

# Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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## Climate

The school year is off to a strong start. Staff has been working diligently to get our hybrid model off the ground and running. While this is undoubtedly a stressful time, our staff is maintaining a positive mindset. The theme of September has been being comfortable with uncomfortable situations and I continue to reiterate to my staff that it is okay not to have every answer and to ask one another for support when needed.

## Staff Recognition

As a celebration of and support for our building and staff, we have put up a "Look Who Got Caught Being Awesome" Board, where anyone can recognize students or staff for doing amazing things. We have already recognized two staff members: Mr. Hill and Mr. Simkowski. Mr. Hill spent his own free time assisting with cleaning items out of a storage room. Mr. Simkowski has spent his free time helping me with creating webinars, running training, and providing supports for parent, student, and teacher technology issues.

## Updates/New Items

- We are running a new schedule, which I had support creating from a group of staff and parents.
- Class times have been increased to one-hour blocks, which meets both a need for reducing personal interactions, while also meeting a staff request I had last year to increase the academic time staff had with students.
- We are running open office hours throughout the week to support fully-remote as well as hybrid learners.

## Professional Development

We spent the week before school learning about the following:

- New Covid-19 school procedures, routines, and expectations
- Using technology effectively to provide online learning
- Using tools such as Loom, Screencastify, Google Classroom and Flipgrid to supplement online learning.
- Initial learning about Social Emotional Learning with an introduction to the Second Step curriculum.

## Any upcoming events in September

- New teacher support meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

## **CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Board of Education Report  
"Opening of School 2020"  
9/8/2020

**CES opened our doors to students last Monday  
after a week of staff preparation  
and a summer of community collaboration!**

Highlights of Week One  
Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>-Friday August 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Convocation**

We celebrated the convocation of the school year 2020-2021 and welcomed Superintendent Rioux and Director Beckwith. We honored CES staff with 10 years of experience in Canterbury: Kelly Bahre, Jeannine Izzarelli, and Susan DiPietro.

### **Collaboration**

We worked together to study the new CES Covid protocols. Nurse finalized protocols for the health office and isolation room. Staff reviewed and tweaked schedules and routines. Teams met daily across the building to communicate and ask questions.

### **Preparation**

We practiced our arrival and dismissal protocols, reviewed school wide routines, and planned with each other. We learned about new software platforms such as SeeSaw and engaged in mandated trainings such as handwashing and dcf mandated reporter.

### **Welcoming our students and Families: Open House!**

We posted our virtual Open House on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> for our students and families. Please see the CES website or use this link:

<http://www.canterburypublicschools.org/open-house-2020/>

These presentations share our new look and practices from the classroom level. Meet our new teams!

### **Health Focus**

The focus of the first two weeks is good health and our individual and collective responsibility to follow all protocols. We reviewed collectively and individually our health protocols. We share a common protocol folder that all staff can access. It is updated regularly as needed by faculty leaders and the office.

Highlights of Week Two  
Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>-Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

**Students returned!**

All members of the community were happy to greet each other and welcome back our students and families. We started right away on making good relationships with each other. Thanks to Mr. Rioux and Ms. Beckwith for their presence at CES!

**Safe Student Arrival and Dismissal**

After a usual kind of first day, the routines settled in as the week progressed. Staff and families worked together to respond to the new routines and meet the needs of the students.

**Food Service**

District-wide "Grab and Go" meal service resumed on August 31<sup>st</sup> for families in the mornings. Breakfast and lunch were brought to the students in their classrooms.

**Planning and Thank you**

We continued to plan together, identifying areas of need and responding with solutions. Thank you to all members of the reopening committees. Our staff and family participants displayed great dedication. Thank you for your hard work.

**Remote Learning**

Working with central office, devices were provided to students in need of one. Parent trainings available on our website in such platforms as Classroom Dojo, SeeSaw, and Google Classroom.

**Thank you to all for a successful start!**  
**Working together all is possible!**



Pupil Service Department  
Board of Education Report  
September 4, 2020

The Pupil Services Department prepared for the return of students in a variety of ways over the past two weeks. Case managers and related service providers have connected with families to determine how IEPs will be implemented given the current hybrid model of instruction, and any changes have been captured in the Learning Model IEP Implementation Plan, which is a form from the State Department of Education to capture the intervention plan for students with reduced in-person days of instruction. Students who have dedicated 1:1 paraprofessional support, along with students who receive more than 70% of their school day have been invited to increase in-person instruction up to 4 days per week. In the next phase of increasing in-person instruction for students who receive special education, children with multiple related services (OT, PT, speech and counseling) and students who cannot access virtual instruction because of their disabling condition will be invited to increase their time in school. Case managers will make these decisions in collaboration with families in the coming days and weeks of school.

Initial training has occurred to implement the DESSA, a social emotional screener that will allow educators to identify students who need more social emotional support to recover from the impact of COVID and other stressful life events. The clinical intervention team will complete their portion of the training next. Parents will receive a rating scale to complete about their child's current functioning, and school staff will analyze the results and communicate with parents about helping those who have been identified as at-risk.

Pupil Services worked with the transportation department to respond effectively to challenges related to mask-wearing on the bus and provided information about confidentiality for the students they transport.

Pupil Services also worked with out of district placements, special education placements in the high school, homeless youth division of the CSDE and vocational/transitional placements to ensure the needs of our Canterbury students are met as we transition back to school under hybrid conditions.

In the next month, the Pupil Services department will deliver the social emotional screener to parents, analyze the results and provide recommendations to the families of students who demonstrate a need. We will also provide a presentation of results from a staff wellness survey completed by the staff after school ended in June. Resources and support to manage staff stress will be included. Lastly, Pupil Services employees will begin to assess students who were not able to be evaluated during school closure. We are looking forward to a productive year!