli!

This international experience enables students to appreciate food, language, art, and cultural diversity in Italy. Moreover, the District is proud to support this opportunity as all participants have the opportunity to complete a free language online course with the University of California! Studies have shown students who are given the opportunity to travel are seen to have greater academic success and higher college acceptance rates. Please enjoy their trip through a gallery of photos at detroitk12.org.



Creating Safe and Supportive Schools for LGBTQ Students

Led by a team of facilitators from the Michigan Department of Education and the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit, this summer teachers received training in supporting LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) youth, as part of a wider equity initiative from DPSCD's Office of Educator Excellence. Participants first explored what LGBTQ terms meant, and other definitions around gender and sexuality, and then learned that there are over 36,000 lesbian, gay and/or bisexual students in Michigan high schools, or 8.7 percent of our high school students who self-identify as LGBTQ. These students experience rejection from families and others, and therefore increased incidence of homelessness, depression and suicide. The good news is that teachers can help! Teachers make a great difference in the lives of our LGBTQ students by modeling acceptance and inclusion, and simple acts such as using students' preferred pronouns (he/she/they/etc.). Our District policies, as well as state and national policies, ensure that students cannot be harassed or bullied, and participants learned about recommended State Board of Education policies that support our LGBTQ students. These include:

- 1 **Adopt, implement and enforce inclusive policies**
- 2 **Provide professional development opportunities**
- 3 **Provide family engagement and support**
- 4 **Encourage respect throughout educational culture**
- 5 **Collect and review data**
- 6 **Designate building-level staff**
- 7 **Provide information in school libraries**
- 8 **Support formation of Gay-Straight Alliances**



Academic Calendar

To view the complete 2018-2019 Academic Calendar, visit detroitk12.org.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SEPTEMBER 2019					OCTOBER 2019					NOVEMBER 2019				
H	3	4	5	6	1	CD	3	4						1
9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	4	PD	6	7	8
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	PTC-h	17	18	Q1	Q2	13	14	15
23	24	25	26	27	21	22	PTC	24	25	RC	19	20	21	22
30					28	29	30	31	25	26	27	H	29	

PD All Schools - Professional Development Day

CD Membership Count Days

PTC PTC Parent/Teacher Conferences

PTC-h PTC-h Parent/Teacher Conferences - High School

S Semester/Quarter Boundary

RC Report Card Day

● Schools Closed-No Students

H Public Holiday



Upcoming Board Meetings Schedule

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 5:30 p.m.
Western International High School

Board Community Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 5:30 p.m.
Ronald Brown Academy

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

Friday, September 27, 9 a.m.
Fisher Building, 12th Floor

Curriculum/Academics Subcommittee Meeting

Monday, September 30, 11 a.m.
Fisher Building, 12th Floor

The DPSCD Board of Education Curriculum/Academic Subcommittee Members

Angelique Peterson-Mayberry
Committee Chair

Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill
Committee Member

Georgia Lemmons
Committee Member

Contact us: (313) 873-3111

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction

Beth Gonzalez

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Contact us: (313) 873-8533

dpscd.curriculum@detroitk12.org



Read about exciting news and stories by connecting with us on social media:

@detroitk12



For more information about DPSCD please visit

Detroitk12.org