

RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
January 7, 2019

Staffing

- Drew Robbins is currently filling in as long-term substitute for our 8th grade math position. He is nearing the start of his ETEP internship at USM and will finish the year eligible for teacher certification. Drew has served as an ed tech at Whittier for nine years. Kelly Cloutier is joining the Whittier staff as a long-term substitute for an ed tech position.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- We have been carefully tracking student attendance trends at Whittier this year. I meet with the Dean of Students and school counselor every Monday morning to review data and take steps to provide appropriate intervention. At this point, our 7th graders have attended 95.96% of school days and 8th graders have attended 95.28%. These numbers are lower than they should be due to a handful of students who have moved to new districts and not immediately enrolled. We currently have 24 students (8.7%) who would be considered chronically absent, meaning they have attended less than 90% of school days. Last year, 13% of our students were deemed chronically absent.
- Students have started their National History Day projects. English language arts teachers are working in partnership with the social studies teachers to provide students with instruction in research and non-fiction writing skills. The school librarian, Julie Purdy, has also been providing instruction. We are looking for parents, family and community members to be judges for our annual Whittier History Day which will take place on Tuesday, February 12th (with a snow day of Wednesday, February 13th). The time commitment would be 8:00-12:00 that morning. Judges will be trained. This is a great chance for you to see our school community at its best. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Logan Landry at llandry@rsu16.org. We greatly appreciate your support of this special yearly event.
- ***Whittier Middle School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on February 5, 2019. NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessments because it is a common measure of achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. Parents have been notified through the school newsletter.***

Events

- The Whittier Geography Bee was held on Friday, December 14th. The top 10 students, out of about 70 participants, competed for the medal. The top 10 students participating were:
Sam Winslow, Alerick Sands, Graison Cote, Jack Boles, Nolan Greenwald, Michael Phillips, Parker Demelia, Cailean MacEachen, Alex Webb and Tyler Burke. We went through several rounds and established our top three finishers. In 3rd place Cailean MacEachen, 2nd place Nolan Greenwald, and 1st place was Michael Phillips. Michael will now complete the online qualifier test to attempt to qualify for the state bee.
- Whittier students will compete at two upcoming math meets on Tuesday, January 29th in Portland and Tuesday, February 12th in Durham. Thanks to Sharon Goss and volunteer David MacMahon for preparing our students for competition.

Facilities:

- The ceilings in the portable classrooms continue to leak. Tony and his crew have worked with Schiavi to continue to address the problem.