Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

⬩ 45 Westminster Road, Canterbury, CT 06331 ⬩ Phone: 860**⬝**546**⬝**9421 ⬩ Fax: 860**⬝**546**⬝**6289 ⬩

To: Canterbury Board of Education

From: Mr. Ryan Earley

Subject: BMS Administrator’s Report

Date: October 3, 2018

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The Baldwin Middle School community has started the 2018-19 school year on the right foot. Students and staff alike are focused, prepared, and zealous for learning and growing. Student enrollment is at Grade 5: 46; Grade 6: 42; Grade 7: 39; and Grade 8: 52. We welcome Mr. Thomas Brophy to our community as he takes on the pivotal role as the Grade 7 & 8 math instructor. He brings with him a wealth of life experience and knowledge of what is expected from a math student as they enter high school. Great thanks to the committee of teachers who helped select him as our top candidate.

All students participated in the Fall testing administration for the NWEA MAP assessment in the area of math and reading. Much thanks to Mrs. Beth O’Connor and Mrs. Kathy Faulkenberry for coordinating the testing windows with all classroom teachers. Student assessment results are prepared for analysis and will be utilized on the October 5th professional development workshop. Prior to the testing, all students were presented with the inner workings of the assessment and given their individual stats (score and time taken) from the Spring testing window. By sharing the meaning behind the assessment, the hope is that the validity of this standardized (yet adaptive) test will increase as students give their best and authentic effort.

Additionally on the October 5th professional development workshop, Mrs. Claudia Danna will present data from last year’s classroom walkthroughs and work with teachers on how to ask authentically engaging questions with students. The PDEC committee helped plan this (and subsequent) professional development workshops.

On September 25th, 7 BMS faculty members were recertified in CPR and AED usage. It is nice knowing that through this program, there is always current certified adults in the building. Thanks to our nurse, Mrs. Jodoin for making this a priority.

The BMS PTO is currently coordinating a school wide fundraiser that had its’ kickoff assembly on September 25th. All students are participating and thanks to programs like this, the PTO can continue to grow and support our students with annual donations for field trips and organizing the BMS Field Day.

Grade 8 students are beginning their high school decision-making process by visiting receiving high schools. Students visited Ellis Tech on October 1st while Ellis sent a team to speak directly to our students on October 3rd. Future visits are posted on the BMS Events Calendar on the school website.

Teachers have been updating their gradebooks to allow for additional communication with parents via the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This allows parents to view real time grade reports every three weeks.

The new master schedule has allowed for the infusion of the Bulldog Block and this has proven beneficial in only 5 weeks.

For clarity purposes and to better suit student behavioral needs, the Baldwin Middle School has amended the 2018-19 Student Handbook to include a note regarding the intermediary step and important of in-school suspension as a disciplinary consequence rather than leaving the term suspension as meaning out of school suspension. Procedures are drafted and will be implemented as the need arises and based on the severity and specifics of the consequence.

Grade 7 & 8 students who are interested in learning an additional language and participate in the online alternative world language pilot program will be registered in the coming weeks. Students volunteered and signed a contract with their parents and this program will have approx. 23 students participating and 1 teacher using the Rosetta Stone K-12 platform to identify strengths and weaknesses of the program and learning platform as the school looks at future world language options. At this time language choices are French, German, Korean, Japanese, Russian, and Italian. Students will be working on these classes on their own time and during Bulldog Block.