

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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To: Canterbury Board of Education
From: Mr. Ryan Earley
Subject: BMS Administrator's Report
Date: January 7, 2019

Student enrollment has declined slightly during the past month with a population decline of 2 students. Student enrollment is at Grade 5: 46; Grade 6: 43; Grade 7: 39; and Grade 8: 53. As the new year is upon us, the school will be revisiting our annual goals and also setting new year expectations related to a developmentally appropriate discipline referral system, coordinating an after school program, and embarking on the Why Canterbury? program across all grade levels. The goals set forth for the Baldwin Middle School for the 2018-19 school year were to create and implement a rotating schedule that allowed for increased SRBI and Tier 2 support, to assess students 3x this year in NWEA MAP, to coordinate a grade level disciplinary referral and rewards process, review the correlation between grades and standardized test scores, continue with learning walks for teachers, increase parent communication through the use of the PS Parent Portal, and provide before and after school programming for children.

Griswold High School Music Department Visit and Concert: On the afternoon of December 7th, the Griswold band and chorus department presented their Holiday Concert for the entire BMS community. The event was enjoyed by all and students were treated to hot cocoa and cookies following the afternoon performance. Special thanks to Mrs. Evelyn Smith, Mrs. Judy Guillot and many others for helping serve and prepare the treats for students.

Grade 8 Visits the Garde Arts Theater: On Friday December 14th, Grade 8 students headed to the Garde Arts Center for a matinee performance that linked directly to the topics they have been working on in reading class. Thanks to Mrs. Waters for coordinating.

Grades 7/8 Students Go Bowling: As a culminating activity for first part of the school year, students earned the opportunity to spend the afternoon bowling in Norwich. This reward was held in concert with the Grade 7/8 behavioral warning system that has been in place all year. A good time was had by all.

BMS Music Department Winter Concert: On Wednesday December 12, Mr. Beit and the BMS music programs performed to a packed house. The students performed in various arrangements from Grade 5 beginning band, Grade 6-8 advanced band, and Grade 5-8 chorus. BMS is showing strong musical participation with a deep Grade 5 enrollment rate and we look forward to great progression over the years. Great work Mr. Beit!

BMS Faculty Meetings Focused on Why Teaching?: During the November faculty meeting, the concept of the Why Canterbury? Program was rolled out for all teachers. An offshoot for faculty members is a Why Teaching? component. The component entails the following:

As a means to begin to involve ourselves in the mindset of Why Canterbury? and to see the value in stories and experience, it will be beneficial to dip our own toe into the water. The importance of meaning is simply that- meaningful. In A.J. Juliani's newest ebook, he reiterates that phrase "Every child in your class is someone else's whole world". This mantra is best understood when you can connect the value you have in yourself, with your passion (root cause) for becoming and remaining a teacher, and presented in a manner of performance- since each day you are on stage and your props are the curriculum, content, learning strategies, technology and your personality.

At the next Faculty Meeting, we will ALL present to the faculty our own performance reacting to the question Why Teaching? (Why Teaching in Canterbury?).

The presentations filled the entire December faculty meeting and will continue into January.

Winter NWEA MAP Administration: As students came back from break, teachers were preparing for the midyear administration of the MAP assessment. Testing will take place during the week of January 7th and will give teachers a good midpoint progress monitoring assessment score to use to gauge effectiveness of instruction thus far. Thanks to Mrs. Beth O'Connor and Mrs. Kathy Faulkenbety

High School Options: Grade 8 students are still continuing to narrow down their selection among the various high schools to attend. Thanks to Ms. Diana Zuckerman for helping coordinate all of the parent nights and shadowing visits.

New Water Fountain: A second filtered and water bottle accessible water fountain was installed outside of the BMS gym over the winter break. Thanks to the CAA and Mr. Ryan Marquis for purchasing the unit and Mr. Tom Millerd for the installation. These units are utilized constantly by all of our students.

Student Accountability System: After the first part of the year and having 2 different behavioral warning systems (lower and upper middle school), the goal was to integrate the systems and seek more student accountability in this process. The student accountability system was introduced to students on January 3rd and is underway. The focus is to have students own their actions and the school community seeks appropriate interactions with peers and adults and preparedness for class and learning. Students with a specified number of infractions will earn a behavioral consequence and students without any infractions (or below the specified number) will earn reward like opportunities and prizes. This information will be analyzed weekly to be able to identify trends and gaps in the system.

Bulldog Block Gets Active: The midday Bulldog Block underwent some changes as 2019 arrived. Students were given choices in which to participate. The Bulldog Block is a period of time daily, when students can receive remedial intervention and not miss core instruction, when teachers meet across grade level and on grade level, and when students can catch up on work. New course offerings this year are: tag, court sports, dodgeball, weight lifting, fitness classes, free drawing, library time, sewing, basketball, band, chorus, crafts, robotics, invention convention, and Rosetta Stone. Thanks to the specials team for coordinating these programs.

2019 After School Program: The Baldwin Middle School will be starting an after school program/homework club beginning February 4th. The program will occur on Mondays and Wednesdays until mid-May. Snacks and transportation home will be provided. The program will last until 4:30pm.

Monday Program: Homework Club

This is available to all students who are in need of completing homework assignments and is not intended to be a social time or a babysitting service. The sessions will take place in the library with teachers present and access to computers will be available.

Wednesday Program: Activities

This is available to all students who are interested in being active at school and programs such as art, physical fitness, community service, and homework club may be offered. Specific programs will be based on student interest and staff availability.

The sessions will be from 3:30PM until 4:30PM with snacks included AND a late bus will be provided to those students participating. Parents will be able to pick up their child from the program OR use the late bus for transportation. It is imperative that parents communicate participation and transportation needs with the school so that proper planning can be performed. The program will be held weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays until mid-May.

John Halligan “Ryan’s Story” Parent Evening and Student Program: On the evening of January 17th (Thursday), John Halligan will be in Canterbury to present “Ryan’s Story” to parents and then to all students on the morning of January 18th (Friday, which is an early release day). “Ryan’s Story” is a bullying awareness program focused on the life and experiences of Ryan, who committed suicide at the age of 13 after being cyberbullied and his father, John, who is a leading advocate for bullying awareness and prevention. Thanks to Ms. Diana Zuckerman for coordinating this program to help with bullying awareness in Canterbury.

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Report of Canterbury Elementary School for January 2019

Climate

-The PTO Gingerbread Run was a huge success on Sunday, December 16th. We had over 250 runners here at CES! Games and activities were provided for children. Two of our teachers, Mrs. Fletcher and Mr. Fresco-Hawes, participated in the runs, dressed up as the baker and the gingerbread man! There was a short run for the students and then a 1 mile and a 2 mile race. Prior to the event, families decorated wooden gingerbread men and these creations lined the driveway and decorated the lawn.

-In December, we had two opportunities to view student artistry. The CES Chorus presented a holiday concert focused on the various holidays celebrated in December. Our third assembly of the year was just before the break and we had a chance to recognize the quality of honesty in our students.

-CES families and staff contributed to the needs of others in December, through family donations to Canterbury Cares and through giving to families in need.

-Kid's Science Lab continues in January and the focus this month is team building through making marble runs.

-Our second annual Cityscape Family Fun Night will be on January 18th. Families and staff donate recycled items such as boxes for building materials and we come together to build cityscapes or other structures! This year, the PTO and CES are working together to provide one fun family night a month and we have been successful so far this year!

Curriculum

-We continue to integrate technology into our curriculum. We are in the process of moving our chrome book carts to different parts of the building so that teachers can access them more readily. Each cart has 25 chrome books. Teachers are able to conduct the MAP testing in their classrooms should they so choose using the chrome books.

-Instructional rounds continue at CES with the district-wide focus on questioning techniques. This week we conducted rounds to see what kinds of questions are being used in the classrooms. We will conduct these rounds monthly through the rest of the year.

-Grade 4 will be collaborating with Grades 5 and 6 to begin implementing a social emotional curriculum called Get Happier Schools (Doug the Dragster) based on Glasser philosophy.

-Our Math curriculum committee continues to study "Math Talks". Mrs. Danna is modeling the process in some classrooms this month.

-In Language Arts, we are continuing with READCONN, a state sponsored program concerning literacy. It provides excellent strategies for reading instruction and reference materials regarding early reading best practices.

-Our PK and K teachers and staff are in the middle of developing our portfolios for our NAEYC reaccreditation. The materials are due in February and NAEYC will conduct a site visit to our program this spring. Three portfolios are required; a program portfolio that shows all facets of operation and leadership. the program, and 2 grade level portfolios (Grades PK and K).

-Story telling sessions for PK and K began today! The faculty will be presented with professional development on read alouds and story telling in the spring, which is another part of this grant.

-We are currently in the middle of our winter session for MAP Growth growth. We will analyze these results as part of our mid year data assessment process.

Respectfully submitted January 11, 2019 by Sarah Cary

January 2019 - BOE update - Pupil Services - jf

Vision of Pupil Services (draft): Support and enhance curriculum, instruction and assessment resulting in all students with special needs, prek to age 21, achieving success academically, socially and emotionally at their cognitive level.

Next year programming: The Canterbury Elementary School staff discussed and support using in house CPS staff versus contracted out to a provider for students with significant special needs. The next step will be to post for a teacher and district behaviorist to support CES and BMS versus our existing model that has had mixed results for the past few years. This shift in service delivery would require philosophy adjustments and recruitment/training of existing and new staff.

Parent group: A Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) survey was sent to over 100 email contacts last week and results are coming in. The survey asks 10 brief questions to gauge interest and scope of the SEPAC. 17 surveys out of 100 have been returned so far.

Pupil Services strategic plan: The Pupil Services Department will be developing a draft strategic plan to cover 2019 - 2021 by the end of this year. The plan would be a subset of the District's strategic plan. The goal of the strategic plan will be to collect input from staff and parents regarding how we want Pupil Services to evolve over the next few years. The goal of the plan is very simple: have all students with special needs perform at or above their cognitive level academically, socially and emotionally. (see draft mission statement). Sample drafts from around CT and outside of CT are being shared with staff to start the process. SEPAC will also be involved in the process.