

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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CES Report to the Board of Education for May 2022

Celebrations

We continue to celebrate the return of families to our school! On April 27th, we celebrated the students in our HUGS and SMILES program with a family pizza dinner. It is truly exciting to be together in person.

Last week, we took down the shield in the cafeteria in another “next step” in coming out of the pandemic. The students were so happy to see more clearly, in fact, a 4th grader spontaneously thanked us for the change.

Our Celebration of the Arts is this month, featuring our CES Chorus. The performing group began work this year in January and we are so pleased to see our 3rd and 4th graders on stage, in song. The school-wide Art Show is also a huge part of our celebration. This event is planned for Wednesday, May 25th. The school will be open from 5:30 pm on for art show viewing in all the hallways. Then at 6:30, we will have a concert in the cafeteria. We do hope you can join us.

In April, we focused on the CES attribute of Kindness. Once again, our students demonstrated how empathetic they are to one another. Showing empathy is part of our Second Step program and our students excel in this particular attribute. In May, we turn our focus to showing respect by communicating. We have started this month by communicating our appreciation for our teachers!

Our PTO has been very busy this week celebrating all staff in a variety of ways. A potluck breakfast filled us up! The spread was overwhelming and again, to have food made for us from our families, is another indicator that we are moving toward normalcy. We have had daily raffles, and gifts for everyone each day. Students have been busy, too, with gifts and kind words. Each staff member received a CES t-shirt.

We celebrate our first field trip in two years. Our 4th graders are going to the Nathan Hale Homestead this month.

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

Celebration of the Arts on May 25th School-wide Art Show 5:30 pm CES Concert 6:30 pm

PTO Family Fun Nights Friday, May 27th 4:30-6:30 pm & Tuesday, June 7th 4:30-6:30 pm

4th Grade Fun Night Monday, June 6th 3-5:30 pm (families invited at 4:30 for pizza)

4th Grade Send Off. Tuesday, June 7th at 9:30 am

We celebrate the transition of our 4th graders to Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School. The middle school offered a parent information session during March conferences and a May trip to the middle school is planned for students.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

We are in the middle of our Smarter Balance Assessments. The students have been working hard. We have encouraged them to use the skills they have learned in Second Step about positive self-talk. Thanks to our Technology Teacher, Mrs. Giuliano, for coordinating testing. Our spring IReady testing will occur this month as well.

All the materials for our new phonic and math program have arrived and are being given to teachers. We plan math professional development on June 9th and June 10th for teachers in "Illustrative Math." The phonics PD is virtual and will occur in August, although staff will have access to it over the summer.

Our Scheduling Advisory Committee has been meeting weekly. We have focused on gathering feedback from all parties and robust discussion about best solutions. This past week we focused on providing times in the day for enrichment and intervention. We have a draft to bring before the faculty at next week's meeting.

Our school social worker Mrs. Musumeci and our school psychologist Ms. Rae will present at our May faculty meeting, too. Teachers will have an opportunity to look at the DESSA screener from the viewpoint of one year's data. Grade levels will have the opportunity to collaborate in this task.

One of our teachers, Mr. Kolodziej, is the summer school coordinator for this summer. Working with our teachers, he has designed exciting opportunities for students. Invitation letters to students go home on Friday, May 6th.

We are making progress on the renewal of our core values and their alignment to Canterbury 2030 "Vision of a Learner." Following the work of the Principal's Advisory group over the winter, our teachers had the opportunity to add input to this project by filling in their own circle. We are collating all responses. Gathering input from all staff and community members will be the focus for May. Our CES PAC will meet in early June to discuss input and to determine the final look of our new circle graphic. Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted by Principal Sarah Cary

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

⇌ Respect ⇌ Responsibility ⇌ Community ⇌

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Celebrations:

Students

At this month's Board of Education I would like to again recognize our two students who have been selected as the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School Scholar-Leaders: Noemia Amaral and David Ivan. As I shared last month, Noemia and David lead through their kindness and integrity and they are well-regarded by everyone here at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School.

The 8th grade team has the following to say about David and Noemia:

David is passionate about history and loves to share that passion with everyone. He has an excellent sense of humor in class and is very witty. He is always eager to participate in Spanish class and always has a positive attitude. David adds humor to every lesson, shows excellent effort and perseverance. David is always kind to all and a model student both behaviorally and academically and he perseveres through challenges and always stays positive even when work gets difficult. David is always a team player, and is a role model to peers in and outside of school. David's humor and knowledge adds to lessons. Finally, David's peers have embraced him as a knowledgeable classmate, and they respect him.

Noemia is a student who volunteers for everything and she is always willing to help out. She is an incredibly conscientious student and puts tremendous care into her work. She is also a very responsible student and always goes above and beyond expectations. Noemia is always a great participant in Spanish class and a leader in language learning and is always friendly and a hard worker, participating in class and helping her peers. Noemia is very diligent and puts maximum effort into every project and lesson she does and is able to advocate for herself and others in a way that is very sensitive to all involved. She is mindful of others' feelings and gives everyone the benefit of the doubt. Noemia never does anything less than her very best. She always takes on challenges full steam ahead and never gives up! Noemia is willing to put herself in uncomfortable situations in order to learn whether in the classroom or softball field. Finally, she has a great sense of humor and is an amazing writer in both the nonfiction and fiction realms. 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 Mrs. Jill Smith. Since the departure of Evelyn Smith before April vacation, Jill has been working to fill both positions, a venture that is not easily done. From first thing in the morning until long after students are gone, Jill is rocking it, fulfilling all of Evelyn's tasks while also continuing to be responsible for her own. Her effort, ethic, and time has been appreciated and I can say without a doubt that our school would be floundering without her hard work and dedication to ensuring that the ship runs smoothly. Before taking on the principalship I was told that a principal is only as successful as his frontline secretary is strong. Jill has been an amazing partner and these past three weeks have only increased my opinion of the job she continues to do. Baldwin would not be successful without her.

Curriculum and Assessment Updates Update:

- Smarter Balanced testing has wrapped up for the school year! Very exciting news!
- Spring iReady will begin this week and will be finished by May 19.
- In order to balance the schedule, create simpler day day-to-day operations, and ensure equitable class sizes, I am examining ways to shift some of our buildings reading and writing instruction out of the core curriculum and into the specials rotation in the form of creating writing, journalism, or another elective language arts class that will engage students in literacy in a supportive, non-traditional manner that will improve reading and writing without the intense focus on traditional LA curricula.

Upcoming Events:

- May 10-11, and 18-19: iReady testing
- May 27: 4th grade visit to BMS
- May 30- No school- Memorial Day



Canterbury Public Schools

Pupil Services Office

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Board of Education Report

May 10, 2022

Celebrations

- The screening process of social work candidates has begun at Baldwin Middle School. We established a committee of administrators, a school psychologist, school counselor and special education teacher charged with hiring a qualified candidate to develop the social work program at our middle school. Interviews took place today. The Pupil Services Department is honored to have this position prioritized by our stakeholders, particularly in light of May being Mental Health Awareness Month. According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, as of April 30, 2022, 54 twelve to eighteen year old children were evaluated in Connecticut's emergency departments for attempting suicide. Families have begun to register with our School-Based Health Center for counseling services, but we have many more openings for students who need the support and we hope to fill up those slots by Canterbury children and families in need. Families can access the online registration form [here](#). The Baldwin Middle School registration paperwork is used to register children at either school.
- Canterbury Pupil Services and BMS's World Language Teacher, Yahaira Dunshee, participated in UCONN's Teacher Recruitment Fair to find candidates for our anticipated Social Work, 6th grade, and additional World Language teacher openings. Most new graduates were certified in the areas of History and English at the secondary level, and most new graduates were looking for larger districts. There were 4 local UCONN graduates looking for special education and elementary positions, and they were encouraged to apply should we have any openings in the future. On May 5th, Pupil Services participated in a Virtual Diverse Teacher Recruitment Fair. Canterbury created a "virtual booth" and found candidates by filtering through fields such as region and certification to identify potential matches. Matches were invited to schedule a virtual chat through an electronic platform. The virtual teacher recruitment fair highlighted the recent, possibly pandemic-induced, revolution in marketing, communication and recruitment in the field of education.
- In September, a team of educators including Liz Boots (Classroom Teacher), Jen DeFrancesco (Special Education Teacher), Kim Williamson (Speech Pathologist) and Danielle Young (Paraprofessional) embarked on a journey to create an integrated classroom. This classroom educates students with disabilities together with their non-disabled peers. The goal was to create an empathic community of learners who supported each other academically and emotionally in the classroom. The team of educators prioritized integrated and responsive techniques to provide much of the specialized service delivery within the classroom. In our end-of-year reflection meeting,

the team identified many positive outcomes such as: students soothing and de-escalating one another, communicating openly about their needs, an emphasis of the classmates as a team, an acceptance of the philosophy that everyone gets what they need which may be different for each child, increase in student independence, and generalization of skills from speech and special education to the classroom where they will use those skills. In reading, the students in the integrated classroom made as much progress or more when compared to the first grade classrooms overall in their projected annual growth on iReady. The growth was most notable in the classroom level data on specific skills growth, which is not captured on iReady. In math, the integrated classroom performed between our two other classrooms on annual typical growth on the iReady math assessment. For the remainder of the year, teachers will have the opportunity to observe components of the integrated classroom that work well for student-centered learning, such as the explicit teaching of the expectations, inclusive classroom philosophy, small group instruction, and consistent classroom routine with embedded supports (visual schedule) where needed. This team of educators should be recognized for their collaboration and commitment to establishing our integrated classroom, with the best interest of students in mind, at all times.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Updates

- Learning Ally is a program that Canterbury embraces to read to students who have not yet developed the fluency to read for comprehension independently. Books are read aloud to students through the Learning Ally app that can be downloaded on a personal device at home or using the Chromebooks at school. Almost every book in print is available as an audiobook, and can be downloaded for those students who have difficulty reading for any reason. In our end-of-year reflection with Learning Ally, we know that we have 30 students regularly using the program, and they have read a total of 4138 pages through the audiobook program. Three students are reading with frequency, at least 30 minutes per day, 3 times per week, for a thirty day period, which is a marker identified through research as the amount of time needed to improve fluency and comprehension. We have an additional 3 students reading with "near frequency." Our goal is to increase the amount of students using Learning Ally at Canterbury Elementary School in the coming months and next school year.

Org Name	Building Enrollment	Educators	Active Educ Count	Registered Students	Students With Pages Read	Students With RWF	Students With Books	Bookshelf Adds	Bookshelf Adds by Student	Bookshelf Adds by Educator	Pages Read	Hours Read
DR HELEN BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL (29325)	177	17	5	41	17	2	27	169	91	78	3,696	71.0
CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (53708)	292	12	2	10	1		2	5	4	1	94	0.3
Total	469	23	7	51	18	2	29	174	95	79	3,790	71.3

- Many school districts in Connecticut have transitioned to using electronic psychoeducational assessment platforms over the last 8-10 years. Canterbury has not yet made the switch, and continues to use paper/flip chart assessment kits. Special Education Directors across the state have been encouraged to make sustainable purchases using the ESSR funding as part of COVID recovery, so we purchased twelve

iPads to facilitate our transition to the digital assessment process. This will provide an iPad to each evaluator, and their evaluatee, in our district. It will also increase accuracy in scoring and efficiency in reporting. In addition to the hardware (iPads), we will purchase a software license to use a digital assessment library through one of our most used test publishers. This will give us access to many evaluations in English and Spanish. At times, it may be necessary to supplement the digital assessment library with other tests, so we will purchase only those paper test kits moving forward. This is an exciting leap for the district to take!

- A team of educators from the Pupil Service department is developing a program to meet the needs of students requiring intensive intervention at the elementary school. So far, the team has reviewed new CT Guide to Intervention Models for Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders in Inclusive Settings, created our vision, identified essential components to meet the needs and aligned those with three research-based models for instruction including TEACHH, the Early Start Denver Model, and SCERTS. The program will have nine components including: earliest intervention, family involvement/cooperative planning, individualized/intensive programming, comprehensive curriculum, functional approaches to behavior, instruction/assessment, structured/predictable learning environment, staff training, peer relationships. The team is brainstorming names for our intensive program as we speak, and will update the board once a name is selected. Our next step is to identify the staff who will be associated with operating our intensive program, and securing the training and supplies we will need to function. We are excited to embark upon this journey for the coming year.
- Extended School Year will take place from July 5-July 28 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week. Students who qualify for ESY have been identified and the department is working to secure parent commitments. Ten hours per week of Reading Recovery Instruction will be offered to students who have been identified with Dyslexia. Preliminary research shows that this group of students was exponentially impacted by the school closures related to COVID, so grant money was offered to each school district to help children recover from reading loss during the pandemic. Parents are currently responding to a Google Doc to accept or decline the tutoring that is available to them.

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
162	28	39	74 / 86	<div>Clinical 3/2</div> <div>Transitional 4/7</div> <div>Academic Intensive 1/0</div> <div>Alternative 0/1</div> <div>Ag/ Magnet 3/3</div> <div>Out of Town 2/1</div>