

Superintendent Monthly Report

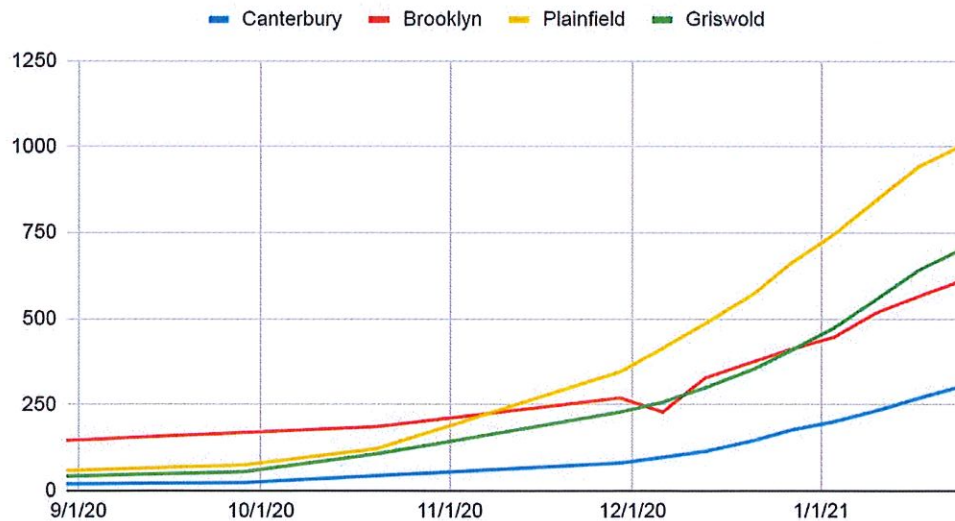
General Updates: February 9, 2021

COVID Updates

The test positivity rate in our area and the state has seemed to stabilize since the holiday bump. Hopefully, Superbowl Sunday will not start another spike. The table below reflects total cases in each town. The slope of the graph is an indicator as to the rate of increase in each town. Maybe by March 1 we will observe a slower trend.

Total COVID Cases Since September 1, 2020

Canterbury, Brooklyn, Plainfield and Griswold



While vaccine distribution in Connecticut continues to progress at a higher rate than most states, school employees are still weeks away from being vaccinated. Most recently the DPH is considering using schools as vaccination sites for school employees. This would significantly expedite the process by eliminating the need to schedule appointments for each employee. These conversations are at the preliminary stages. It appears it will be a few weeks before school employees are uploaded into the VAMS system.

Transportation

Communication and organization continue to improve within the transportation department. While the current arrangement with Preston has merit I am recommending that we not renew our contract for the 2021-2022 school year. The conceptual structure of the agreement has potential to be successful, however, we need someone in a leadership role to be in-district on a daily basis. The original structure had on-site support one and one-half days each week and remote support five days a week. This structure has recently been modified to include three five-hour on-site days and remote support each other day.

I would like to research alternative models, which may include stipend positions as in previous years, or a modified version of the Preston agreement. I am not seeking Board action today. If the Board is in agreement, I will begin researching alternative options for the Board's consideration in March. I have informed the Preston superintendent that Canterbury was exploring all options for next year.

Canterbury Education Foundation (CEF)

On Wednesday, February 3, CEF approved a grant application from two BMS science teachers. The teachers are looking to purchase GoDirect temperature probes. The probes spark students' curiosity and prepare them for highschool- and the world beyond. Using Vernier science probe-ware for data collection, analysis, and visualization to teach scientific practices and support scientific investigations can help to deepen student understanding of science concepts and develop skills using technology similar to that in the field of many science careers.

In December, CEF also approved a grant application from our BMS PE/Health teacher. His application requested the CPR Manikins and Training AEDs. Students in 7th and 8th grade will engage in an 8 hour class over multiple class periods that accurately and maturely teach students the different components to performing CPR, and using both the AED and different First Aid techniques. The manikins have plastic lungs, so the students and Mr. Hill can easily see if their rescue breaths are successfully getting air into the victim's lungs. The manikins are also responsive when performing chest compressions on them. Students will learn how to correctly use an Automated External Defibrillator, which they could use to save someone's life who might be going through Cardiac Arrest.

We are grateful for the support from the Canterbury Education Foundation and community members that contribute to the CEF fundraisers.