

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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CES Report of the Board of Education for September 2021

Celebrations

We are welcoming back students in our school and focusing on routines. We celebrated open house together with parents coming back into the building to meet teachers. It was a beautiful sight to see our parents coming through the front doors.

We celebrate the small changes that help make school be more fun like eating lunch in the cafeteria and playing with grade level buddies at recess. We had hot home made pasta last week at lunch! Our kitchen staff has worked hard this past year to provide our students with many meals. It is wonderful to see the cafeteria in use, with happy children eating together as a group with health protocols in place.

Many improvements in the building and in the IT department occurred over the summer, such as new flooring for our library and technology lab. In the IT department, work was completed to make our wireless capacity greater. We have more chrome books so that we will be able to do our IReady testing in the classroom and students will have increased access to devices. 6 new projectors were installed in classrooms. All classrooms now wall mounted projectors that are bright and provide good sound. We have 2 new Promethean boards, which will be mobile and shared throughout the building.

Our custodial staff cleaned and shined our school, making improvements as they went; such as shelving in the physical education closet and filling the cracks in the paved recess area.

Our Kindergarten camp in August provided for better transition for our young learners. We had two groups with us for two weeks, one that was starting kindergarten and the other group who was transitioning into Grade 1. Many thanks to teacher Kristie Wernicki as our inspired leader of the summer school program.

Our school couldn't open without the support of the custodial, IT and business office staff making sure that the schools are ready and the supplies are present. Thank you to those departments for their hard work this summer.

We celebrated meeting as a PTO this week in person at Baldwin. Our two PTOs have banded together this year to collaborate and bring resources to our schools, sharing officers, projects and meeting times.

Professional Development

Our year started together this year with strong professional development opportunities. At CES, we focused on Restorative Practices. We held our meetings in circles and explored two kinds of circles as a staff, "Getting to Know You" and academic circles. We also focused on different kind of co-teaching models and ways in which regular and special education can collaborate. We welcomed new staff and began the process of making our new teams for the year.

We also started our mandated trainings at the beginning of the year in topics such as DCF reporting and epipen use, to name a couple. Our full staff participates in these important yearly trainings. Teachers also spend a great deal of time studying the records of our students, making sure their classroom welcome each child who enters.

In the coming months, we have a group of teachers who will attend a series of workshops in mathematics. The focus is to learn how to assess student mathematical knowledge just as you might assess systematically a student's progress in reading. We have three teachers who completed this training a couple of years ago and we are excited to have more teachers trained. It will support our district-wide goal in math.

At our recent faculty meeting, we reviewed portions of our student handbook and reviewed our school-wide positive re-enforcement system. We will be providing daily positive reinforcements daily (stickers) tied to our core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, kindness, and safety. Monthly spirit days, accolades, and grade level celebrations will encourage us to celebrate together as we focus on being good to each other and coming together as a school community.

As we move through the school year, we will renew our school values as we focus on the needs of our students. This process will include school staff and families. Stay tuned!

After our first three weeks, routines are settling in. Arrival and dismissal are running smoothly. Many thanks to all for a great opening!

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

In the next two weeks, we conduct our beginning of the year assessments, including IReady. Staff received instruction on how to proctor our IReady. This test is given 3 times a year for Grades 1-4 in reading and mathematics.

Our new interventionists, Mrs. Dean and Ms. Aforismo are planning our new intervention model called "What I Need" or "WIN" block. Across the day, teams of interventionists will come to each grade level to provide extra instruction and/or enrichment in the areas of mathematics and reading. Weekly data teams will

support these daily intervention blocks. We are excited about this new opportunity to support our students as they grow.

Respectfully submitted by Principal Sarah Cary

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

↔Respect↔Responsibility↔Community↔

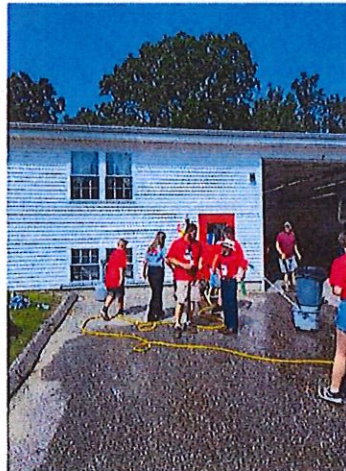
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Celebrations:

Students

This year we will be using PBIS Rewards as a way to recognize and celebrate students. I am excited about this program as it allows for parents to log in and have instant access to how and why their children are being recognized, as well as to any office referrals. This level of open communication will provide parents insight into their children's behavior that they haven't had in the past and I am excited about the increased transparency.

In addition, I would like to celebrate the wonderful First Day of School Day Community Service event. Our entire school body, including staff, worked at 7 locations around the Canterbury community, giving back to our town and spending their first day together in a positive and meaningful way. The places students completed service were: the town hall; the fire department; the library; Calvary Chapel Church; the food pantry at the Congregational Church; Manship Park; and DHBMS. Below are a few photos from the day.



Staff

This month, I would like to recognize Mrs. Hare. Mrs. Hare has stepped in as our Long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Farland, doing a great job filling the role and bringing positivity to our school and to her team. She has been working diligently to ensure that our 5th and 6th graders are encountering rigorous math instruction, while also building important relationships and community with our students. We are lucky to have her with us until Mrs. Farland comes back!

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Updates:

BMS will begin their 2021-2022 iReady testing next week, September 13-17. Once we finish testing we will begin to comb through the data to identify students in need of intervention and supports.

Core Values and Beliefs

We now have a new Mission Statement as well as new Core Values and Beliefs. Taken together, this work represents the beliefs of our students, parents, and staff members about what DHBMS stands for.

Mission Statement:

As an integral part of the Canterbury community, Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School is committed to preparing our students for an ever-changing future. Through our supportive and nurturing environment, our focus is on developing our students to become respectful and impactful members of a global society; to become advocates for those in need while seeking opportunities for self-improvement; to be adaptable and resourceful in their learning and experiences; to develop a passion for learning through investigation and inquiry; and to always be mindful of where they have come from and where they are going.

Core Values and Beliefs:

DHBMS students, parents, and staff will demonstrate excellence through having respect for ourselves and others, developing meaningful and positive relationships in order to better our community, and showing responsibility through our character and actions.

Upcoming Events:

- September 13-17: iReady testing



Canterbury Public Schools

Pupil Services Office

Cori Beckwith, Director of Pupil Services
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<http://www.canterburypublicschools.org/special-education/>

Board of Education Report September 14, 2021

Celebrations

- Canterbury Public Schools-Pupil Service Department is excited to announce the hiring of a new special education at CES to replace the vacancy left by Kelly Bahre in her transition to our district's instructional coach. Please join me in welcoming Jennifer DeFrancesco as she joins the Canterbury Public Schools family. Jennifer has a wealth of experience as a special educator, Kindergarten teacher, high school teacher and behavior technician. Jennifer will add value to our department, and build our internal capacity to meet the needs of Canterbury students.
- Seven Canterbury students with IEPs have overcome their challenges to graduate from high school! These students are to be commended for their hard work and perseverance, not only for graduating high school, but for doing so during two years impacted by a global pandemic.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Updates

- 14 students in-district participated in our Extended School Year program, and an additional 4 students participated in ESY in their respective, out-of-district programs.
- Canterbury continues to prepare for our transition to our new IEP management system, CTSEDs. We have a team of faculty who have volunteered to become a part of our CTSEDs leadership team. This team will be responsible for pre-training, implementation, and troubleshooting problems as they arise.
- The CREC audit of our speech department is complete and has made recommendations for improved practice in our speech delivery model and IEP writing.
- Our district is becoming more inclusive of students with disabilities. You will see more services delivered in the classroom, with non-disabled peers, to increase our students' exposure to grade level content while providing the necessary support for students with disabilities and those who may need tiered instruction. This will provide our students with an opportunity to "close the achievement gap" where it would not be possible if students were excluded from rich, grade-level content.
- Faculty from the pupil services department have worked in four workgroups this summer: SEL data analysis, regulation skills group curriculum, policy and procedure manual update, and PreK program development. The work will be collated into our Pupil Services Manual.
- Several new test kits were purchased this summer to replace expiring evaluations, and to expand the scope of evaluation we are able to provide in-district.



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Program Updates

- Pupil Services Department by the Numbers

IEPs at the Start of 21-22 School Year	Out of District Placements at the Start of 21-22 School Year	
74	Clinical	4
	Transitional	6
	Ag / Magnet	4
	Alternative	0
	Out-of-Town	2

- The Pupil Service Department is gradually becoming a digital department. Teachers and related service providers will have access to 504s and IEPs through PowerSchool. We are currently scanning our paper files into a digital filing system which will facilitate the location and dissemination of information when it is needed. This will eliminate the need for duplicate files at CES, which will also eliminate the possibility of misfiling documents.

Professional Development:

- The Pupil Service Department will engage in a self-assessment of IEPs using (Special Education Resource Center) SERC's IEP Rubric during the 2021-2022 school year.
- The results of our internal audit suggests that our department engage in professional development on how to write IEPs for educational benefit.
- Three special education teachers will complete Orton Gillingham training, increasing our capacity to provide multi-sensory reading intervention for students not achieving at grade level reading expectations. We are currently on a waitlist, but openings are expected in the early fall 2021.
- Recertification will take place for our crisis team members to maintain current in our ability to uphold Restraint and Seclusion laws using verbal de-escalation and therapeutic holds according to PMT Associates, Inc.