

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT CLARK-WILKINS ELEMENTARY

October 2, 2018

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Elementary School Excellence

School Goals

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment: Develop and implement high quality curriculum, assessment and instructional practices to support personalized student learning.

Collaborative Team Time Meetings: The Clark-Wilkins teachers worked together during the first round of collaborative team time meetings the week of September 17th. Each grade level team met for a half day with the Mont Vernon Village School teachers to work on curriculum, instruction, and assessment. During these productive meetings, grade levels were able to spend time collaboratively scoring work, reviewing upcoming assessments, and entering grades into Empower.

Clark-Wilkins School Book Room: The book room located at Wilkins has undergone an extensive move and renovation this summer. Thousands of books were consolidated into new bins and shelves built by our SAU facilities team. With the assistance of volunteers from the PTA and Souhegan High School, we are carefully re-labeling and organizing books into an efficient and easy to use the system for our teachers. These books are used for small group instruction, book clubs in classrooms, and guided reading.

Wilson Language Foundations Trainings: Our newest Clark-Wilkins staff members have been attending grade level specific full day training on the Wilson Foundations curriculum. These training opportunities provide our newest team members with the necessary background and information to implement this program with our students in their classrooms.

NWEA: During the weeks of September 24th and October 1st, all Kindergarten-fourth grade students have participated in our NWEA assessments. The reading and math NWEA assessments support our teachers in developing a clear picture of what each student knows and what they are ready to learn next. Both assessments are administered on the computer and are "adaptive," meaning that the questions presented to the test take change based on the child's response. The results from these assessments will be shared with families at the end of the first trimester with report cards. Following the assessment window, administrators will host drop-in PD sessions focused on how to read reports and how to use data to inform instruction.

Social and Emotional Learning: Establish a community, classroom, and school-wide, that fosters and ensures the social and emotional development and growth of all students.

October 10 – Late Start: Classroom teachers will work together to unpack the Second Step Social Emotional Learning curriculum in their grade level teams. Several teachers have had experience using this curriculum at their grade level and will be able to support their colleagues in understanding the materials and instructional approaches. The C-W Special Education team will continue their work as a book study group with the text, Grading Exceptional and Struggling Learners.

Trimester 1 Progress Reports: Classroom teachers will be providing students and families with feedback on a variety of work habits on the mid-October Progress Report. The progress reports focus on the skills and dispositions of successful learners, such as applying listening skills, completing tasks, and persevering on academic tasks.

Tier I Guidance Co-Teach: On October 2nd Kristen Brandano, Wilkins Guidance Counselor, began delivering direct instruction in the area of Bullying to all first-fourth grade students. The instruction takes place in the regular education classroom with classroom teacher participation. The bullying program that is being used is a component of the Second Step Curriculum that is being delivered to all students as part of our core instruction. Having guidance “push-in” to the regular classroom increases the instructional effectiveness and our ability to develop and implement universal language and strategies for bullying awareness and prevention. Classroom teachers will be able to reinforce concepts and language and embed the learning throughout the day.

Healthy & Safe Learning Environment: Ensure that students & staff are healthy, safe, & supported emotionally, physically, & socially.

Emergency Management Team: We have completed a fire drill and lockdown drill at Clark and Wilkins during September. Officer Knox was on-site for all of the drills and provided us with excellent feedback and suggestions. In addition to the information presented by Officer Knox, members of the Emergency Management Team met to discuss and evaluate our responses and areas for targeted improvement. This team will make adjustments to our practices and protocols and share the changes with the larger staff. Reviewing and revising our practices will be on-going this year as we work to improve our preparedness and response times.

Smile Day: All Kindergarten-fourth grades students and staff participated in our Annual Smile Day Assembly on Friday, October 5th. This is the first of many events and activities that are scheduled for the year that bring the Clark and Wilkins school communities together to celebrate and connect. The morning was filled with smiles, laughter, and joy.

Inspirational & Effective Teaching

Frontline:

Observations	Completed	To Be Completed
Informal (10-15 minutes in class)	6	206
Formal (pre-observation conference, 45-60 minute observation, post-observation conference)	Many are scheduled for October and November	36

Facilities, Finance, and Operations

Facilities: Shawn George, our newly hired electrician, has been working tirelessly at Clark and Wilkins in the past few weeks to address electrical tasks big and small. From repairing light fixtures and replacing bulbs in the Wilkins MPR, to installing and updating emergency exit lights, and many other tasks, the makeover that began during the summer months is continuing well into the school year.

Budget: The CW administrative team has been working with curriculum coordinators and SAU department leaders to develop a budget for FY20 that enables us to continue moving forward with our commitment to appropriate class size and excellent educational opportunities for all students.

DOE School Approval Facility Review: On Tuesday, October 11, Majorie Schoonmaker toured the CW facilities as part of our School Approval Facility Review. The review included a physical review of our buildings and also a review of important documents such as our Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Fire Drill Schedule, Playground inspection, and Indoor Air Quality Report, amongst other things. Any feedback that we receive following the visit will be shared with the School Board at a later date.

Clark-Wilkins Enrollment Figures 2018-2019

* October enrollment as of 10/2

Grade	Aug.	Sept.*	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Pre-K	33	33	34								
K	131	129	127								
1	125	125	125								
2	141	142	139								
3	123	126	123								
4	137	138	137								
Total	690	693	685								
17-18 Total	665	673	674	678	686	686	688	691	692	693	692

Upcoming Events

Date	Activity
September 24 – October 5	NWEA Assessments – Kindergarten – Fourth Grade
October 1st	Fourth Grade Hike – Pack Monadnock
October 5 th	All School (K-4) Smile Day Assembly @ Wilkins
October 8 th	Columbus Day – No School
October 9 th	Late Start – SEL and AGR
October 11-23	PMEC Programs and Visits – All Grades
October 16 th	Mark Parisi – Author Visit – Grades 3&4
October 19 th	Trimester 1 Progress Reports sent home
October 31 st	Halloween Parties