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THE WIDEFIELD WAY

Vol 4, No. 2 • November 13, 2019 • (719) 391-3000

The Widefield Way is printed quarterly by Widefield School District 3 - 1820 Main Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80911.
Postmaster: Direct address changes/corrections to the printers address.



Kathleen Facon, DoDEA Chief Education Partnership & Resources; Kevin Duren, WSD3 Executive Director of Secondary Learning and Math Achievement; Jennifer Dailey-Perkins, DoDEA Grant Program Manager; and Nat Sobin, WSDS STEM Instructor and Grant Coordinator in Houston, TX for the 2019 Grantee Professional Learning Meeting.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Duren

Widefield Awarded \$750,000 DoDEA Grant

BY SAMANTHA BRIGGS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

Widefield School District 3 (WSD3) is thrilled to announce it has been awarded a \$750,000 grant by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). The grant will be used toward the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiative in the district.

“This grant allows students to see computers and technology as tools for creation, not just consumption,” said Kevin Duren, Executive Director of Secondary Student Learning and Math Achievement.

Duren, along with STEM Instructor and Grant Coordinator Nat Sobin, worked hard to pursue this grant

in order to continue providing opportunities for students. The grant will be used over a five year period and directly benefit our junior high schools, high schools, and two elementary schools including Grand Mountain School and Talbott STEAM Innovation School.

Some of these schools will be introduced to new computer science programs, such as computer literacy, programming, coding, information technology, and cyber security, while other schools will expand their current programs.

Funding will also be used toward equipment, supplies, teacher training, and professional development.

“Computer science is a highly technical field and it is difficult to find teachers with these specific skill sets. This grant allows teachers with an interest in computer

science to learn the content to build competence and confidence,” said Duren.

The DoDEA grant also helps to fund after school clubs and competitions. WSD3 will be participating in five competitions this school year utilizing robotics, coding, Seaperch, and computer programming. Secondary students have already competed in the BEST Robotics competition in Englewood in which Discovery High School’s team, the Phoenix Force, took fourth place and is an alternative to compete in regionals. Elementary students competed in the FIRST LEGO League El Paso County Qualifier at Janitell Junior High on November 9.

For more events, please contact your child’s school or check the district calendar on our website, wsd3.org, or call 391-3000.



Photo by Samantha Briggs

Grand Mountain School held school wide assemblies to launch its Computer Science Integration program.



Photo courtesy of Discovery High School

The Phoenix Force from Discovery High School took 4th Place at the BEST Robotics competition and will compete at regionals.



Photo by Carolyn Stephen

Brielle Emerson, Mesa Ridge High School freshman, uses table saw to cut boards for her cabinet with the help of volunteer Andrea Torrez.



Photo by Samantha Briggs

Careers in Construction students at the Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab (MiLL) put up walls on their home build project.

MiLL Named Best Trade School

BY SAMANTHA BRIGGS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

The Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab (MiLL) is one of the Best Trade Schools in Colorado Springs. The MiLL took Silver in the Best Of Colorado Springs contest put on by the Colorado Springs Independent (Indy). Each year the Indy collects nominations to create ballots for readers to vote on the “Best Of” in a variety of categories.



Boulevard, is a partnership between Widefield and Peyton school district. The MiLL houses a woods manufacturing and a construction program.

On the construction side of the house, third year students in the Careers in Construction program are building a modular home designed by Clayton Homes, which is owned by Berkshire Hathaway Group. The students will use the skills they have learned in the classroom setting: carpentry, plumbing, electrical and OSHA10 safety, to construct a new home on school grounds. First and second year students in the construction program are building dog houses, chicken coops, and playhouses that will soon be for sale to the public.

On the manufacturing side of the house, first and second year students are designing and building short cabinets with drawers. Third year students are reconstructing a wooden desk and other office furniture, and fourth year students are making cabinets to be placed inside the modular home.

Starting next semester, a welding program will be added for high school students in the Pikes Peak region. We will share more information on that program next semester.

To learn more about the MiLL, schedule a tour, or become a partner, visit the district website at wsd3.org or call 719-391-3595.

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Public Library 1/4v

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forgets how
to drive.



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Safety & Security Improvements

BY SAMANTHA BRIGGS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

Student and staff safety is our number one priority in Widefield School District 3 (WSD3). We know students cannot learn and staff cannot work if they do not feel safe.

This school year, we were able to add additional security officers across the district. We currently have four highly trained security officers who are part of our mobile team. These officers patrol the entire district and assist buildings as needed. We have campus

supervisors at all our secondary schools, as well as three School Resource Officers (SRO) with the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office. WSD3 also has a security officer located at the Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab (MiLL).

In addition to personnel, we were able to add additional security cameras to schools and district buildings. We’ve also updated life safety systems such as fire alarms and door locks.

As you may be aware, all of our outside doors are locked during the school day and outside visitors are asked to identify them-

selves and what their business is before being buzzed into a school. If a visitor has business that requires them to have access to the rest of the building then their driving license is scanned through our Raptor System which checks several databases to do a quick background check on that individual. Upon getting clearance from the Raptor System, a badge is printed with the person’s picture and name which they should wear at all times while in the school building.

With all that in place, parents and guardians can help us by encouraging your student to let an adult know if they see or hear some-

thing that is not safe. A student can always talk to a staff member, family member or trusted adult. We also strongly encourage the use of Safe2Tell, a safe and anonymous way to report information. You can text, email or call a tip line any time of the day to make a difference in your community.

We appreciate the community’s support in helping to keep our students and staff safe. You can find more information about our safety protocols by visiting the district website at wsd3.org or call 391-3000.





It’s Open Enrollment Time!

Widefield School District 3 has many schools that offer a variety of unique programs and educational opportunities for students. If you would like your child to attend one of our schools that is not your neighborhood school, you may submit a Boundary Waiver to the school of your choice.

The open enrollment period ends on February 28, 2020. Boundary waiver forms are

available at each school building, central registration, and online at wsd3.org. Please turn in your boundary waiver to the front office of the school you wish to attend.

If you are currently on a boundary waiver for the 2019-2020 school year, you will need to submit a new boundary waiver for 2020-2021 school year.

 <div>FRENCH ELEMENTARY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GLOBAL ARTS• COMPUTER CLASS• POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SYSTEM	 <div>KING ELEMENTARY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PROJECT BASED & INDIVIDUAL LEARNING INNOVATION SCHOOL• DEDICATED STAFF• AWARD WINNING SCHOOL	 <div>PINELLO ELEMENTARY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• STEM FOCUS• TITLE ONE INTERVENTION/GIFTED AND TALENTED EXTENTION• AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	 <div>SUNRISE ELEMENTARY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING• PLAYWORKS RECESS PROGRAM• STEAM ENRICHMENT DAYS
 <div>TALBOTT STEAM INNOVATION SCHOOL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• K - 5 STEAM CLASSES• PROJECT LEAD THE WAY• PROJECT BASED LEARNING	 <div>VENETUCCI ELEMENTARY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AVID• BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES• WHOLE-CHILD FOCUS	 <div>WEBSTER ELEMENTARY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AVID• AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES• STUDENT LEADERSHIP	 <div>WIDEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS INNOVATION SCHOOL• FULL TIME ART TEACHER• PIANO, BAND, STRINGS
 <div>JANITELL JUNIOR HIGH</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADVANCED CLASSES & ARCHIVE 3000• PROJECT LEAD THE WAY• PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS	 <div>SPROUL JUNIOR HIGH</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAMILY-LIKE CULTURE• STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES• WHOLE CHILD APPROACH	 <div>WATSON JUNIOR HIGH</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRE - AP IN ALL CORE SUBJECTS• AVID• AWARD WINNING ADVANCED MUSIC COURSES	 <div>DISCOVERY HIGH SCHOOL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL & ACADEMIC SKILLS• SIX - WEEK TERMS• FIELD EXPERIENCES AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
 <div>WIDEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS• PROJECT LEAD THE WAY• VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS	 <div>MESA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AVID• PATHWAY CLASSES FOR COLLEGE/WORKFORCE READINESS• PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS	 <div>JAMES MADISON CHARTER ACADEMY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TUITION FREE K - 8TH GRADE• SMALL CLASS SIZE• AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	 <div>GRAND MOUNTAIN SCHOOL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COMPUTER SCIENCE INNOVATION SCHOOL• PRE-K TO 8TH GRADE
<div><div>D3 MY WAY</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONLINE BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAM• FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE• 21ST - CENTURY LEARNING</div>			
<div><div>WIDEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 3</div></div> <div><div>FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (719) 391-3000</div><div>OR VISIT WWW.WSD3.ORG</div></div>			

Important Dates

Holiday Tree Lighting

Dec. 3 ~ 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Widefield Parks and Recreation

D3 Toy Drive

Dec. 19 ~ All Day
District-wide

Chess Tournament

Jan. 28 ~ 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
SA Wilson Gym

Spelling Bee

Feb. 6 ~ 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
WHS Auditorium

Science With a Twist (SWAT)

Feb. 8 ~ 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Janitell Junior High

*Please check the D3 Music Calendar for all school performances



WIDEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 3

Airforce Athletics 1/2h