

## **CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

◆ 67 Kitt Road, Canterbury, CT 06331 ◆ Phone: 860-546-6744 ◆ Fax: 860-546-6742

### **CES Report of the Board of Education for February 2022**

#### **Celebrations**

In January, we focused on the CES attribute of Responsibility, specifically Student Pride in Work. We showcased student work and praised students for effort. 58 students received an accolade this month. While families were happy to hear about the accolades, they miss our assemblies. In the past accolades winners were honored at our student led assemblies. We hope to bring them back next year!

We started planning for some fun events at the end of the year. We hope for an outside concert to showcase our CES Chorus. Mrs. Salisbury recently started our 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> grade CES chorus. In May every year, we have a Celebration of the Arts, which will also include an art show.

On the last day of the month, we celebrated our monthly spirit day. The theme was sports and many team colors and logos were displayed.

As a staff, we gathered for a group photo to communicate, "You matter!" to Norwich Free Academy. It is important to reach out and support our high school students.

Our library celebrated making the conversion to new software of our Library Catalog. The new interface is a better match for our young library patrons. Our librarians, Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Arnio collaborated with the Bibliomation staff to work through the process of making this transition go well.

We celebrate our students and their honesty in Restorative Circles. As we sometimes face peer conflict, the students join with an adult to talk about what happened and how to make it better. They reflect back that they like talking this way; it is a safe place to talk about feelings.

We are happy to be through the month of January and the challenges we faced as a community given a surge of COVID cases. The school staff pulled together to provide coverage as needed. We said goodbye to one staff member and welcomed a new paraprofessional. We continue to welcome new students, about 5 in the last month, and we said goodbye to two students since the beginning of January. It is great to see new faces in our halls yet we will miss our friends.

#### **Professional Development**

Our Principal's Advisory Committee started up again this month after a few years' hiatus. Our focus this spring is on CES core values. A family survey went out regarding our core values of responsibility, respect, honesty, kindness, and safety. In general, families support these values and some good suggestions for other attributes such as perseverance and empathy were received. In our meetings, Mr. Kolodziej, led an activity in which matched our character values with the student characteristics described in Canterbury 2030—a vision for what we want our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to experience and demonstrate.

Our teachers are putting their professional development into action this month as they give the DRA3, a reading level assessment, to their students as part of our mid year assessment cycle. Students across the building are testing on grade level achievement measures as well as I-Ready for Grades 1-4.

Our PK team has recently taking on-line workshops in the following topics: diversity, equity, autism, and ADHD. The CT registry is a database that keeps track of all early childhood professionals in the state. Part of the website is dedicated to training and we have found the workshops to be varied and relevant.

Varied topics are planned for our February 18<sup>th</sup> professional development day. We will continue our math focused workshops, with Ms. Aforismo, our Math Interventionist leading two workshops designed to increase our vertical alignment from one grade level to the next. Mrs. Dean will offer a workshop in data collection and analysis using I-Ready data. Pupil Services will offer workshops for para professionals and teachers. In the afternoon, we will have the opportunity to engage in required training about sexual harassment.

Our safety committee met this week and reviewed our safety drill protocols. Trooper Konow, one of our CES parents, joined us as we discussed them. With our new phone system, the focus for February as far as safety goes, is to make sure that staff knows how to access the intercom with the new system. While we have already practiced "shelter in place" drills, we will now practice lock down drills. Teachers excel in explaining these drills to students in ways that match their age and level of understanding.

### **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

We have two curricular committees currently working diligently to review a math curriculum and a phonics program. Teachers meet often with our chairs of these committees, Ms. Aforismo and Mrs. Bahre, respectively, to review the strengths and weaknesses of the curricular materials of various programs. They are working toward a recommendation in the next month or so. Thank you for the efforts of these teachers!

Our PK team celebrated a successful monitoring visit from our Readiness Liaison, Ms. Cervera-Smith. These visits include review of files, assessments, professional development, and most recently, our new nutrition survey. The nutrition survey is going out to PK families this month. Monitoring visits are part of our Readiness Grant requirements to make sure that our program is compliant with the Office of Early Childhood Readiness Grants.

The CT Storytellers are beginning their winter cycle of visits to our PK, K and Grade 1 Classrooms. This program greatly supports our literacy efforts.

Our teachers are reviewing that data from this cycle of assessment, and how they are progressing toward their annual professional goals. This time of year is very important as we focus on learning as much as we can.

Respectfully submitted by Principal Sarah Cary



# Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

⇒ **Respect** ⇒ **Responsibility** ⇒ **Community** ⇒

\* 45 Westminster Road, Canterbury, CT 06331 \* Phone: 860-546-9421 \* Fax: 860-546-6289 \*

## **Celebrations:**

### ***Students***

Three of our DHBMS students have been nominated to audition for the Honors Performance Series, which is an exciting musical opportunity for students in band and chorus. Students who are selected will audition for a spot in the Honors Performance Band or Choir and if selected, will have an opportunity to perform on stage at Carnegie Hall. Our three student nominees are: Cole Arnio, Gavin Hecker, and Annalis Valdes.

In addition, another exciting celebration for us this month is the percentage of our students who are participating in extracurricular activities! Out of a total school population of 191 (and growing...), over 51% of our students are involved in either sports teams or our new after-school clubs. As of today, we have 45 students across all grades participating in after-school clubs and an additional 53 students participating in basketball. I am excited to see this trend and will continue to work with staff and families to increase this number even more. Statistically speaking, as students get older (especially high school age...) the more they connect with their school outside of the classroom, the greater the likelihood they graduate on time. This is definitely an exciting time to be a Baldwin student!

Finally, I am excited to share that, beginning in February we will be running a mentoring program in our middle school, with students from Eastern Connecticut State University coming weekly to work with students in need of mentoring. The focus will be on building leadership skills, bridging social gaps, and getting students to begin thinking about college and careers in the future. Having run this program in my previous district, I am excited to get it off the ground here at Baldwin.

### ***Staff***

This month I would like to recognize a special member of our staff, Mrs. Kye Paradise. Mrs. Paradise is a substitute teacher who works in our building and has been with us through the thick and thin of Covid-19. She is a jack-of-all-trades who is always willing to step into any role or situation she is needed. Mrs. Paradise has covered multiple long-term substitute vacancies, worked to keep our library afloat during our transition between library directors, and even comes in to cover paraprofessionals when needed. One of Kye's greatest attributes is her flexibility and desire to always be helpful. When presented with a free period, Mrs. Paradise

always comes right to the office to ask how else she can help. With a permanent smile on her face, she is a student and staff favorite, and we are lucky to have her with us!

### **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Updates:**

We are almost finished with our winter iReady testing, with make-ups underway. This data will drive our curricular and planning discussions, especially within reading and math classes, for the balance of the school year.

Additionally, our 4 ELA teachers and 2 Math teachers will be attending PD on how to best use the data from iReady to drive their instruction. This is an exciting opportunity for us to deepen our knowledge and to ensure we are using this assessment software to the best of our ability.

### **Climate Update:**

Our staff Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) team is planning some great ideas for student and staff climate. Some of the things we will be doing include:

- A student/staff volleyball game
- A staff "guess who that baby is!?" with pictures of staff members as babies.
- A "You've been mugged" challenge where staff can nominate peers for excellence and they will receive a DHBMS coffee mug.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- February 18- No school for students, Full-Day Professional Development for staff
- February 21-22- No school- Winter break
- February 25- End of trimester 2
- March 4- Trimester 2 report cards



# Canterbury Public Schools

## Pupil Services Office

Cori Beckwith, Director of Pupil Services  
45 Westminster Road Canterbury, CT 06331  
(860) 546-1040 ♦ [cbeckwith@canterburypublicschools.org](mailto:cbeckwith@canterburypublicschools.org)  
<http://www.canterburypublicschools.org/special-education/>

### Board of Education Report

February 8, 2022

#### Celebrations

- We would like to welcome Elizabeth Dilorio to Canterbury Elementary School as our newest paraprofessional. Elizabeth joins us with extensive paraprofessional and assistant head teacher experience from a nearby district. She has the skills and experience to meet the needs of our young learners with communication, behavioral, and academic needs due to the impact of Autism and Developmental Disabilities. Elizabeth will be a great asset to our special education team.
- Canterbury has revived our connection with the Youth Service Bureau overseeing our catchment area. Currently, a social work intern participates in the Youth Service Bureau meeting on the last Monday of the month from 4-5, and the Local Interagency Service Team meeting is on the first Wednesday of every month from 9:30-11:30. Starting in March, our school social worker will also participate in the LIST meeting, allowing us to stay connected to community services available to our children in Canterbury. LIST is currently offering "Exploring the Gender-Verse: A Community Conversation about Gender," which is a free virtual training for parents. The Noreast System of Care is another guiding agency to support healthy youth development and is offering Parents Pride Support Group, which is a group for the parents of youth who identify as LGBTQIA+. Registration information has been sent home through a Blackboard message to families. Workshops are often available for parents through these community partners, and our goal is to share it out with families.

#### Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Updates

- BMS special education teacher, Bridget Griffin; CES special education teacher, Dan Burke; instructional coach, Kelly Bahre; first grade teacher, Kristie Wernicki; and reading interventionist, Polly Dean completed their training on Orton Gillingham, which is a direct, explicit, multisensory, structured, sequential, diagnostic and prescriptive method for teaching the skills of literacy. This training prepares teachers to break reading down into its discrete components so that students who struggle to decode words can be taught how using a scientific technique. This training enhances the current intervention model we have because it allows classroom teachers to provide Tier II and Tier III instruction.
- SEAC, the Special Education Advisory Council met for the second time this year. We elected officers, and reviewed bylaws. Parent participation is limited, however, and it is the group's wish to increase parental involvement. It is of particular interest to increase involvement of the parents of our youngest learners with disabilities so we can support students and families who will be with us for the duration of their educational career.
- Originally, DRA kits were purchased so that teams of teachers could share one kit. There were some limitations with this model since teachers sharing a kit may need to

use the same materials on any given day. Additional kits were purchased so that each teacher will have their own kit from Kindergarten through 4th grade.

- Reading and Math intervention completed a cycle of intervention, made the determination to exit or continue students for the next intervention cycle, and began with new groups that target the top 15% of students with the greatest math or reading struggle.
- Preparation for the new IEP has continued with writing a strong Present Levels of Performance page on the IEP. A strong description of a child's present level of performance helps us capitalize on a student's strengths while supporting their needs. The Present Level of Performance page also drives the rest of the document, where a child's needs turn into the goals that they will be working on through their special education hours.

## Program Updates

- Pupil Services Department by the Numbers

Number of PPTs Since Start of School	Number of New Referrals since Start of School	Number of Assessments Completed since Start of School	IEPs at the Start of the 21-22 School Year / Currently	Out of District Placements at the Start of School / Currently
103	18	19	74 / 88	Clinical 3/4 Transitional 4/7 Academic Intensive 1/0 Alternative 0/0 Ag/ Magnet 3/3 Out of Town 2/2

- The use of the new IEP for all of Connecticut schools will begin on July 1, 2022. The new IEP is intuitive, meaning it will supply us with the correct paperwork to complete based on the type of IEP we are having. This leaves less room for error, and a greater chance that IEPs will be written for the child's educational benefit. The New IEP can be found using this link:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/New-IEP/Draft-IEP-August-2021.pdf>  
 The formatting is very different, and it will certainly take some getting used to. We look forward to the challenge and the opportunity of going through this IEP evolution.