

curriculum connection



Academic Sub-Committee Recap

During the November sub-committee meeting, Beth Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, presented Foundational Skills Block K-2, which is 60 minutes of the daily 180 literacy block in K-2 English Language Arts. Ms. Gonzalez walked the audience through the lesson plans to reflect the Foundational Skills Block, which involves students learning to decode the types of lettersound connections, which ultimately aids in development as they learn to read and write. This is an essential part of the curriculum for grades K-2 because it's focused on the foundation of learning to read. Research shows in grades K-2, critical literacy foundational skills need to be built in order for students to read at grade-level. When older students cannot decode words, it could be linked to a gap the student experienced in grades K-2. This District is solving this gap early on by implementing the daily Foundational Skills Block, so our students can have better outcomes as they proceed in their education.



Become a Let's Read Volunteer today!

Detroit Public Schools Community District believes that it is critically important to build a culture of literacy within the school system and throughout the city. To accomplish this, we will need the support of District and school faculty, business partners, foundations, families, and community members to volunteer their time to help a student develop a love for reading. The saying, "It takes a village," holds true. We are uplifting our K-3 students during the most critical time of their literacy development. Join DPSCD in helping our students rise, by volunteering to read with them today!

For more information or to volunteer, complete the interest survey at <http://bit.ly/DPSCDletsread> or call Evelyn Mann at 313-873-7884.

DPSCD examination high school application period is open

DPSCD examination high school application process is now open to public school and non-public school students entering grades 9 – 11 in Fall 2019. For the first time, the District has transitioned to an online-only platform, detroitk12.org/examschools, designed to streamline the application process and allow flexibility for applicants and their families.

The District has five examination high schools including the new Marygrove campus, welcoming its inaugural class this fall.

- Cass Technical High School – The only International Baccalaureate public high school in Detroit.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School – MSAT Mathematics Science, (Arts, Athletics, and Applied Technology); CISC– Center for International Studies and Commerce; CPLA–College Preparatory and Liberal Arts Programs; and NAF Industry Certifications in Finances.
- Renaissance High School – Advanced placement classes and strong college preparatory curriculum.
- Southeastern High School – Business and Administration Pathway certified by the Michigan Department of Education and NAF.
- NEW P20 Marygrove High School Campus (for grade 9 only) – The first social justice and engineering pathway curriculum, the first and only exam high school to be located on a college campus in Michigan.

For more information and to apply, visit detroitk12.org/examschools.

DPSCD students show off coding skills during National Computer Science Education Week



Detroit Public Schools Community District students coded, hacked and danced their way through National Computer Science Education Week!

The competitive and educational week kicked off with a hackathon at Renaissance High School, hosted by DPSCD and TEALS (Technology, Education and Literacy in Schools). High school students from Renaissance, Frederick Douglass and Henry Ford formed groups where they had two hours to build and code machines that emulate a human hand. Students worked collaboratively to construct the robotic hand and put their skills to the test. A group of Renaissance seniors took home the gold and three individual winners were awarded for their leadership and efforts – the students received an Arduino microcontroller, which will aid them in their continued learning about STEM education!

The week continued with an interactive event with young women from Detroit International Academy. The Code Like a Girl STEM event gave the girls the opportunity to dance it out using code que cards. Once they saw a specific card, they knew the dance move that correlated. Through this exercise, the students learned how a computer follows code. The day culminated with an Hour of Code dance party where the girls coded their dance moves using programmed lights on a circuit playground.



By the end of the week, DPSCD was in computer science overdrive! TEALS and Microsoft sponsored a district-wide Hour of Code event, which was available remotely through the classroom. Each participating class had a volunteer who spoke to their class about STEM, coding, and helped them with the day's activity. In addition, our 4th and 5th grade classes from Hutchinson won a trip to the Microsoft Headquarters in Downtown Detroit to participate in an Hour of Code activity with STEM experts, where the students gained #RealWorldExperience.

The introduction to computer science at all grade levels increases access to more careers and opportunities to support our students' full potential. #StudentsRise.



Learning through Primary Sources



Underdog chess champion beats Expert players



The District adopted a new curriculum that comes with useful tools to help students get the most out of their educational experiences. For example, our students are being taught to use the same techniques and resources historians use to support their understanding of what happened during a historical event, this technique is called learning through Primary Sources.

Primary resources are texts, pictures, diary entries, newspaper articles, or any other kind of documents that tell a reader about a historical event. They are written by someone who witnessed the event. Kindergarteners might look at pictures that show how transportation has changed over time, and high school students might read diary entries to give them insight into the Black Death. Not only is learning history through primary sources engaging for students, but it also helps students build key skills, including:

- Inferencing
- Constructing an argument
- Extracting reliable evidence
- Learning a variety of perspectives

If you are curious about how you can support your student in navigating primary sources, Khan Academy has free primary source tutorials. Check out their “Reading Like a Historian” page at <http://bit.ly/thinklikehistorian>.

Congratulations to Cass Tech Junior Micale Garland who won the 2018 State Club Championship at the Lansing Center on November 10. Micale helped clinch a huge victory for Detroit City Chess Club by beating two top-rated players – one from Canada and the other from Michigan. The players he beat were both Experts, meaning they were only two levels away from being labeled as Grandmasters. Beating one Expert is outstanding, but beating two in the same tournament is extraordinary, considering Micale was not a titled player. DPSCD is proud of Micale on his outstanding achievement and congratulates his teammates and coach Bryan Wilson, Sr. on their accomplishments.



ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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

SECOND SEMESTER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
JANUARY					JANUARY/FEBRUARY				
	1	2	3	4	S2	29	30	31	RC
7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	11	12	CD	14	15
21	22	23	24	S1	18	19	20	21	22
					25	26	27	28	

KEY				
		Schools Closed- No Students		Report Card Day
		Semester/Quarter Boundary		Membership Count Days

Join an upcoming high school curriculum adoption community engagement event

In December, the District convened teachers and leaders from all DPSCD high schools to review and consider math and literacy curriculums to adopt for the 2019-2020 school year. The review committee narrowed down the submissions to the most highly State Standard-aligned programs. The committee is seeking feedback from the DPSCD community before they provide their recommendation to the Superintendent and School Board. There are four opportunities to give feedback on the programs at the Curriculum Adoption Community Engagement meetings at the locations listed below. Please choose an option that best fits your schedule. We look forward to seeing you there!

- **Tuesday, January 8**
Western International High School
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 8**
Benjamin Carson High School
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, January 9**
Denby High School
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **Wednesday, January 9**
Renaissance High School
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



Attend a Family Literacy and Math Night

This winter, Family Literacy and Math Nights will be hosted at a school near you. These events provide an opportunity for students and parents to engage in a night of information and fun, centered around literacy and math instruction. In addition, families can explore learning methods and the newly adopted K-8 curriculum resources while moving through interactive stations made to reinforce curriculum tactics. For more information, visit detroitk12.org/literacynights or ask your school for upcoming dates.

#DPSCDProud: EL Education teachers recognized for excellence



DPSCD teachers were recognized during a Curriculum, Communities, and Conversations Workshop hosted at Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior High School. Beth Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and Sharlonda Buchman, Assistant Superintendent of Family and Community Engagement recognized Patricia Roper and Moira Thomas for excellence in early implementation of EL Education.

- **Patricia Roper** is a highly qualified teacher at Bunche Academy. Ms. Roper spent this past summer and early fall attending classes in preparation for implementing the new EL Education reading series. She is the “go to” person at Bunche Academy for matters concerning reading. She models lessons, stays after school to offer mini workshops, and makes herself readily available during her lunch and preparation period.
- **Moira Thomas** has been outstanding in her support of teachers during this curriculum adoption. She capitalizes on prior experience with EL Education and guides teachers through the initial challenges. She has excellent rapport with her peers and is tireless in her efforts to find new ways to support them through thoughtful planning of weekly PLCs. As she completed her student teaching 3 years ago at Academy of the Americas (AOA), the team is proud to have her back with the AOA family.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Special Board Meeting

Fisher Building, 12th Floor
Wednesday, Jan. 9
5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

Renaissance High School
Tuesday, Jan. 15
5:30 p.m.

Policy Ad-Hoc

Sub-Committee Meeting

Fisher Building, 12th Floor
Tuesday, Jan. 22
9 a.m.

Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

Fisher Building, 12th Floor
Friday, Jan. 25
9 a.m.

Curriculum/Academics Sub-Committee Meeting

Fisher Building, 12th Floor
Monday, Jan. 28
5:30 p.m.



Opportunity for high school seniors - MI Seal of Biliteracy

If your child is a Senior this year and is able to speak, understand, read, and write in English AND in another language (Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, etc.) at the Intermediate High Level of language proficiency, he/she may be eligible to apply for the **Michigan Seal of Biliteracy**. Please encourage your child to apply for this award in January 2019. Students should reach out to their World Language teachers or principals if they are interested in this opportunity. Assessments will begin in early during second semester. Families may also contact the Office of World Languages at 313-873-7659. More information about the MI Seal of Biliteracy can be found at <http://bit.ly/mibiliteracy>.

THE OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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For more information about DPSCD please visit Detroitk12.org