

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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Celebrations:

Students

Our school year is off to a positive start. We are refocused on PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) and on integrating restorative practices across our building. As we focus on positively recognizing students, we have committed to using three of the following tools:

- **Bulldog Bucks-** Simple tickets that can be given at a moment's notice when students achieve our expectations. These are meant as small recognitions for behaviors such as:
 - Persevering through a challenging task
 - Taking a positive risk
 - Helping a teacher or peer
 - Etc.
- **Bulldog Reports-** Also known as Positive Office Referrals, these are similar to Bulldog Bucks but are given for larger celebrations of student achievement. When students receive a Bulldog Report, they also get a phone call home from the principal and receive 5 Bulldog Bucks. These reports are given for behaviors such as:
 - Helping a peer with a spill in the cafeteria
 - Finding money on the floor and bringing it to the office to be returned to its owner
 - Being compassionate and empathetic to a peer during a challenging situation
 - Etc.
- **Second Step-** Canterbury is using Second Step across the district, from PK-8, to provide students with evidence-based lessons on social/emotional regulation, strategies for negotiating difficult situations, etc.

As a result of all of these measures, we have already recognized many students, which has included 10 phone calls home for Bulldog Reports.

Staff

My entire staff has been doing an amazing job persevering through a challenging and difficult situation, with all of the changes related to Covid-19. In particular, I would like to recognize the following individuals:

- Joe Brady and Glenn Blonshine, who provided me with a fantastic idea for increasing student health safety when we fully re-open on October 5. Their thoughts helped us to identify a way to create seating charts that minimize the amount of student/desk cross-contamination and I am thankful to both of them for their willingness to share!

- Judy Guillot and Charlene Saunders, who identified a need in the hallways during passing time. With a solution-focused approach, they took it upon themselves to put taped marks on lockers to provide students with a visual spacing reminder. Thank you to Judy and Charlene!

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Updates:

Students completed their math and reading iReady assessments in late September. As a staff, we are now using this data to address student needs on both an individual as well as a small group basis. iReady also provides staff with an in-depth analysis of student strengths as well as a specific roadmap of skills students need to develop next and we will return to this tool frequently as we work to raise our student abilities this year.

Professional Development:

Our October PD was district-focused and centered on understanding the Second Step program, building capacity, ensuring fidelity, and providing time for planning and resources. I am excited to see the outcomes of this program on our students and am hopeful that over the course of the next few years, we will see greater student self-efficacy, attention, emotional capacity, and personal discipline

Upcoming Events:

- On Friday, October 9, DHBMS held it's first "virtual" school assembly.
- Progress reports were pushed from Friday, October 2, to Friday, October 16

General Comments:

Climate

Currently, while there is a definite level of stress in the building, overall our staff is making the best of our situation. I continue to support staff, through visibility, celebrations, and recognitions. In addition, I met with each member of my staff late in September to allow for everyone to feel heard and also to gauge areas for me to focus on personal and school improvement over both the immediate and long-term future.

Schedule Changes

Due to the full re-open of school and based on feedback from staff, I made the decision to tweak our schedule. Specifically, we have shifted our specials offerings from students having all specials on a 2-week rotating basis to students having half of their specials every other day for a semester and then switching at the midway point. This provides a more consistent experience for students with their specials team, simplifies the schedule, and all UA teachers were in support of the shift.

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Celebrations

CES celebrated this week as we welcomed back all hybrid students for 5 days a week!

Another celebration is our library circulating books. With help from the PTO, we purchased a book drop so that families may return books to the outside of the school. We began circulating library books on Monday, September 14th and by October 2, 411 books went out to students.

Governor's Reading Challenge: This week we are giving certificates and prizes to those students who participated in this summer.

Accolades for Students: We are planning to begin this process again in which teachers give accolades for specific characteristics like respect. We will match the accolades to our Second Step Program.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Updates

IReady: We are currently doing the diagnostic tests in Reading and Math. We started with our 4th graders and our full remote students. Many full remote students came in to be tested here at school; others will take the test remotely. By the end of the month, we plan to have all students tested, Grades 1-4.

Second Step: We kick off our year in Second Step on Wednesday, October 7th, with professional development for faculty. Our goal for the year is to implement the Second Step program with fidelity, with a long-term goal of improving our students' abilities to recognize and communicate their social and academic skills.

For CES, Second Step has 4 main units for the year: Skills for Learning, Empathy, Emotion Management, and Problem Solving. We will give a lesson each week and support it with daily practice.

Professional Development

Our technology teacher, Mrs. Giuliano, gave us training on the basic structure of IReady and how to administer the test, gave IReady PD in late September.

Mrs. Giuliano has prepared a family resource guide on the platforms that CES are using such as SeeSaw, Class DoJo, and Google Classroom.

Teachers have been studying the materials for Second Step and the formal kick off for faculty is October 5th, with professional development for para professionals the following Wednesday.

Faculty have been using the new platforms that we are using such as Class Dojo and Seesaw in Grade PK-2. Recent numbers from last week show their work. In SeeSaw, 507 new items, 121 likes, and 164 comments. In Class Dojo, last week, 40 stories were shared, 22 skills celebrated, and 100% positive feedback.

Upcoming Events

Peace at Home: Last year the Readiness Grant paid for a parent resource for the town. We are working to roll out this great opportunity this month. This is a web-based service that allows families to access classes and webinars on topics of interest to them.

The PTO and the school plan to collaborate this year to provide needed items to the Canterbury community. Working in collaboration, we will identify items and do community drives periodically.

A PTO fundraiser is tentatively planned for December into January. We will offer the book fair again in November in conjunction with parent/teacher conferences. Both of these events will be remote.

Kid's Lab: We have received a \$2,000 grant from Pfizer and we will continue with Kid's Lab this year.

Our NAEYC visit window is open and our accreditation site visit will occur in the next few months. Our PK program has responded to changing guidance, like mask wearing. We look forward to the coming visit from NAEYC.

**Thank you to all staff in all departments for their work in preparing for
October 5th!**



Canterbury Public Schools Pupil Services Office

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Celebrations:

- In addition to the students with full-time 1:1 paraprofessional support (who were invited in full-time from the start of the school year, students who receive special education services for more than 70% of their day and students with multiple related services were invited back to school for a 4 day week starting on September 21, 2020. Ten students were invited at the middle school and twelve elementary school students were invited at the elementary school. On September 25, 6 additional middle school students and 3 additional elementary school students with IEPs who had trouble accessing virtual learning were invited back for a 4-day school week.
- 116 families completed the Devereaux Student Strengths Assessment, a social emotional screener to help identify which students may need extra support. A district team including our school social worker, school counselor and school psychologist will train on Friday to interpret the data and provide interventions to students who need it.
- In June, Canterbury Public School staff completed a wellness survey to gauge the personal and professional impact of COVID-19 on their wellbeing. The results were translated into graphs and shared with staff along with ideas to support self-care and social emotional wellness. A small district team formed to continue the discussion of staff wellness as a priority throughout the year.
- Several 18 to 21 year old Canterbury students came back into district for required testing. Our special education team provided our young adult students with the highest quality assessment process available.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Updates:

- The special education team has nearly completed state mandated testing that was due during the school closure last spring. This testing is individualized, comprehensive, and requires a significant amount of time to complete. Knowing the possibility for another school closure exists, the special education team rallied to complete testing so that students can benefit from updated data on their learning profiles. The teamwork is commendable.

Professional Development:

- Professional development was prepared for paraprofessionals to learn more about Google Classroom and Google Drive in an effort to enhance supports available to students during virtual learning



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- Work has started to enhance our pre-referral intervention process and data collection on instructional interventions

Upcoming Events:

- A new crisis team will be trained in de-escalation strategies and therapeutic holds for emergency situations
- Visits will be made to Canterbury students attending schools out of town