

LAS CRUCES PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS *NEWS*

AUGUST 2020



Santa Fe New Mexican Article on Community Schools

By Bill Soules, Katherine Ortega Courtney
and Dominic Cappello

Amid many lessons to be learned, COVID-19's disruption of school asks us to pause and reflect on public education's role in society, its strengths, weaknesses and capacity for reinvention.

We have an opportunity to redesign public education to ensure the academic success, health and empowerment of every student. Our greatest failure would be ignoring glaring historical problems in the current systems that have left so many behind.

The choice is stark. We either sit passively, hoping that things get back to some form of "normal" and continue school as usual. Or we take this historic opportunity to create in New Mexico a world-class system that empowers 100 percent of students.

Read the full article [here](#).

Community Partners in Education

Our Las Cruces Community Schools are excited to partner with Cruces Creatives and others throughout the community to launch the Community Partners in Education Initiative. This platform will help connect and match community partners or individuals who are looking to support our students and schools directly with educators who are looking for help from community members.

If you are a local educator or a community partner or individual looking to support our public schools, please sign up [here](#).



Dear Las Cruces Community,

It is with bittersweet emotions that I announce that I've accepted a position with NEA-New Mexico supporting community schools across our state. Being part of the community schools movement here in Las Cruces has been an unforgettable and deeply meaningful chapter in my life, and I look forward to staying connected with our work here. I will be transitioning to NEA-NM at some point over the next several months as we work to find a new Director of Community Schools here in Las Cruces. My new email address will be dgreenberg@neanm.org. Let's stay in touch!

Dave



Please follow the Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools on **Facebook** at facebook.com/lcpartnershipcommunityschools.

SCHOOL UPDATES

DOÑA ANA COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Family Engagement

During the week of August 3, Doña Ana families participated in one or more of the following parent support workshops thanks to the support of Ngage NM, NMSU STEM Outreach Center and Children's Reading Alliance. Each workshop was in English, but with the support from our Bilingual department, several of our families were able to listen to the workshop in Spanish.

The topics were:

- **How to Read with My Child**- where parents learned how to create a reading schedule and make reading fun.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program**- where parents learned the benefits of giving their child a big brother or big sister.
- **Finding Peace during Online Learning**- where parents learned and practiced breathing exercises and the importance of taking breaks.
- **Healthy, Family Workout Sessions**- where parents learned how to do an eight minute workout with their child.
- **Helping My Child with Online Learning**- where parents learned how Title 1 funding is used to support students and parents.

With these workshops our parents received a parent tool bag to help them be more successful with online learning. Over 60 parents have received a bag with a laminated schedule chart, digital timer, children's book, and a folder filled with information. All parents were also asked to fill out a survey that will help us to develop future workshop topics.



LYNN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lynn is currently providing all students with a small bag of school supplies that includes a graph paper notebook, a composition notebook, a spiral notebook, a ruler, scissors, pencils and an eraser. Our goal is to give students something to begin their school year with and show them that Lynn is here for them. Special thanks to Walgreens for donating 1000 bags to hold supplies!! So far, Lynn has distributed 500 school supply bags and gave out 400 devices and counting.

Over the past year, Lynn student Abbey Charity participated in a mentorship opportunity through our partnership with the Hazlo Foundation. Under the guidance of Cruces Creatives, she worked to record a music album from start to finish, including the artwork for the cover and three original songs she wrote herself. In her post-project reflection, she states

“This project was very important and special to me because music is my passion and it's been my dream since I was little to record my own music. Working on Don't Look At Me gave me the chance to start learning about how to produce my own music way earlier than I thought I would ever get to. I hope that my project can inspire other kids my age to start learning about their passions and working on projects with learning experiences through Hazlo.”

Our hope is to work with Hazlo to create many more mentor/mentee projects at Lynn that students can be passionate about.



SCHOOL UPDATES



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Booker T. Washington Community Elementary School and community school coordinator Jessica Barnhill have been working with Western Sky Community Care for the past seven months to bring a community closet to our school. After much collaborative work, we are pleased to announce that Booker T. Washington Community Elementary School was awarded \$1,500 to start our community closet - we will be providing essentials items that our students/families need, like shampoo, conditioner, underclothes for students, and socks.

In addition, on Thursday, August 13, 2020, our school will be providing students with learning devices and materials for online learning. With the support of the community we will also be distributing FREE learning kits from the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.



MACARTHUR COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Family and Community Engagement

During the week of July 27, six MacArthur staff volunteers called and surveyed over 180 families in order to inform them of the school re-entry process and kindergarten registration as well as to assess their need for laptops at home, internet services, meals and assistance with other local resources. We had 137 families registered for tech devices distributed on August 11 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., along



with books and other classroom resources.

In order to increase our low kindergarten registration, MacArthur hosted a Drive-Thru Kinder Registration for Families. We held registration services on Tuesday, August 4 from 8 a.m. to noon and Wednesday, August 5 from 3 to 6 p.m. We assisted many families with registering students for multiple grade levels, updating paperwork, and enrolling students for tech and internet allocation. We are very happy to have conducted such a safe and effective drive-thru for MacArthur families!

It takes a village: Community and schools unite to respond to COVID-19

by David Greenberg

Perhaps one silver-lining amidst this horrible pandemic is that our society will more fully recognize the crucial role that schools play in our communities. It is clear that schools are much more than conduits of academic content — they are essential for the social-emotional development of students, and they serve as community hubs for basic needs such as nutritious meals and school-based health.

In Las Cruces, we have long recognized the potential for schools to serve a broader function, and we have recently invested in an approach to education known as community schools. This investment has paid off during the current public health crisis, as our schools have worked hand-in-hand with a multitude of community partners to rapidly and flexibly respond to the needs of our families and students. While our school doors may be closed, the system of relationships and community partnerships that Las Cruces has cultivated has helped us rise to current challenges.

Las Cruces Public Schools formally embraced the community school framework in 2016 with a School Board resolution. In 2018, the Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools was formed with the City of Las Cruces and several other organizations to support and expand the community school model. In addition to high-quality academics, community schools encourage deep family and community engagement, promote a philosophy of shared leadership, provide basic needs and health services, and offer community-based extended and enriched learning opportunities. These evidence-based “pillars” are strongly backed by decades of research demonstrating their impact on improving outcomes for all students.

As of this school year, four of our district’s schools have full-time community school coordinators who strategically align resources with local needs and vision. However, our entire district has embraced the community school pillars in our response to the COVID-19 crisis. Our educators districtwide



Nathan J. Fish/LC Sun-News Photo

connected with parents, our social workers and counselors triaged families needing support, and our administrators provided access to technology to help close the digital divide. Schools like Mesa Middle School that have longstanding community partnerships, such as monthly Roadrunner grocery distributions, have sustained and bolstered those initiatives. District staff continued offering meal services at multiple sites in partnership with Families and Youth, Inc, our homeless and migrant student support team helped to identify and distribute care packages to families districtwide, and our community outreach and bilingual services department hosted focus groups with families to better understand their perspectives on remote learning and how we can best support them.

Schools with full-time community school coordinators were able to respond at an even deeper level. MacArthur Elementary School is partnering with Amador Health Center to respond to mental and physical health challenges that school staff identified through a deep needs assessment process that involved directly calling all of MacArthur’s families. Lynn Community Middle School worked with doctors at Memorial Medical Center’s Family Residency Program to share customized video messages with Lynn families and students about the virus and public health response. Booker T. Washington Elementary

School distributed masks to families and students, and received funding from Western Sky Community Care and Community Action Agency to support basic needs for families.

To help ensure continuous learning experiences, Doña Ana Elementary School partnered with La Semilla Food Center to distribute 100 at-home gardening kits and enroll families in a series of virtual courses on gardening. Doña Ana and Booker T. Washington are also distributing learning kits assembled by the NM Farm and Ranch Museum, and Lynn provided a variety of learning kits developed by Cruces Creatives.

As we prepare to enter the semester virtually, Doña Ana is partnering with Ngage NM and NMSU STEM Outreach Center to develop a series of virtual workshops for families in English and Spanish, such as Helping my Child with Remote Learning, Community Resources – Where Can I Go for Help?, Managing Stress with Mindfulness Meditation, How to Read with My Child, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program. Along with these workshops, the school is also providing parents with a “tool bag” that will have materials to support them with remote learning, as well as backpacks and school supplies for all students.

It’s clear that the pandemic has laid bare longstanding inequities, in addition to inflicting a new set of hardships and trauma that will inevitably end up in our classrooms, real or virtual. Our schools cannot and should not be responsible for meeting these challenges by themselves — it will continue to take our entire community working together to rebuild and re-structure our education system so we are able to respond to the difficulties of the present moment and realize equity and success in the future.

If you are a community partner or individual looking to support our public schools, please sign up at communityshare.us/las-cruces/. Please also follow the Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools on Facebook at facebook.com/lcpartnershipcommunityschools.

David Greenberg is the director of community schools at Las Cruces Public Schools.

View the full article [here](#).



DENTAL SERVICES AT DACC

This semester, DACC dental hygiene program - will be offering dental health services for the low price of \$50. Along with that if you have a student who attends Lynn this fee will be waived.

The clinic accepts patients of all ages and offers high quality hygiene and preventative services.

If you would like your family to receive preventative dental services such as:

**Oral Health Screenings; Dental Cleanings;
Fluoride Treatment; Dental Sealants;
Nutritional Counseling related to oral health;
Oral Hygiene Instruction and many more**

Please call for an appointment
575-528-7071

Clinic is located at 3400 S. Espina Street
Alex Sanches Building Room 80 (corner of Espina & Wells)



SERVICIOS DENTALES EN DONA ANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Este semestre, el programa de dental en DACC ofrecerá servicios dentales para cualquier familia de la comunidad por \$50. También si su estudiante esta registrado en Lynn no se aplicanran tarifas.

Si desea que su o su familia reciba servicios preventivos dentales como:

**Exámenes; Limpiezas;
Tratamiento de Fluor; Selladores Dentales;
Instrucciones Higiene Bucal**

Por favor llama para programar una cita
575-528-7071

La clinica de DACC esta ubicada en 3400 S. Espina
Alex Sanchex Building room 80 (esquina de espina y wells)

FREE ONLINE GED CLASSES

WHEN:
**Wednesdays
& Thursdays**
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**FREE Classes for LCPS Parents
and Community Members**



Las Cruces Public Schools
505 S. Main St, Suite 249
Las Cruces, NM 88001

**For more
information,
contact:**

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(575) 468-8279

CLASES GRATUITAS DE GED EN LÍNEA

DÍAS:
**Martes
& miércoles**
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Clases GRATUITAS para
padres de LCPS y miembros
de la comunidad**



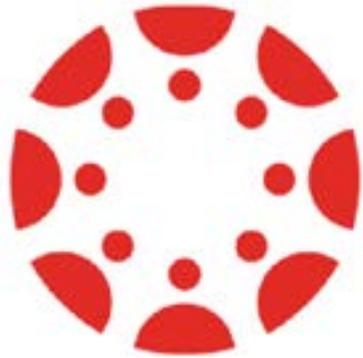
Las Cruces Public Schools
505 S. Main St, Suite 249
Las Cruces, NM 88001

**Para más
información,
contacte a:**

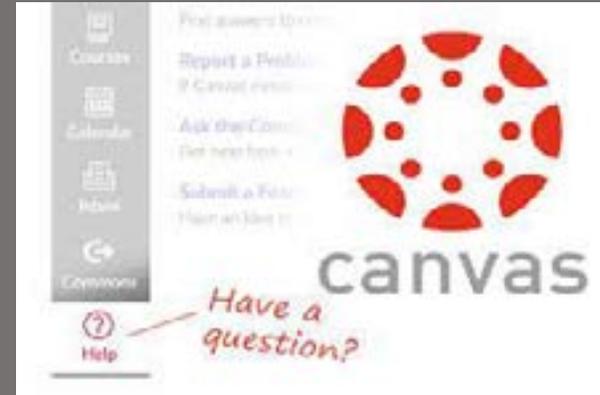
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FAMILIES, NEED canvas HELP?



Canvas Help: Office Hours Saturday, August 29, 2020 2 to 4 p.m.

A group of educators are teaming up to answer all your questions about Canvas! These educators will be able to answer families' questions one on one, that way everyone gets the most out of this experience. Join us this Saturday via Zoom for all your Canvas help.

Please follow the Zoom link below to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucO6sqTwwEtLNmZBeGh6b2s9ko_oLTuDT

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

