

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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To: Canterbury Board of Education
From: Mr. Ryan Earley
Subject: BMS Administrator's Report
Date: August 6, 2019

Student enrollment for the upcoming school year looks to dip a bit from last year with a total of 173 students (5:45;6:47;7:43;8:38). The school has taken a rest from the hustle and bustle from June 2019 and is fully prepared to welcome students and staff for a most fruitful and productive 2019- 20 school year.

Restorative Practices Training: During the end of June, Mr. Earley joined the Brooklyn Public Schools (CT) as they worked with the State of CT Department of Education consultant Joann Freiberg learn about the core components of Restorative Practices. It was a great 2 day session that focused on the philosophies and strategies to best support all students have safe and supportive educational experiences. The focus of restorative practices is to build relationships and community and then repair those relationships when harm has been done. Many of the strategies such as restorative circles and effective student planning already have a presence at Baldwin Middle School, but with a new perspective with take flight as the school year begins and progresses.

Strategic Planning Workshop: The district administrative team and other members of the executive team participated in the Connecticut Center for School Change Strategic Mapping workshop for 2 days and then met with our consultant (Isobel Stevenson) in Canterbury to help iron out next steps for the Portrait of a Graduate concept. The workshop was very enlightening by bring the component of equity to the forefront and that paired with increasing student ownership and voice from the Restorative Practices workshop resonated with the recent student accountability program at Baldwin Middle School.

New Staff Members: Baldwin Middle School is proud to welcome Mr. Michael Beckwith (Grade 7/8 Math), Mr. Connor Hill (Physical Education), Ms. Joslyn Irza (Library Coordinator) and Mrs. Evelyn Smith (Receptionist).

Goals for the Upcoming Year: An overarching district goal for all teachers is to have ALL students reach 80% of their annual RIT growth in the areas of Math and Reading based on the Fall 2019 NWEA MAP administration and assessed on the Winter/Spring 2020 administration. This is different than in the past, as students were tested ultimately in the Spring along with the SBAC assessment. It was felt that students were over-tested and possible inaccurate results were being produced due to fatigue in the waning days of the school year. The Baldwin Middle School will continue to support that district goal as well as focus on curriculum alignment and cohesion to address the continuum of skills. Additionally, the Baldwin Middle School will focus on creating an environment of high quality instruction based on the needs of students as they progress toward high school and beyond.

Scheduling Changes: The Baldwin Middle School master schedule has had to be amended based on student and staff population. Students will participate in 7 classes per day (5 core, 2 specials) and classes will be 45 minutes long with passing time present. Lunch will be extended 10 minutes to allow for more recess and students in all grades will all eat simultaneously. Following the lunch block, there will be a 25 minute block of time for Bulldog Block that will begin mid-September. The plan for that time is to allow for support for students as well as focus on school wide climate programs.

Programming Changes: Based on the 2019-20 approved budget, students at the Baldwin Middle School will receive a different program of studies than in recent years. Based on student population decreases, students will receive core instruction in the areas of Language Arts, Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies and specials classes in the areas of Art, Developmental Guidance, Music, Physical Education, and Technology. Core class sizes will average 17.3 and specials classes will average 21.5. Larger class sizes will be present in the core and specials classes, but please be aware that the budget cuts over the past several years have caused this.

Submitted August 7, 2019