

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Collaboration with MWH Global
- Cowboys to the Rescue
- Within West: In the Middle
- METAS
- Blogapalooza
- STEMapalooza
- Manny Middle School

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The Cowboy Chronicles



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New Sheriff In Town

Denver West High School is the oldest high school in Denver, Colorado. In 2010 West will celebrate its 127th year of being a high school. With such a rich tradition in West Denver's community, West High School and the Elati building are a staple. Many residents can boast that they are 2nd and 3rd generation graduates from this prestigious institution. Along with a rich history, West is also seeing changes and the first is in their leadership. Principal Jorge Loera is beginning his first year at West High School and comes with an amazing reputation and a zeal for students and their success. Mr. Loera has taken the, "bull by the horns," through his excitement over the new METAS philosophy to his support of the brand new

Energy Workforce Program, presented by Goodwill Industries of Denver.

Along with this supplemental



New West High School Principal Jorge Loera.

(Picture from West High website)

class change comes a new member of the West High School faculty, Ms. Amber N. Smith, M.Ed. Ms. Smith has been in edu-

cation for 12 years and proudly hails from Denver, Colorado, though we will forgive her for graduating in 1997 from rival East High School. Ms. Smith is truly excited about the possibilities for the program at West High School and is extremely thankful to the administration, faculty and staff at West High School for their support.

By Amber N. Smith, M.Ed.



New Goodwill Energy Workforce Program Facilitator,
Amber N. Smith

METAS building STEAM

West High School has taken a new direction, the school that formerly housed the Denver Center for International Studies, has become cutting edge once again. METAS means goals in Spanish and also stands for Medical, Engineering, Technology, Arts and Service Learning, this program will be implemented for the first time at West High School by freshman students.

METAS aims to expose students to careers in highly competitive areas that are STEM focused. The program will provide hands-on activities as well as curriculum, that is created and implemented by the talented faculty at West High School, and coordinated by Jessica Newman, METAS Coordinator. Students will begin the first wheel on October 19th. Students will receive intensive

study in each of the METAS areas for approximately 4 weeks. The intensive study is also aimed to improve their understanding of math, science and English through creative, hands-on curriculum.

By Amber N. Smith, M.Ed.

MWH Global Making A Splash



MWH Global, an engineering firm that focuses on water, continues their on-going awareness efforts of the water cycle, water conservation and global awareness through their middle school activity based curriculum. This curriculum is designed to create awareness as well as give students tangible and realistic ways in which to save water.

Through their commitment to conservation and giving back, MWH Global has teamed up with West High School students through the Goodwill

Energy Workforce Program, to create a “train the trainer” program. This opportunity was born through a relationship fostered by Goodwill Industries of Denver.

MWH Global professionals will come into the classroom in three sessions to teach the Energy Workforce Program students how to implement the MWH Global curriculum. The students will then take this curriculum to local middle schools, including a possible partnership with Manny Martinez Middle School that shares

a building with West High School, and teach this curriculum to the younger middle school students. This program aims to connect the community with the school as well as meet the METAS goal of Service Learning. This collaboration was created in order to ensure continuity with METAS and provide students with opportunities for public speaking, as well as exploration into the jobs of teacher, public speaker and water conservationist .

By Amber N. Smith, M.Ed.

Making a Splash

“The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn.”

—John Lubbock

STEMapalooza

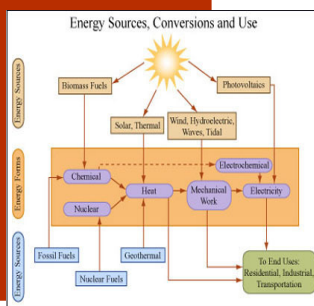
Kicking off its second year in the Denver Metro Area, STEMapalooza is back. This two day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), focused expo is designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore the various STEM areas through hands-on activities, as well as demonstrations and presentations. As West High School is beginning its first wheel of

METAS, the teachers and coordinator find that STEMapalooza comes at a perfect time. All of the 9th graders as well as the Goodwill Energy Workforce Program students will attend STEMapalooza on Friday October 16, 2009 at the Downtown Denver Convention Center. Students will be given the task of identifying the multitude of jobs in the STEM areas, as well as enjoying them-

selves while learning new ways to view Math and Science. It is the hope of the teachers and METAS coordinator that students will be fired up about METAS and STEM, thus allowing them to explore more opportunities in these areas. This event is free both Friday and Saturday to the public and families are encouraged to attend.

By Amber N. Smith, M.Ed.

Electrified Workforce



Energy Map by MIT OCW

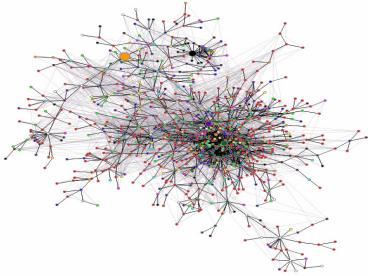
This year marks the first year of the Goodwill Energy Workforce Program at West. This program is presented to the students of Denver West High School and Denver East High School, exposing

students to the energy industry. This two level course begins with Level 1: Exploring Energy, from where it comes and discussing ways in which we can work on utilizing all resources to create a cleaner and better future. Students will also get more intensive study in basic mathematical and me-

chanical concepts. Level 2 will focus on the various jobs in the energy industry through presenters, hands on activities, themed curriculum and visits to various energy related companies. The students and Ms. Smith look forward to an exciting year.

By Amber N. Smith, M.Ed.

Blogapalooza



The Energy Workforce Program at West High School has taken a new approach to assignments and technology. Students participating in the fall semesters level I class, have

Representation of the Blogosphere by Datamin-ing.timepad.com

floated into the blogosphere. Blogs are not just for ranting writers anymore, the Goodwill Energy Workforce Program uses blogs to post assignments for students as well as have a location for students to post their replies to the assignments. Ms. Smith the teacher of the Energy Workforce Program has used blogging for the past four years to expose her students to new technology as well as

allow for easier access to the class assignments. As the world is depending more on computers, it is the belief of Ms. Smith that it is her responsibility as an educator to assist and guide her students on the software that is available to them. She has found that students in the past have taken up blogging and become even better writers. To visit the assignment blog go to:

<http://westwepassign.blogspot.com>.

By Amber N. Smith, M.Ed.

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” -

William Butler Yeates

Within West: In The Middle

West High School has seen its fair share of changes in its 127 year history. We have seen the building change, the neighborhood grow, the Denver Center for International Studies come and go, but the newest change to Denver West High School is part of a new trend in Denver Public Schools. As funding is more and more difficult to come by due to a down economy,

school districts are looking to find ways to save money and still provide a quality education. West High School has become a part of this cutting edge change and the Elati building is now host to Manny Martinez Middle School. The Manny Middle School students occupy the south end of the Elati building where they enjoy three sprawling floors, equipped with com-

puter and science labs. What makes this arrangement interesting is that the two schools share a few resources including; the library, lunchroom, and an interesting bathroom arrangement. Denver West looks forward to positively partnering with Manny in the future.

By Amber N. Smith, M.Ed.

Within West: Cowboys to the Rescue

As a part of Denver West High School and Goodwill Industries of Denver’s commitment to service learning and expanding the experiences of students, facilitator Lance Gideon has begun to take students to Zuma’s Rescue Ranch. Zuma’s ranch is designed to rescue horses that have been mistreated or just sent to pasture because they have outlived human usefulness. These

types of horses need special attention. On the same token, the ranch also has a horse therapy program where children who have been abused or neglected come out and ride with the horses. Children are paired up with horses that have experienced similar abuses and makes for a very strong bond and very effective therapy. The West High School Cowboys support the

ranch by assisting with the day to day operations which range from cleaning stalls, maintaining land and fences, feeding, grooming and watering the horse. The goal is to allow the owners of Zuma’s to focus on the therapy, and not so much on the everyday tasks. This is yet another way in which the Cowboys are giving back through their work with Goodwill Industries.

By Amber N. Smith, M.Ed. & Lance Gideon

Denver West High's Goodwill Energy Workforce Program

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Getting Involved

How can you get involved with the amazing West Cowboys or any of the other schools that have Goodwill programs? It is very easy, contact Alison Yeager at 303-650-7714 to become a mentor or volunteer with Goodwill Industries of Denver. If you are interested in volunteering with the Goodwill Energy Workforce Program at West High School, contact Amber N. Smith at 303-944-6040. If you would like to participate in the semi-monthly field trips to the Zuma's Horse Ranch, Contact Lance Gideon at 303-525-8345. Come and be a part of the West High School experience, share your time with students in your community.