

curriculum connection



Academic Subcommittee Recap

During the January Academic Subcommittee Meeting, Beth Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented on Social and Emotional Learning, a focus of the K-8 English language arts (ELA) curriculum. The District understands that Social and Emotional Learning is important for students as they develop their character. The District also supports this priority through the Stanford Harmony Curriculum for elementary students. A central goal of the curriculum is to help students become effective and ethical learners, so they can contribute to a better world. The goal of the intentional practices and lessons help students see other points of view, and teaches them to give meaningful feedback while learning the importance of standing up for others and what they believe in. With incorporating the intentional focus on character, students can become passionate about what they are learning because it's a connection to who they are as a person.



Rise Up, Read More

As outlined in our Blueprint 2020, outstanding achievement is one of the main priorities. There are many factors that impact student achievement, but literacy remains at the top of the list. In connection, the Office of Literacy has developed a comprehensive independent reading plan called the "Rise Up, Read More Challenge," which includes quarterly competitions, end of the year celebrations, and ideas to support ongoing literacy development. Students are recording each book they complete in their District provided planner and are submitting reading reflections or written responses to their teachers.

Grade 9 Physical Science NGSS Pilot, Interactions

Help a Student Achieve Success Through Let's Read



The District continues to make the exciting shift to the new and improved Michigan Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students are now “figuring out” science opposed to simply memorizing the science that others have discovered. In Grade 9, many students are piloting the award-winning course,

Interactions. This course prepares our students for the new Science M-STEP as well as the next generation job force!

Ms. Kimberly Stevenson, from Davis Aerospace, explained that the *Interactions* curriculum “has equipped her students with the ability to discover knowledge on their own, which gives them a sense of pride and satisfaction that they wouldn’t have normally [received] from a traditional classroom.”

“This program has allowed me to actually see the theory and research behind NGSS come alive in my classroom,” said Ms. Stevenson. “By incorporating Modeling and Talk Moves as a major part of my classroom environment, I have found my students to be more motivated and enthusiastic about their classwork. NGSS has offered my students a multi-faceted approach to learning that breaks up the monotony of the traditional teacher-centered classroom.”



DPSCD has raised a sense of urgency for building a strong culture of literacy within each of our schools and throughout the city. To accomplish this, it requires the support of school staff, families and community members.

The Office of Literacy and Family and Community Engagement are actively recruiting community members to serve in our schools as reading tutors for students. To express interest in volunteering, individuals should complete an interest survey using the following link: bit.ly/DPSCDLetsRead or contact Mrs. Evelyn Mann at evelyn.mann@detroitk12.org or 313-873-7884. For more information about the program please visit, detroitk12.org/letsread.

Elementary Chess Teams Will Go to Nationals



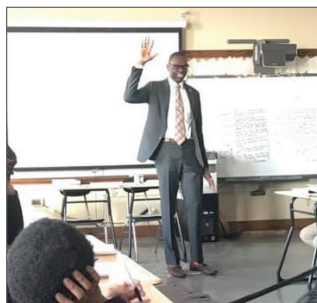
Bates Academy and Chrysler Elementary students played with grit and determination to win the 2019 Elementary State Chess Championship on February 2 at Palmer Park Preparatory Academy. Both teams tied for the Elementary State Championship, which featured top teams from Ann Arbor, Okemos, Troy, West Bloomfield, Canton, Grosse Pointe and Novi. Chrysler was leading most of the rounds until Bates Academy students came back at the end, taking the top spot by tiebreakers. All teams played five rounds for two hours for each game played. Both elementary teams will be headed to Nashville, Tennessee in May to take on the country’s best teams. Congratulations, students! #StudentsRise.

High School Curriculum Adoption for ELA and Math

A curriculum audit conducted for the District in 2017 revealed DPSCD’s current instructional materials were misaligned to the demands of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). DPSCD recognizes selecting new curriculum materials is a collaborative effort and involves the perspectives of key stakeholders. To select new curricula for high school English language arts (ELA) and math, the District assembled curriculum adoption committees with teachers and leaders from every high school. The committees convened, and reviewed materials provided by different publishers with the goal of making a final recommendation to the Board. In addition, DPSCD hosted Community Engagement sessions at four high schools, where approximately 300 students, teachers and community members conducted their own review of the proposed materials. Feedback from the Community Engagement sessions was provided for consideration to the curriculum adoption committees during the final day of the review process, at which both committees arrived at a final recommendation. The District will seek final approval at the Board of Education meeting scheduled for March 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Renaissance High School.

Students Gain Knowledge on Civic Engagement with Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist

CIEE Global Navigator Scholarship Winners



Students at Denby High School and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist discussed the importance of civic engagement and the power of influence. He spent the morning explaining what it takes to make student voices heard and how they can be a change-maker in their community. Gilchrist empowered the students and challenged them to speak up when they see something they do not like within their neighborhood. They learned they have the power to make changes if they put their hearts into it and work with like-minded peers. We want to thank Lt. Gov. Gilchrist for taking time to support our mission: educate and empower every student to build a stronger Detroit.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
MARCH					APRIL				
				1	1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	8	TD	TD	Q3	Q4
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	RC	19
18	19	PTC-h	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	PTC	28	29	29	30			

KEY



Parent/Teacher Conferences - High School



Parent/Teacher Conferences



Schools Closed - No Students



High School Testing Days



Semester/Quarter Boundary



Report Card Day

Reminder: Spring break traditionally begins on Good Friday, however this year's break is two weeks before Easter.

Congratulations to the 15 Renaissance and Cass Tech students who won the 2019 CIEE Global Navigator Scholarship! The students listed below will travel to different countries (Spain, Argentina, South Korea, France and more) for a month meeting other students across the world this summer to study languages and cultures. The important financial support from a private donor and the support from the Council of International Education Exchange (CIEE) made this international experience possible. This is the third consecutive year our students have applied for these competitive scholarships.

The students from Renaissance High School listed below were offered \$51,120 in combined scholarships.

Kyle Griggs, Spanish Language & Culture – Madrid, Spain
Yamah Bah-Deh, French Language Intensive – Rennes, France
Isabella Webster, Spanish Language & Culture – Buenos Aires, Argentina
D'Andre Jackson, Spanish Foodie Culture – Alicante, Spain
Tia Allen, Spanish Language & Culture – Barcelona, Spain
Josemaria Umejiego, French Language & Culture – Paris, France
Dorian Lofton, French Language & Culture – Paris, France
Sade Ried, Spanish Language Intensive – Palma de Maiorca
Alyssa Basemore, Spanish Language & Culture – Madrid, Spain

The Cass Technical High School students listed below were offered \$16,890 total in combined scholarships.

Harrison Haywood, French Language & Culture – Paris, France
Shaqyna Ross, Spanish Language & Culture – Buenos Aires, Argentina
Alexis Bradly, K-Pop Immersion – Seoul, South Korea

For more information about these scholarships, please visit, detroitk12.org/WorldLanguages.

Homework Hotline Now Available

DPSCD launched its Homework Hotline, a free, after-school resource for District K-12 students to seek live help and support from DPSCD teachers certified in English language arts and math. The hotline is open Monday – Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on regular school days. Call the hotline today at 1-833-466-3978.

For more information, visit detroitk12.org/HomeworkHotline.



Teachers Gear up for Grade 3 Computer Science Lessons

The Office of Computer Science and Innovation recently hosted its first third-grade computer science workshop. The teachers in attendance, new pioneers of innovation, were given WeDo LEGO Robotics kits to use in their classrooms. During the workshop, teachers learned three concrete and innovative ways to apply computer science principles in their third-grade science classrooms. The lessons consisted of "Metamorphosis of a Frog Robot," "Plants and Pollinators," and "Flood Gate Lesson."

Teachers attended a follow-up workshop called Mission Moon hosted by First Robotics. Teachers who attended these workshops received Chromebooks provided by a \$115,000 donation from Google.



DPSCD Introduces New History Curriculum



DPSCD released its new Detroit History curriculum for students in kindergarten through fifth-grade this past February, just in time for Black History Month. Students will learn how the city was built as well as learn about the sacrifices, achievements, and key historical events, such as the great fire of 1805.

"The sense of urgency behind this initiative was to ensure that our students understood the history of their city, which is directly linked to their identity," said Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, DPSCD. "That history is powerful with examples of achievement and struggle. Too often the teaching of history negates the local context and the immediate experiences of our families and neighborhoods. Local history makes learning relevant and empowering. It activates citizenship!"

For more information, visit detroitk12.org.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Regular Board Meeting
Renaissance High School
Tuesday, March 12
5:30 p.m.

Policy Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Meeting
Fisher Building, 12th Floor
Tuesday, March 19
9 a.m.

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
Fisher Building, 12th Floor
Friday, March 22
9 a.m.

Curriculum/Academics Subcommittee Meeting
Fisher Building, 12th Floor
Monday, March 25
11 a.m.

K-3 Reading Law Updates



Our priority is to deliver exceptional learning opportunities for all students, and we are fully committed to supporting all students in achieving grade-level mastery. As part of the "Read by Grade Three Law," teachers were required to provide an Individual Reading Improvement Plan for K-3 students who demonstrate a reading deficiency on their i-Ready assessment. The District will continue to provide updates regarding this important legislation. A meeting was recently held for community members to learn more about what DPSCD is doing to support students in grades K-3 and was lead by Superintendent Dr. Vitti and Board Member Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill. We encourage all community members to learn more through Parent Academy workshops and District communications. Parents are also invited to engage with school teachers and leaders about the use of technology to enhance reading opportunities, the new curriculum, and DPSCD's independent reading plan "Rise Up, Read More" and exciting volunteer opportunities such as "Let's Read." Learn more at detroitk12.org.

THE OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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For more information about DPSCD please visit Detroitk12.org