

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
September 6, 2021**

Staff

- The full Whittier teaching staff is back for the second year in a row. In addition, we have added **Nicole Fox** to teach writing, **Sarah McNabb** to teach in our Social Emotional Learning classroom, and **Julie Rioux** as an educational technician. **Abegayle Brown** will work at Whittier twice each week, providing social work services. Physical education teacher **Gregg Rose** is now full-time at Whittier.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- We currently have 145 seventh graders and 137 eighth graders at Whittier. Six middle school students participate in the functional life skills program at Poland Community School. This may be the largest number of students we have ever had at the middle school. In response to our large number of students, we have taken some steps to reduce class sizes as much as possible:
 - Physical education teacher Gregg Rose is now at Whittier Middle School full-time. Students will have more physical activity than they have ever had at the middle school, and it provides us with another regular class to fill students' schedules. Each student will have PE for two trimesters.
 - Students are enrolled in Writing class with Nicole Fox during the same trimesters that they have PE, and alternate days of Writing with PE. Over time, we have seen a growing need to increase writing instruction for all students. The Writing class is brand new to Whittier and certainly helps with our numbers, but the instruction and addition of another outstanding educator are the true wins.
 - Teachers are teaching an additional class. In recent years, teachers have had four classes on their schedules, and the classes have been slightly longer. This year, teachers have five sections. For example, Logan Landry teaches seventh grade social studies. He has five sections of seventh grade social studies with 21 students in each class. The classes are 50 minutes long each day except Wednesdays, when they are 40 minutes long to allow for early dismissal.
- Our first round of pooled testing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7th. We have received the required consent for 74 students and 30 staff members to participate.
- Band and chorus will return to Whittier Middle School after being put on hold last year.

Events

- School picture day is Wednesday, September 8th.
- Middle school soccer and field hockey begin on Tuesday, September 7th. Cross-country practice is already underway.

Facilities:

- The facilities were in excellent condition for the start of the school year. Many thanks to Craig Worth, Tony Bennett, and their team for getting the building and grounds ready.