More than 200 civic leaders and students attended the Beyond Basics 2018 Literacy Summit at Mumford High School, where DPSCD Board Member and Chair of the Academics/ Curriculum Committee Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill and special guest, Elijah Craft, addressed the audience on the importance of literacy.

During the conference, Elijah shared his heart-felt story with the audience on his long journey to literacy. Before graduating from Central High School, Elijah was introduced to Beyond Basics, and after testing with the program, learned his reading proficiency was at a grade 1 reading level. After 14 weeks of Beyond Basics, Elijah has increased his reading level. He is still working with his tutor, Javier Reed, and together they are preparing Elijah for college.

Elijah’s story enthralled more than 70 high school students. The cherry on top of the conference was Dr. Hunter-Harvill urging all the students to be brave and to take advantage of Beyond Basics services right in the building at their school.

5000 Role Models

Project last month, Detroit Public Schools Community District is seeking mentors from the community to support this exceptional project for minority males in grades 6-12. The first service project is expected to be conducted in May 2018. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please visit https://bit.ly/2GE3am5 to sign up. You may also contact Dwight Jones at dwight.jones@detroitk12.org for more information.

Student Oratorical Competition

On May 23, 2018, the District will host its first oratorical competition. Students in grades 5-12 will compete as they recite speeches on the theme “Literacy as a Civil Right.” The competition is a continuation of our Black History and Literacy programming that will allow students to develop and refine their speaking skills while presenting an original argument around the theme.

Student Oratorical Competition

Board Member Misha Stallworth is scheduling several community meetings throughout the year with the theme, “All A Board!” These meetings will help the community understand how the board operates, how they can become more aware of board agenda items, and how they can participate. Attend a meeting near you:

5000 Role Models

Academics Sub-Committee Recap

In February, board members visited Henry Ford High School to attend the National Honor Society Induction for students. During the February sub-committee meeting, Dr. Vitti reviewed the results of the curriculum audit funded by Wayne RESA and discussed the shifts in instruction required by the Common Core State Standards.

As the standards shifted, DPSCD materials did not shift accordingly; therefore, current curriculum does not meet the demands of the standards.

The District posted an RFP for a highly-aligned K-8 math and literacy curriculum. One week after the sub-committee meeting, a committee of over 100 teachers convened to review the RFP submissions to provide their recommendations to Dr. Vitti regarding the best curriculum for DPSCD students.
Dr. Vitti and board members discussed plans to focus on college readiness among high school students. Action items include:

- Adopting a new student information system in order to develop an early warning system to proactively reach students who need extra support as they prepare to graduate and attend college.
- Expand the use of Khan Academy to prepare students for the SAT.
- Implement a College Ready Course for students in grades 10-12 who do not demonstrate college-ready skills.
- Expand the number of high school guidance counselors.

- Speak to students about graduation and college readiness rates.
- During the March sub-committee meeting approximately a half dozen teachers and principals reported out on their findings on the new curriculum. They were very excited about the experience.
- The Superintendent presented his literacy and mathematics recommendation for K-8 students.
- The sub-committee recommended to take the Superintendent’s curriculum recommendation to the full board. The committee recommended a review of the curriculum proposed by the full board.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is one of the nation’s oldest and most iconic competitions, and this year marked the noticeable return of DPSCD students to the competition. The competition was intense, and DPSCD students represented the district and city of Detroit with pride and distinction. Syeda Tabassum from Burton and Mohammad Hasib of Davison made it all the way to Detroit with pride and distinction. Syeda Tabassum from Burton and Mohammad Hasib of Davison made it all the way to the top 10, and Syeda was the final grade 5 student standing in the top five. We are very proud of each and every student who participated in the spelling bee and look forward to having a strong representation next year!

The 2018 district-wide Mathematics Bee competition is next month! This annual event, which will complete its 6th iteration in the series, will showcase the best and brightest mathematical fluency minds in lower elementary grades (2nd and 3rd grade brackets) and upper elementary grades (3rd, 4th & 5th grade bracket) in a competitive display of knowledge of operations on the set of whole numbers. This competition focuses solely on the procedural skill and fluency aspect of mathematical rigor. The official competition date has been scheduled for Saturday, April 21, and will be held at M.L.K. Jr. Senior High School. The lower elementary competition will begin at 9 a.m. and the upper elementary competition will begin at 12 p.m.

2018 Chess National Championships

DPSCD will have several teams qualify for national competition in various competition bands at the National Championships held in Knoxvile, Tennessee from April 27 – 30.

Academic Games National Championships

DPSCD will have several teams and competitors qualify for national competition in various competition bands at the upcoming National Championships:

- K-6 Chess National Championship
  - May 11 - 13 in Nashville, Tennessee
- K-9 Chess National Championship
  - April 6 - 8 in Atlanta, Georgia
- K-12 Chess National Championship
  - April 27 - 29 in Columbus, Ohio

Congratulations to the following students who excelled in their use of Algebra Nation to strengthen their skills inside and outside of the classroom!

**Algebra Nation Winners for February**

Algebra 1 Middle School Winners

- Bianca Green – J.E. Clark Preparatory Academy
- Kennaia Epps-Thomas – J.E. Clark Preparatory Academy
- Emarion Lee – J.E. Clark Preparatory Academy

Algebra 1 High School Winners

- Mahfuzu Meem – Ben Carson High School
- Ihsan Islam – Ben Carson High School
- Mahbuba Sumiya – Ben Carson High School
- Syeda Islam – Ben Carson High School
- Sanjida Ahmed – Ben Carson High School

Curriculum and Instruction has been bustling with professional learning opportunities for teachers.

- In ELA/Literacy, teachers wrapped up the final session of The Standards Series: Understanding the Shifts in ELA and a seven-week mini-course on foundational skills. Teachers and leaders were treated to guest speakers Meredith and David Liben from Student Achievement Partners, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping teachers and school leaders implement high-quality, college- and career-ready standards. David Liben spoke to the importance of foundational skills for students in grades K-3 and the role highly-aligned instructional materials play as we strive for improved student achievement!

- In Mathematics, teachers also concluded The Standards Series, during which they deepened their conceptual understanding by working on authentic learning tasks. In addition, Geometry and Algebra 1 teachers attended a Khan Academy Learning Institute last month, and for Algebra 1 teachers, Algebra Nation training will continue through May.

- In Science, teachers are getting creative with the CREATE for STEM Series. In February, teachers learned about using project-based learning mini-units with the Next Generation Science Standards and received hands-on materials to take back to their classrooms.