

## CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### CES Report to the Board of Education for April 2022

#### Celebrations

We rejoiced at having our PK screening in person again after 3 years! We saw many children and their families! It was amazing. We have great interest in the program this year.

In March, we focused on the CES attribute of Responsibility in showing appreciation. Over 70 students received an accolade this month. Our spirit day celebrated Autism Awareness and the entire school was awash with blue on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

We celebrated our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade CAPSS winners, Chase Jordan and Alaina Pescatello at the awards ceremony on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

We celebrate how many items we collected in our food drive led by our social work interns! Boxes and boxes of food and health items were brought to Canterbury Cares Food Pantry this week.

We celebrate planning events for the end of the year that include families in person with us!

**-HUGS and Smiles Dinner** on April 27<sup>th</sup> (rain date April 28<sup>th</sup>) A celebration of our Primary project and mentoring program. Includes food and fun!

**-Celebration of the Arts** on May 25<sup>th</sup> (rain date May 26<sup>th</sup>). School-wide art show and CES Chorus outside performance.

**-PTO Family Fun Nights.** Planning outside play events for students and families in June to celebrate!

**-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Send Off.** PTO and CES planning for the event to be held outside again with families making posters for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Planned for the next to last day of school with a rain date of the last day of school.

#### Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

We start our Smarter Balance Assessments the week after vacation. We plan 4 hour long sessions over the course of 4 weeks to complete the 3 tests that cover mathematics and reading.

All of our students and teacher continue to work diligently on learning new skills. This is the time of year when we see them bring many skills together! We are very proud of our students and staff.

# Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

⇌ Respect ⇌ Responsibility ⇌ Community ⇌

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## **Celebrations:**

### ***Students***

After a two-year hiatus, the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) is bringing back its annual Scholar-Leader Award Banquet. CAS describes this program as “designed to give public recognition to two students in each middle-level school in Connecticut who have distinguished themselves in scholarship and leadership in both the school and community. The academic standard established by CAS is based on a cumulative middle school average of at least 85% or “B” or 3.0 on a 4-point scale or the equivalent standard of excellence for schools that do not use any of these scales. For leadership, schools are welcome to create their own standards, but are encouraged to consider active participation in school and community organizations, citizenship, a positive influence on school climate, dependability, responsibility, character, and integrity.” I would like to congratulate our two students who have been selected as the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School Scholar-Leaders: Noemia Amaral and David Ivan. Noemia and David are both 8th-graders who epitomize leadership. Both students work diligently to ensure they have strong grades and a positive classroom presence. Outside of the classroom, Noemia and David lead through their kindness and integrity. Their quiet presence, supportive nature, and sense of humor place them among their peers as leaders and as individuals who are well-regarded by everyone here at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School. Noemia and David will be celebrated by the CT Association of Schools on Monday, June 6, at 5:00 PM at the Aquaturf, in Southington.

### ***Staff***

This month I would like to recognize Kathy Faulkenberry. Mrs. Faulkenberry stepped into our 5/6 Social Studies classroom when Mr. Brady resigned last month. She has done a wonderful job learning the curriculum, preparing students for her transition with a new grading procedure, and working to ensure continuity for our 5th and 6th graders. With a certification in Language Arts, Mrs. Faulkenberry already had a strong literacy background. She is using this strength to ensure that students are gaining literacy skills while also learning the social studies content required by the state standards. We are lucky to have Kathy with us and are grateful for her willingness to step into this new role to finish the school year strong.

### **Women's History Month**

March was Women's History Month and staff across the building worked to integrate connections to this theme within the curriculum. Some examples of how Women's History Month was integrated include:

- A snapshot of important, historical women displayed prominently in our library.
- Famous women and quotes by famous women displayed along the office windows, visible right as students entered the building
- Daily facts about famous historical women as well as quotes from those women
- A bulletin board representing historical women outside of the pupil services office.



**Climate Update:**

- Using survey data from the entire staff, our PBIS team has been working to identify a plan to continue to improve our PBIS processes in the school building. The top priorities the team has identified are:
  - Having a behavior management continuum
  - Strengthening the clarity of our student handbook
  - Developing strategies to minimize behavioral disruption on classroom instruction
  - Reinforcing staff acknowledgement of student behaviors at a ratio of recognizing positive behaviors 4 times to every 1 negative behavior.

I am really excited about the work that has been done. This committee has been led by teachers in the building who are working hard to help build our staff's capacity for student behaviors and to increase positivity across our school climate.

**Upcoming Events:**

- State testing begins this month
- April 15- No school, Good Friday
- April 18-22- April Vacation



# Canterbury Public Schools

## Pupil Services Office

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### Board of Education Report

April 12, 2022

#### Celebrations

- The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) hosted a parent workshop to explore the new IEP called CTSEDS. Parents attended in person and virtually to learn about and see the new and updated formatting of the new IEP that will be rolled out on July 1st.
- A team of educators met to identify activities to celebrate Autism Awareness Month during April. The team decided on creating bulletin boards at BMS and CES. Staff will read books and use visuals throughout the month to highlight the abilities of neurodiverse people. Inclusion of all learners will remain our focus for the month of April and beyond.
- Three staff members completed two days of a three day training on Charting the Lifecourse, a planning tool used to support students as they transition throughout the lifespan. The tools will be used by special educators at all levels to help students create a vision for a good life. The idea behind Charting the Lifecourse is to include students in the plans that deeply impact their futures, and to give them (and teach them how to use) their voice in advocating for their needs and wants. You will see this in action by students being present at their PPT meetings, possibly presenting about their wishes, and developing an understanding of how their disability impacts their daily life.
- ESY is preliminarily planned for July 5-July 28, and is expected to have a larger capacity than in past years.

#### Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Updates

- The CT State Department of Education has started providing weekly briefings on each section of the new IEP so stakeholders can experience the new look and feel of the document. Anyone is welcome to attend from 4-5pm on Monday afternoon. The sessions are also recorded and available on the CSDE website should you want to watch the briefing at a later time.
- The screening for Gifted and Talented students has begun. Referrals have been sought from parents and teachers to identify any student who may have intellectual giftedness or extraordinary talent in the arts. Students referred for Gifted and Talented identification will be reviewed, and those who qualify will take a group assessment during the month of May. Students identified as gifted and/or talented will be formally identified, and teachers will be encouraged to differentiate instruction to meet the students' needs in the classroom.

## 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
138	23	29	74 / 90	Clinical 3/4 Transitional 4/7 Academic Intensive 1/0 Alternative 0/0 Ag/ Magnet 3/3 Out of Town 2/1

- 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. Three staff will be trained as experts this summer, and will lead the training of the rest of the district at the beginning of and throughout the year.
- ESY is scheduled for July 5-July 28th on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is determined at PPTs if students qualify for this service. More information will be forthcoming as program details are defined.