

Canterbury Public School Report

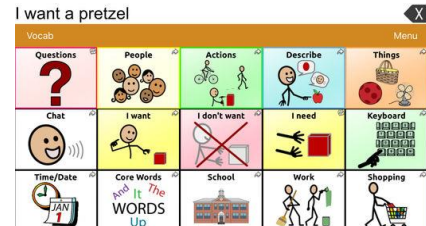
We at Canterbury Public Schools are so excited to start another school year with such enthusiasm from the staff, students and families. Students continue to blossom and we continue to provide a quality education for all students.

From the Director of Pupil Services, Jodi Davis:

The use of Assistive Technology is essential to gaining access to the legal requirement of a Free and Appropriate Public Education for students with disabilities. In Canterbury, many students are making use of the tools that we are providing in order to participate in instruction and activities, with ease of access, alongside their non-disabled peers. A few of those tools are highlighted here.

TouchChat

TouchChat is a communication tool for individuals who have difficulty using their natural voice. It is created for people with Autism, Down Syndrome, ALS, apraxia, stroke or other conditions that affect a person's ability to use natural speech. By clicking on this link, you will see a [student using Touchchat](#)



Lexia

Students at both Canterbury Elementary School and Baldwin Middle School have begun using a District provided, online literacy tool called [Lexia](#). Lexia supports teachers in differentiated literacy instruction for students of all abilities. It provides personalized and focused instruction in reading, targets areas where skill remediation is required, compiles data that informs instruction for teachers, and provides resources that are student specific and can be used for individual or small group instruction. As Lexia is a web-based program, it can also be accessed at home.



from Canterbury Elementary School Principal, Sarah Cary:

Hello from Canterbury Elementary School! We have had a great start to the school year with happy students and staff. We kicked off the year with an ice cream social hosted by the PTO. We gathered in early September on a Friday night and played under the stars until 8 P.M.

September is a time when we establish our routines for the year. We welcomed 4 new teachers: Ms. Aforismo (Grade 3) Mrs. Boots (Grade 1) Ms. Borden (Grade K), and Mrs. Harrington (Art) and a new school psychologist, Ms. Rae. We were sad to see our former staff move on to different chapters in their lives, but we have been fortunate to attract wonderful new teachers.

Our first assembly of the year was held last week and again, students are showcasing their talents for the school community. Mrs. Wiza's 4th grade class sang to us to "Try Everything!" and inspired us to experience the fullness of our lives. We honored young artists and readers. We also had our reading celebration in September in which we recognize all the children who participate in the Governor's reading challenge over the summer. Small prizes were given and appreciated.

Our students engaged in a new assessment this fall called MAP Growth. It is test taken on the computer that helps us understand our students' skills better so that we can plan the best instruction possible. They have worked hard on this test.

The 3rd grade traveled to Sturbridge Village last week and saw first hand the history of the village. They were able to observe trades such as the blacksmith and learned how apples were harvested. The 1st grade kicked off their year with a "super hero" event in which all dressed up in capes and masks. They walked outside and chanted "We are super readers today!" The children were taught what their reading super powers are and every morning they can be seen reading in their classrooms...some still wearing a cape!

Parents have been active in the school this year. They have volunteered to help with copying for teachers and shelving in the library. We have started a new project this fall in which "give and take" books are available to students in the hallway. Each book is marked with a blue sticker which indicates that it can be kept at home. Those carts rolled out to to the hallways this week with big colorful numbers painted on them indicating the grade level. Thanks to those who have donated books to begin this project.

Our PK half day program still has openings should you have a child who is 3 or 4 years old, please contact Mrs. John in the main office at (860) 546-6744.



Today the Canterbury Fire Department is here to teach our youngest students about fire safety. We appreciate the assistance of First Selectman Mr. Piper and the volunteers. Thank you for all that you do to keep us safe!

From Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School Principal, Ryan Earley:

The opening of the school year was a great success. The Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School welcomed 169 students through the doors on August 28th and recently added an additional 4 students to make our total 173. In addition to the new fifth grade students and transfers, the school community also welcomed Mrs. Kaitlyn Shafer (Grade 7/8 Science) and Ms. Mariah Rae (district school psychologist) as new faculty members. The motto for the year is to “be positive at BMS”. The logo is:



The logo has the core components of the school’s mission statement and that is our driving force for the year focusing on the areas of community, and individual appreciation.

The school has both girls and boys soccer seasons underway with the schedule available on the school website. During the month of September, the students have been participating in a school wide fundraiser through the Great American Opportunities company by selling magazines. BMS held its first Fall Pep Rally that focused on recognizing student talent, athletic participation, student artwork, and it culminated with a students vs. teachers kickball game. The afternoon was a great success. Students have also coordinated collection drives for the hurricane victims in Florida and Texas as well as coordinating a future performance of the Little Mermaid to be performed at the Spring Pep Rally and spearheaded a campaign to support their friend who is a 6 year old cancer patient at Yale. Students are collecting coloring books, etc. and positive notes to help the children in the cancer ward. Upcoming events are the Fall Fest, which will have the annual mile run, a follow up students vs. teachers kickball, and much more fall fun.

During the school’s opening assembly, students were asked to create their own positive thumbs up rendition and those will be posted throughout the building. Additionally, as the 6th grade is participating in a “disasters” unit in Reading, the students wanted to help others and thought that organizing a toiletries drive would be something they could do in our school. The students

are planning, preparing, and collecting materials to be distributed to those in need in Texas, and, perhaps, Florida and the Islands. Both the girls and boys soccer teams held tryouts the second week of school and look forward to fruitful seasons.