

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
September 4, 2018**

Staffing

- Whittier welcomes Mr. Sam Chatto (Dean of Students), Mr. Spencer Emerson (Grade 8 Math), Ms. Abby Moore (Grade 7 ELA and Social Studies), and Mr. Sean Galipeau-Eldridge (Grade 7 ELA).

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Whittier opened with 138 seventh graders and 118 eighth graders on campus. This is an increase of ten students from this time last year. Additionally, seven Whittier Middle School students are attending Poland Community School in the Functional Life Skills program.
- The three staff days in August provided great opportunity for collaboration and calibration. Learning area teams met to prepare units and review the calendar. They also created lists of next steps for their departments. Academic teams met to create common agreements around classroom expectations and to discuss procedure for our second year as a BARR school. On the second day, we used the time following the district presentation to complete mandatory trainings with the high school staff and then reviewed our staff handbook. On the last day, we talked about how we will handle professional development this year, grading and assessment retakes, and Habits of Work and Roundtable curriculum.
- On August 15, twenty-five 7th graders attended a two-hour special introduction to managing middle school, Camp Whittier. Special thanks to Bonnie Robbins, Logan Landry, Abby Moore, Michelle Pittman and Sarah Henderson for creating and facilitating this program.
- Nineteen students attended summer school. Sarah Henderson and Abby Moore served as lead teachers, and ed tech Susanna Johnson provided support. The curriculum focused on building math, reading, and writing skills to help the students meet middle school standards. Many of the students were incoming seventh graders, and this program allowed them to get comfortable with curriculum, staff and the building prior to their official first day as students here.
- Whittier has again set a goal this school year to reach out to the tri-town community and its wealth of knowledge and abilities. As an extension of this aim, the middle school's GaTE (Gifted and Talented Education) program would like to invite you to be part of this year's Community Expert Program. For those of you who practice math, science, technology, language and communication, and/or the arts within your professions, and are willing to share your experience with our students, won't you join us? As a Community Expert, you may choose to share your time and know-how during a one-time visit with a group of students or you may elect to be part of a panel of experts who are interviewed by students or you may become a monthly mentor. Perhaps you would like to help a group conduct a local research study or assist with a small group of junior entrepreneurs? There are many possibilities depending upon your interests, experience and availability. Please contact Ell Fanus (efanus@rsu16.org) if you are interested.

Events

- Whittier hosted an Ice Cream Social on August 16th and an Open House on August 27th. Both were very well attended. Many teachers and staff volunteered at the social. We tried something new at the Open House and had families follow the students' schedules. Every ten minutes, we rotated them to a new class. The halls were full and the humidity was high, but it seemed to be a positive experience overall.
- September 11: Grade 7 Parents Laptop Night
- September 20: School picture day

Facilities: The school looked great to open the year. Thanks to Tony Bennett and the maintenance team.