

## CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### Report of Canterbury Elementary School

September 2018

#### Climate

-The year opened with a bang with open house on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended with many teachers reporting that that saw all but one or two students at open house.

-Our first week of school went well. We began the year with establishing routines and clarifying common expectations. Faculty reviewed behavioral expectations, focusing on our CES character traits of safety, kindness, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

-Kindergarten held a grade level meeting with the students to discuss how to ride the bus safely.

-The PTO gave away a free book to every student at open house and sponsored a social event on Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Over 100 people came to have some ice cream and to play outside.

-PTO has planned many initiatives this year, including our second annual book fair at parent/teacher conferences, family fun nights once a month, a gingerbread run in December, to name a few.

-Fall Picture Day is on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

-Our first assembly date for the year is Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. You are cordially invited to attend.

#### Curriculum

-Our Science Kid's Club will continue this year. The first meeting will be at the end of September. Increased faculty interest is evident by more faculty volunteers to assist in the planning and the event. UCONN students will again participate in the Kid's Club this year.

-Our faculty is starting their beginning of the year assessments to determine their students' strengths. We will conduct our fall NWEA MAP testing this month.

-We will be piloting our new report card this year. We will provide parent letters, examples, and question/answer sessions for families.

-We will continue our bi-weekly grade level meetings and monthly curricular meetings in Language Arts and Mathematics.

-Teachers will develop yearly goals based on the analysis of NWEA MAP data.

### Technology

-Our computer lab was upgraded over the summer with donations from a local company.

- An additional chrome book cart, with 25 chrome books, was purchased. This is the second cart in the building.

-New teacher laptops were disseminated in June and the faculty member are expressing their appreciation for these new machines.

Submitted September 5, 2018 by Sarah Cary

# Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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To: Canterbury Board of Education

From: Mr. Ryan Earley

Subject: Opening of School Recap

Date: September 11, 2018

The Baldwin Middle School opened on August 28<sup>th</sup> with 181 students and currently have 179 students walking the halls from 8:20am – 3:10pm. The climate and feel of the school year is very upbeat with a clear focus on high expectations, supportive connections, and setting goals. There are some new aspects of the school day that I will share with you below that are worth noting.

**PowerSchool/ PowerLunch Online Program:** Each parent has unique access to this system, which is accessible from the school district website. The areas available for parent access this upcoming school year are more advanced than in the past. Teachers will be updating their gradebooks every 3 weeks (approximately) so that parents are more frequently informed of progress. This information will be in addition to the term grades (progress report/ report card), attendance, and lunch account info already accessible. Regarding the lunch account access, parents can see real time the balance and expenditures. Log in information is available on the website. Student PIN numbers will remain the same for their duration in the Canterbury School District (CES & BMS).

**Building Upgrades:** During the summer, the school roofing construction project began and is expected to be completed during the first weeks of the school year. This project was a complex and coordinated effort between the town, the schools, and the entire community and Baldwin Middle School is committed to alleviating any of the stresses that the project will have on the learning environment as they arise during the project completion. The CAA recently donated an additional filtered water fountain (like the one near the Art room) to be installed outside of the gym and cafeteria.

**Assessment and Curricular Resource Upgrades:** During the spring, students in Grade 5 through 8 participated in the spring administration of the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment and this test allows the school to determine growth over the course of the school year as related to testing norms and national percentile. This tool serves as the internal measurement in the areas of Reading and Math. The results will be distributed in the near future along with the Spring 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment score (which serves as the State of Connecticut assessment measurement). Additionally, students will continue to use the following curricular resources for the second year in a row at Baldwin Middle School:

Grade/ Topic	Resource	Grade/ Topic	Resource
5 Reading	Journeys	7 Reading	Collections
5 ELA	Wordly Wise	7 ELA	Wordly Wise
5 Math	Go Math!	7 Math	Go Math!
6 Reading	Collections	8 Reading	Collections

  
August/September 2018

**From the Director of Pupil Services, Jeff Ferranti:** I am very fortunate to have been appointed Director of Pupil Services. After 25 years working in the public schools, and as a husband and father, I realize that it takes a team to “...*develop, foster, and cultivate all students to their highest potential*”. To that end I created a “Proposed first 80 days” plan for Dr. Knapton that I have been adding to since starting July 5th. (attached)

**What does the Pupil Services team do -** The Canterbury Public Schools pupil services team of qualified professionals and staff work closely with families and educators to support ALL children, especially those who are at risk or experiencing challenges academically, emotionally and/or socially. A continuum of services, in compliance with State and Federal guidelines, is provided to accommodate students needs. We also supports our Canterbury high school aged students that attend area schools.

**Academic spotlight: How do we learn to read -** Reading is at the core of all learning and is made up of five major components: Phonemic awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary development, Reading fluency, including oral reading skills and Reading comprehension strategies. Want to learn more about how to support your child’s reading? Link: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-do-children-learn-read>

**Growth Mindset and the Power of Yet -** “I can’t, I’m not smart enough, You do it for me, I’ll never learn” are just a few of the “Fixed Mindset” statements that keep our children, and perhaps some adults, from reaching their highest potential. A “Growth Mindset” is one where statements such as ‘You can’t do it YET” or “You have not learned it YET” promotes the belief that our brains and learning can grow over time. So the next time you hear someone stuck in a “Fixed Mindset”... please encourage them to consider the “Power of Yet”! Want to learn more about Growth Mindset? Link: <https://www.mindsetworks.com/science/>

**Resource spotlight: United Way 2-1-1 system -** 2-1-1 is your one-stop connection to the local services you need, from utility assistance, food, housing, child care, after school programs, elder care, crisis intervention and much more. 2-1-1 is always ready to assist you find the help you need. Dial 2-1-1 or search online. If you are outside of Connecticut or have a problem using the 2-1-1-number, dial 1-800-203-1234.

TO: Superintendent Knapton  
FROM: Jeff Ferranti, Candidate – Director of Pupil Services  
DATE: June 20, 2018  
Re: Proposed first 80 days



**Proposal for my first 80 days for your review. I have identified three major goal areas:**

**1: Establish initial rapport with students, families, admin, staff and community**

- Open forums at school, community, PTO, events, summer programs – listen and learn
- Meet with the parent special ed advisory council
- Meet with central office staff, Principals
- Review pupil services organization with new admin assistant
- Meet with Principals individually
- Survey staff using the DMC ten best practices
- Get into every classroom
- Canterbury Education Fund for staff – establish one for student problem-based activities
- Introduce myself to all parents of kids with IEPs, start with out of district
- PreK and Kindergarten screening – free books for summer?
- Contact area EC providers and home providers – ECET meeting?
- Review all IEPs
- Follow up with interview teams – any additional questions? Clarification?
- Consider Twitter account, update PS webpage, weekly message
- Regional mental health consortiums?
- Contact area administrators of special education – regional meetings?

**2: Identify strengths, resources (fiscal and personnel), what's working?**

- DMJ – Ten Best Practices to Improving Special Ed – survey staff and admin
- School schedules – T1, T2, T3 intervention blocks, progress monitoring (SRBI process)
- Curriculum matrix across all grades (focus on reading basics, math basics)
- Curriculum and intervention materials needed now?
- Data on Prek and K readiness skills and outcomes
- Data on college and career readiness and outcomes
- Review teacher evals, paraprofessional evals, related services evals
- Who are the leaders now? Recruit interns/admin in training
- Fiscal resources (Grants, LEA), Medicaid, other competitive grants
- Public relations: strengths review and presentation. Student Marketing Club?

**3: Develop an immediate plan for Sept. 1 for Pupil Services as a subset of the strategic plan**

- Participate in development of strategic plan
- Fiscal areas/planning needing attention now
- Review assignments of staff and related service providers
- Review State profile data: attendance, performance. Set realistic outcomes
- Review turning three students
- Transition successes: turning three, 4 to 5, 8 to 9, graduate outcomes and survey
- Meet with receiving high school teams, spec ed contacts
- Advanced placement outcomes at high school level and report back to admin team
- PLCs for specific areas: Mental Health, AP, EC, - connected to strategic plan