

# Newton Public Schools

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*Superintendent*

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## **Principals' Reports**

### **Newton High School - Jeff Waldron**

- Since my arrival at NHS, we have maintained two long-term school goals that have progressed steadily over the last three years. Those goals include supporting the use of technology in the educational process and maximizing teacher effectiveness by supporting professional growth through reflection. To be honest, these goals were developed by me without discussion or input from any other NHS personnel. While this type of approach is not my preferred method of operation, I was convinced immediate action was necessary in these two areas.
- We have given these two areas our attention over the past three years and have made substantial gains we are proud of. See highlights listed below. This year, I am returning to my preferred method of developing school goals which is to work closely with the other building leaders throughout the development process. The administration and building coordinators have been using the Annual School Planning System employed by HMS and MAS to develop our 2018-19 goals. I look forward to sharing those goals at the next board meeting.
- *Maximize teacher effectiveness by supporting professional growth through reflection - Achievements*
  - In a recent survey, 88% of staff reported finding the evaluation process meaningful and constructive as a professional development tool.
  - 100% of PDP's contain elements that are based on the staff members evaluation and APR data.
  - All ELA and Math teachers have engaged in guided program development that included opportunities to redefine learning objectives and develop common major assessments that can be used to track student achievement in relation to those objectives. Social Studies Department training will take place this year.
  - The PE Department has developed learning goals and associated assessments.
  - The Technology Department course offerings were altered to meet the needs of the 21st century learner.
  - The Business Department has redefined their instructional practices to support a student centered learning environment.
  - Eleven new electives including 4 at the AP level and 2 with multiple sections at the academic support level are in place. The remaining 5 span the CP - Honors levels.
  - Six elective courses have been redesigned to meet the changing needs of our 21st century students.
- *Support the use of technology in the educational process - Achievements*
  - We went from 11% 1:1 students to devices to 100% 1:1 in the past three years.
  - 100% of the staff use Google Applications as a communication platform. Over 80% of the instructional staff members use Google Classroom.
  - All instructional staff have received multiple in-house PD sessions on a variety of technology based instructional tools.
  - We have developed a social media presence.
  - 100% of current sophomores and juniors report using technology regularly in the majority of their classes.

- Less than 100% of current seniors report using technology regularly in the majority of classes when asked last year. We anticipate that percentage will change this year as all now have school issued chromebooks.

### **Merriam Avenue School - Kevin Stanton**

*Foster social and emotional well-being and an academically engaged classroom environment through integration of research based character education and social / emotional interventions.*

- Kevin Stanton, Samantha Castro & Nik Lasson met at the start of the school year to plan for high school students to provide tutoring and homework help to elementary school students during the Choose 2 Connect program.
- School administrators from around the district will be reading children's books related to character education to Merriam students on a monthly rotation.
- Classroom teachers are filling out the Behavioral Emotional Screening System for each of their students to help identify students for Tier 2 & 3 Social / Emotional intervention.

*Close achievement gaps through research based, student centered assessment and instructional practices for all students.*

- Classroom teachers are completing Math Running Records with students. This is an observational assessment tool used to indicate what strategies and thinking processes students are using when doing math.
- Classroom teachers are completing Reading Running Records with a miscue analysis. This is another observational assessment tool used to indicate the specific strategies and reading quing systems a students in using when reading text.
- Kevin Stanton will meet with each grade level classroom teacher by the end of September to review classroom assessment data and begin planning for Tier 2 & Tier 3 interventions.
- For students who are identified for Tier 3 interventions, further assessments will be done by the Reading and Math intervention teachers.
- Reading teachers will be using the QRI-6, a comprehensive observational and qualitative assessment that can be used to pinpoint specific areas of student strength and identify areas in need of improvement.

*Increase family and community involvement in school programs.*

- The PTO Welcome Back Picnic will be help on September 14 at 5:30.
- 4th grade teachers will be following up with Wayne McCabe from the Sussex County Historical Society to discuss a joint project for this school year.

### **Halsted Middle School - Kristi Greene**

*Increase student achievement in English Language Arts and Math as shown by lexile/quantile growth.*

- Specific Targets:
  - Students with disabilities and students who meet the requirements to receive ELA support/ intervention, and students at risk of failure.
- Progress:
  - Special Science and Social Studies teachers received training on modifications to the curriculum on September 4.
  - The 2018-19 schedule was created to provide special education students with ELA and Math Intervention.
  - A 2018-19 testing window schedule was created for Math Inventory and Reading Inventory assessments to determine initial lexile and and quantile levels. The first assessments will be completed by September 24.

*Implement research based behavioral and social emotional multi-tiered interventions to improve climate and culture and increase academic achievement.*

- Specific Targets:
  - Implement Tier II and Tier III behavioral interventions
- Progress:

- Partnered with a counselor to provide individual and family counseling. The counselor is in-network with Cigna, Aetna, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, and United Behavioral Healthcare
- The Multi-Tiered Behavioral Intervention Criteria for Tier II and Tier III were updated and are being implemented this year
- We are in the NJ PBSIS 2017-2018 training cohort.
- August 29 - Initial planning meeting occurred for the 17-18 school year.
- September 5 - PBIS Staff Kick Off -- [Photo Slideshow](#)
- September 7 - PBIS Student Kick Off - to explicitly teach/reinforce our schools climate and culture pillars (Halsted 5, Respect, Responsible, Prepared, Pride and Listening) [Photos](#)
- September 11 - Tier II and Tier III interventions began. Additional counseling times are available to our students during and after school
- September 13 - Teachers and teacher assistants attended a 3:1 praise ratio professional development session with Damian Petino (Learning Resource Center Special Education Consultant and Behavior Specialist) during unit meetings

*Other School News:*

- Anthony Nasatka was named Outstanding Teacher of American History by the local chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- Summer Enrichment: Approximately 54 students in grades five through eight attended the program. Each Friday, PSS provided students a bag of groceries to bring home with them.
  - Students participated in five rotations throughout the day. The rotations this year were as follows: Character Education, Makerspace, Digital Citizenship, Math & Science by Design, Physical Education
  - Students went on two trips: Sparta Bowling and Hardyston YMCA
  - Mondays through Thursdays, students met for one hour to be introduced to the skills and topics that would help them to be most successful in their classes for the upcoming school year.

**Directors' Reports**

**Athletics - Ryan Hashway**

- Coach Ryan Sevean and members of the NLV ice hockey team participated in a fundraising event that helped raise \$1,000 for the American Society for Suicide Awareness in the name of the Hennion family of the High Point HS community.
- Football, in conjunction with Hopatcong HS, will participate in an ALS game in order to raise money for this foundation.
- Athletic trainers, Edyie Bertoldo and Brian Karns, have ensured Newton athletics have aligned to NJSIAA heat participation best practices.
- Newton High School was disqualification-free for all sports programs in 2017-2018.
- Transfer forms for incoming student-athletes are currently being processed.
- Members from the athletic teams as well as the co-curricular clubs all helped set up for the PRIDE Foundation 5k.
- 277 student-athletes are participating this fall.
- NJSIAA paperwork was completed and forwarded including, but not limited to, principal's affidavit, membership resolution, annual dues verification, and fall participation numbers.
- Fall sports
  - Field Hockey 3-1-1
  - Boys Soccer 3-2
  - Girls Soccer 2-4
  - Football 3-0
  - Girls Tennis 1-3
  - Boys XC 4-1
  - Girls XC 1-4

## **Curriculum - Angela Dunbar**

*Goal:* Develop curriculum that strengthens student-centered learning to increase student achievement.

### *Professional Development*

- Provided Atlas training to Erin Marmara, the new NHS Technology Support Building Coordinator
- Provided training to CLT members at all three schools during the September 4th In-Service day. Session topics included:
  - CLT member role and responsibilities
  - Using Atlas to support curriculum work
  - Developing ideas and resources to support teachers with unit design
  - District curriculum map components and curriculum phases
  - Using reports to drive conversations around curriculum design and identify gaps as well as opportunities for growth

### *Curriculum*

- Merriam
  - The principal is identifying CLT members based on grade level instead of content area to assist with completing Phase II (and revising Phase I if need) of the Curriculum Plan
  - Minor revisions were made to the Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, Health and Physical Education curricula during the summer
- Halsted
  - Summer Curriculum Writing
    - Major revisions to the 5th grade Social Studies curriculum, and minor revisions to the 6-8 curriculum
    - Minor revisions to the Math curriculum
    - Minor revisions to the 21st Century Mindfulness curriculum
- High School
  - Mr. Malkoff attended an Advanced Placement workshop in August to further develop his AP Macroeconomics curriculum
  - Summer Curriculum Writing
    - Minor Revisions
      - Eighteen math courses
      - Five Visual and Performing Arts courses (Art and Photography)
      - All World Language courses
      - Five Business classes
    - New Courses
      - AP Macroeconomics
      - Criminal Justice
      - Holocaust and Genocide Studies
      - Astrophysics
      - Anatomy and Physiology

\*Major Revisions: New units, and/or new content area standards added to units

\*Minor Revisions: Additional standards, instructional practices that enhances the curriculum, and /or adding information to Phase II (Phase II includes: assessments, instructional strategies, material and resources, and at risk modifications to the teacher- implemented curriculum)

## **Facilities - Joe Van Kirk**

- The school generators are online and ready for operation.
- The HS baseball infield project is complete.
- We had to replace the water heater at Merriam the week before school opened.
- We had a contractor remove the large pine tree in front of Halsted and the shrubs in front of the basketball court.
- The canopy project at the High School was put out to bid, and we will receive the bids on October 2nd.
- The kilns for the High School and Halsted were delivered on 9/18.

- The carpet in the auditorium and choral room has been installed at Halsted.
- I will be attending an Indoor Air Quality and PEOSH training course on September 21st.
- I held interviews on 9/18 and 9/19 for the open custodial position at the High School.
- We cleared all the weeds from the Merriam playground and remulched with the mulch treated with an organic weed killer.
- We will continue with our September plan to improve grounds maintenance.

### **Character Education - Samantha Castro**

The overall goal for this year is to increase character education collaborative opportunities among the three schools and the greater community.

- All district staff were assigned Safe Schools training on bullying prevention and suicide prevention.
- District Anti-Bullying Specialist's met September 11th to complete the NJDOE School Self Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.
- All three School Climate Teams will hold an organizational meeting during the month of September to review the team goals and action plans for the school year.
- We will have a district ABS meeting on September 21 to review the Month of Respect Agendas and align the daily themes throughout K-12.
  - October Month of Respect Agendas: [NHS](#), [HMS](#), & [MAS](#)
- Monday, October 1st, is the World Day of Bullying Prevention, as such all NPS students and Staff members (K-12) are invited to wear blue. [World Day of Bullying Prevention](#)
- Character Literacy Program at MAS - Administrator Mystery Reader

#### *High School*

- NHS started the year early with a successful Freshman Orientation Night (August 29th). Our new Braves were hosted by Peer leaders, Class 2022 Advisor, guidance, teachers, main office staff, and Administration. The night started with a dynamic presentation by Ashley LaBelle from the Center for Prevention and Counseling on the dangers and myths surrounding vaping.
- Ms. Labelle was generous enough to present a more in-depth presentation to the staff on vaping.
- Pass It Along, will come to next month for a three-day program to encourage and empower 9th & 10th graders to make lasting and sustainable changes through service, leadership, and self-discovery.
- Back to School Night is scheduled for September 27.

#### *Halsted*

- The staff as well as the entire student body participated in PBSIS Welcome Back to School Kickoff Program on September 6th.
- Back to School Night was held on September 12th.
- Guidance met with representatives from the Center for Prevention on September 14th to coordinate services and programs for the upcoming school year.
- Guidance will be attending the Center for Prevention Program entitled "Seeing Through the Cloud....." on September 24th. This presentation will focus on bringing to light the dangers and prevalence of vaping.
- Every morning starts off with a school-wide "Mindfulness Activity" with the assistance of the calming voice of Ms. Fisher during the morning announcements. This activity will continue throughout the year and will allow students to begin their day in a positive and enlightened state of mind.

#### *Merriam*

- PTO hosted a Back to School Picnic on September 14th.
- The Inspiring Youth Program started on September 17th and will continue for the next 8 weeks.
- Back to School night took place on September 18th.

### **Special Services - Jennifer Pasquali**

- Total CST students
  - PSD: 27
  - MAS: 82
  - HMS: 70
  - NHS: 102

- OOD: 12
- Students currently being evaluated
  - PSD: 2
  - MAS: 0
  - HMS: 0
  - NHS: 0
- Special education students moved into or out of the district:
  - MAS: 6 In, 4 Out
  - HMS: 4 In, 2 Out
  - NHS: 8 In, 6 Out
- Homeless
  - There are a total of 30 homeless students; 6 of the homeless students are Newton residents; 1 student is at Carrier Clinic and the rest are attending Newton Schools.
- ESL
  - MAS: 23
  - HMS: 6
  - NHS: 28
- *Preschool*: Registration for this school year is ongoing. To date 27 general education preschoolers are on the roster. Preschool classes are going to Windy Brow on September 20th to pick apples after learning about how apples grow ([apple picking](#)). Parents are invited to attend and enjoy a wagon ride, and visiting with the animals. A pumpkin picking trip is scheduled for October 5th at Ideal Farms. These trips are part of the preschool unit on farms and farm animals. Preschool Back to School Night on September 19th had many parents in attendance. Dr. Greene, Mr. Stanton, and Mrs. Pasquali greeted the parents and gave an overview on the status of preschool expansion.
- *Merriam BD*: Students started the year studying hurricanes and tornadoes focusing on several important questions such as how are they different and where each originates. Students will be making a tornado in a bottle using a clear plastic bottle, glitter, and water.
- *High School MD*: The MD program welcomed three new 9th grade students this year. Work schedules are being finalized and students will be starting structured work experiences next week. Local businesses participating with our program include: Thorlabs, Marshalls, Shoprite, Bristol Glen, Sodexo (MAS), Party World, Walgreens, and Manna House. This year Sutherland Packaging joins our list of local businesses offering our students valuable work experiences.
- *Halsted Best Buds Club*: Beginning Best Buds this week. There are a large number of volunteer candidates this year. Lunch Bunch is going to Friendly's and Shoprite next Wednesday.
- *DLM*: TBD
- *PARCC*: First PARCC planning meeting is scheduled for September 27th.
- *ACCESS 2.0*: TBD

## **Assessment & Professional Development - Kenney Lutz**

### *Professional Development*

- The first two In-Service days for the staff were very successful this year. We met as a district on the morning of September 4th at the High School. We had breakout sessions as well as a feature session for all staff members on a new single webmix for all important district information via the Symbaloo app. Staff members are able to select from several professional development options with resources for their classroom when they are on the webmix that has been created for them. There are 16 tiles on the district webmix, each of which has an owner who manages the information that is located in that tile. The response to this session was positive, and the staff thought the layout of the day and content covered was beneficial. The remainder of the that day and the next were dedicated to building-based activities.

### *Assessment*

- Our first PARCC Committee meeting is scheduled for September 27th. An update will follow regarding the details of that session. All PARCC scores from the previous school year have been sent home to the parents and filed in the student's cumulative folders.

## **Choose 2 Connect - Elysia Ochs**

### *Goals:*

1. To provide high-quality education and enrichment programs that will enable students to improve academic achievement and promote positive behavior and appropriate social interaction with peers and adults
2. To establish collaborative relationships that offer opportunities for literacy and related educational activities to the families of participating students.
3. To measure participants' progress and program effectiveness through monitoring and evaluating

### *Merriam C2C*

- Current Registration Numbers - 115 Students
- All facilitators are Merriam teachers. Three teacher assistants are lunch aides who have extended their hours to 29.75; the fourth is an outside hire who will start shortly.

### *Halsted C2C*

- Current Registration Numbers - 144 students
- Three facilitator positions are Halsted teachers on a rotating schedule and one position is an outside hire. All four teacher assistants have been hired and two have been cleared to work.
- Community
  - Nik Lasso is working with Dr. Castro to bring high school students to tutor Merriam students during their academic enrichment period
  - Kristine Rogers from SCUMA and Paige Lockburner from Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control are partnering with C2C as the scheduled guest speakers in October. They will be working with students at Merriam and Halsted for two days to showcase the importance of keeping our community clean and preparing students for Make a Difference Day Cleanup in Newton on October 25.
  - Rita Oroho from Sussex County Division of Social Services is working with C2C to provide nutritional snack for all students in the program. She is also working with C2C to provide students with grocery bags of non-perishable foods for families on Fridays.

## **Information Services - Mary Decker**

- New technology in place:
  - Year 3 of 1:1 NHS chromebooks
  - Year 1 of 1:1 5-8 Halsted - Students will be assigned a chromebook that they will pickup during homeroom and return 9th period.
  - Security cameras upgraded at both Halsted and Merriam
  - Thorlabs has donated funds for a server at the high school to run the higher level Technology Lab software.
- Professional Development:
  - The September 4 inservice provided a half day of technology breakout sessions offered by staff at all three buildings. Other staff got to see what others have been doing with technology already within the district. All staff attended a mandatory Symbaloo webmix session modeled in a blended student centered learning environment. The webmix will be the starting page for all PD.
  - Erin Marmara, Nik Lasso and Megan O'Mara are the new tech building coordinators. They will be working together to share best practices and technology across the district.
- The Technology Committee will be meeting at the end of the month to set goals for the school year.
- New software this year includes SNAP & Read and Follett Destiny library manager.
- With the increase in our ELL student population, technology can play an important role in educating students. Some technology we are looking to employ is Google Translate, SNAP & Read, Apex and Nearpod. In addition, Ana Maniago and Jim Hofmann are looking to coordinate a partnership with ELL students and STEM activities. Thorlabs is very interested in assisting in this venture and looks forward to having these students as potential future employees.

- Erin Marmara and Karen Mazur are investigating the Naviance program to better help students with test prep and college and career exploration.
- The NHS library lab has been disassembled now that all students have chromebooks and is being repurposed as a collaborative learning space.

## **Building Coordinators Reports**

### **Merriam Avenue School - Rose Lange, Scott Zymet, Nik Lasso**

*Goal #1: Foster social and emotional well-being and an academically engaged classroom environment through integration of research based character education and social/emotional interventions within the RtI framework*

- Physical Education - Students are learning the importance of having good sportsmanship and the importance of trying their best. 3rd and 4th grade students participate in "Walk and Talk" an exercise designed to promote communication with the goal of students learning more about each other.
- Music - Students are learning about the different instruments in the school band and the role that each instrument plays in the band.

*Goal #2: Close academic achievement gaps through implementing RtI practices and promote inclusionary educational practices for all students school-wide*

- Physical Education - Students are being introduced to the Pacer Test, a test that focuses on improving cardiovascular endurance. Students learn that they are able to improve their cardiovascular endurance both in school and out of school and that there are a number of ways to exercise. Adapted PE classes are taking place where students from Mrs. Hoffman's class are working with Mr. Zymet and Mrs. Waldron twice a week.
- Music - Numbers in the school band are at an all time high and there is enthusiasm for the concerts as Mr. Stocker is beginning preparation for the holiday concert. Students are meeting during recess for rehearsal.

*Goal #3: Integrate digital learning and literacy into classroom instruction in order to enhance and individualize student learning*

- Physical Education - Students are learning to exercise with music during their PE classes and follow commands and moving throughout the gym with different gross motor skills to music.

*Goal # 4: Increase family and community involvement in school programs*

- Specials Area teachers are getting ready to participate in The Week of Respect starting on Monday October 1st. Lessons will focus on the importance of being respectful to all students and understanding diversity. Students will be encouraged to purchase Yo-Yo's after seeing The Ned Show presentation on Monday. Students will have a designated area to use their Yo-Yo's at recess.
- Signora Smith helped translate for Spanish speaking families at Back to School Night and has begun working with Spanish speaking families for translation classes once a week.
- Gifted and Talented rosters are being finalized for students in Art so that they will be provided extra art periods with Mrs. Thurston.

### **Newton High School**

#### **Career & Technical Education**

##### *Student Accomplishments*

- Floral
  - The floral program has completed providing all of the flower arrangements for a private wedding. Pictures are being showcased at the high school on our tv's.
  - Landscape class is making plans to beautify the NHS campus with fall mums. The crew is also working to get the indoor waterfall back into mint working condition.
- Foods
  - Introductory level 1 classes are getting started with measuring and simple baking (cookies). Upper level classes are focused on creating an Asian themed dinner for the First Responders banquet.

- Business
  - AP Macroeconomics has launched with 17 enrolled in the course.
  - FBLA had their first meeting, 21 students attended and 35 additional signed up during Club sign ups. The first conference is at Pequannock High School, October 4th.
  - STEM Academy is learning safety and measuring. The class motto is "Back to the Drawing Board".
  - TSA has already begun to provide various services throughout the building and district. Some of the student projects include new graphic designs for the Code of Conduct posters in our hallways and 3d prints to identify classroom items.

#### *Staff Accomplishments*

- Mr. Hofmann is working with the accounting firm of Nisivoccia, LLP on an internship for one of the Business/FBLA students
- Mr. Hofmann was able to snag an onsite visit and demo from KEEN shoes and their new mobile robotic shoe factory. Only two robots like this exist in the world and one of them was right here demonstrating how it makes shoes.

### **English**

#### *Staff Accomplishments*

- Kristen Hauser was admitted to the graduate honor society (Alpha Epsilon Lambda) at MSU.

#### *Professional Development*

- Kristen Hauser is currently enrolled in two classes at MSU: Literature for Adolescents and Research Seminar in Literacy

#### *Other News*

- Benchmark assessments were given in September.
- Diana Guerriero is organizing a trip to the Dodge Poetry Festival for students and chaperones.

### **Guidance**

#### *Professional Development*

- Theresa Hough, Michelle Herring, Lisa Casamassina and Karen Mazur met with Sarah McMillan from Project Self-Sufficiency Youth Corps program. Sarah was able to share with us recent success stories about former NHS students, as well as update us as to the next session, which begins on October 1st.
- Lisa Bechtel attended a county SAC meeting on Friday, September 14th.
- Michelle Herring attended a presentation on recent updates to the DCPD process at their county office on Thursday, September 20th
- Karen Mazur attended a presentation by Apex on the curriculum offerings for ELL students. The presentation was held on site at NHS, and was attended by ELL teachers and other administrators.

#### *Other News*

- Counselors are currently holding freshman Meet & Greet sessions to assess their first few weeks at NHS. At these meetings, counselors are introducing Naviance to students and logging them onto the system
- PSAT registration is underway for the test date of October 10th. PSAT is offered free to juniors; sophomores can take the test, space provided, for the test fee of \$16.
- Our annual Financial Aid Night is planned for October 11th. Principia NP will once again present information on the FAFSA process and meeting the cost of attending post-secondary institutions.

### **Health & Physical Education**

#### *Staff Accomplishments*

- Physical Education teachers are implementing Google Classroom

#### *Professional Development*

- Bambi Steele and Emily Rimassa attended "Seeing Through the Cloud" at Sussex Tech. A great program that provided us with information on vaping, paraphernalia and the current policies that are being put into place for the schools, students and public.

### **Mathematics**

#### *Professional Development*

- Ms. Gilchrist participated in a webinar to learn more about how to better meet the needs of her ELL students.

### *Other News*

- A representative from Berkeley College will be coming in on Oct 4th to discuss money management with Mr. Iliff's Consumer Math classes.

### **Science**

#### *Student accomplishments*

- The success of the previous year's science league teams and AP scores were discussed at the initial meeting of the department on September. Discussion of how we can improve the results took place.

#### *Staff accomplishments*

- Implementation of the new Anatomy & Physiology and Astrophysics classes have begun.

#### *Professional development*

- Plans for other meetings were developed which included facilitating the freshmen class through their first year.

#### *Other news*

- The members of the science department began the year with their new classes. The new students were informed of what it takes to be a successful part of the highest achieving science department in the county. Books, syllabi, and classroom rules were handed out and discussed with students and the learning began.
- Discussions were held on how to handle 14 students from a foreign country who only speak a native tribal language in a class of 25 students.

### **Social Studies / Visual & Performing Arts**

#### *Student accomplishments*

- Ms. Foster's and Mr. O'Toole's classes began working on music for the first annual combined fundraising concert on October 29th
- The Music Department began preparing students for the Sussex County Band and Chorus auditions

#### *Staff accomplishments*

- Coffey - Initiated a bulletin board to identify key home games for each fall sport and coordinated online and social media alignment of student initiated game dress themes. Developed a media release form for distribution of information to media groups and social media forms.
- Ms. Foster held the first annual parent meet and greet in support of the choir department
- Ms. Foster and Mr. O'Toole began organizing the first "Night of Music" fundraiser

#### *Professional Development*

- Ms. Foster is currently enrolled in *Critical and Creative Thinking in Music* in pursuit of her Master of Arts degree at Montclair State University
- Ms. Foster attended the Sussex County Music Educators Association meeting

#### *Other News*

- Coffey - The World History Honors Classes kicked off the year with the summer reading unit and intensive study in the working conditions, living conditions and environmental conditions of peoples living in developing countries. This study gives students a more worldly perspective to apply to their high school experience to understand how their choices as consumers impacts the world and how their activism could do so as well.
- Bollette - Sociology/Psychology classes have been introduced to mindfulness. This introduction builds off the work completed during our staff in-service day.
- Foster - Ms. Foster is currently restructuring the Choral Booster Parent Organization in order to provide more parent opportunities for involvement
- Scullin - This year's fall production, *Radium Girls*, is presently in rehearsals. This production is based on events which occurred in Orange, NJ, in the early 1920s.

### **World Languages**

#### *Staff Accomplishments*

- Katie Leone's French 2 is creating their first café skit to perform in class while French 1 learned how to greet each other in a formal and informal way.
- Mrs. Gray-Reveredo's ACP Spanish 1 students sign on to the digital textbook and completed online listening assignments. All CP students have completed their google slides geography presentations and

are teaching the class about their assigned countries. Spanish 2 CP level have completed two google slides presentations.

#### *Professional Development*

- Ana Maniago attended the "Equity vs. Equality: The Role of Classroom Assessment, Accommodations, and Grading in Evaluating ELLs workshop" on August 21st, 2018. The workshop that was held at TCNJ was led by Dr. Beth Clark-Gareca and gave the teachers attending advice on how to improve ELL access to the language and content of K-12 classroom assessments and explored the principles of differentiation for ELLs as they affect classroom teachers in the different models of ESL service provision.
- Mrs. Gray-Revoredo completed Rutgers Teaching World Language course over the summer for 3 credit hours, and learned to teach using Kashen's Natural approach, which will be periodically incorporated into her classroom this year.

#### *Other News*

- From September 15th to October 15th, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. German Rueda organized an art exposition to celebrate this important event. Four local Hispanic artists are showcasing their work in the High School library. We are also making announcements at the beginning of the school day and playing music in between classes.

#### **Halsted Middle School - Sue Desautels, Megan O'Mara, Joanne Nieman, Jean Perrier**

*Goal # 1:* Increase student growth for partially proficient students.

*Goal #2:* Implement researched based behavioral/social emotional multi-tiered interventions (Positive Behavioral Support In School) to improve climate and culture and increase student achievement.

#### *Student Programming*

- On September 7th, staff and students participated in the Halsted 5 Kickoff. The 5-station rotation encompassed activities that premised the 5 tenets: respect, listening, pride, responsibility, and being prepared for learning. We had to "listen" to fill in the blank of the next line of the song lyrics played in one station. Relay races with our needed classroom materials helped to reinforce our being prepared for class. Team work was needed to complete the responsibility puzzle. The rainbow race incorporated student response to specific scenarios regarding respect. It was great fun in the pride photo booth station with teams using Halsted and Newton swag as props. Overall, it was a fun way to begin the year while reinforcing our expectations at Halsted in a positive manner.
- Students, grades 5-8, have all been issued a Chromebook for use throughout their school day. Teachers have been reinforcing the Halsted 5 technology tenets to promote proper use. The students are very excited about this building-wide initiative!
- Halsted students and staff spent the summer reading Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. This annual *One Book. One School. One Community.* initiative had us all remembering that great minds do not always think alike. In fact, Mr. Daniels, Ally's teacher reminds her of this quite often during their reading sessions as she learns many strategies to compensate for her dyslexia. It is he who tells her, "Everyone is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life thinking that it's stupid" (Hunt 159). As lifelong learners, it's a powerful message for all of us as we begin to navigate through this new school year!

#### *Professional Development*

- On September 12th, Damian Patino provided a refresher on the 3:1 praise ratio aspect of PBSIS. We had a chance to voice ideas, concerns, and opinions about how our implementation of PBSIS is going. We were reminded of the importance of praise and using our tickets to reinforce the Halsted 5. Additionally, we were given the task of reflecting about our class climate and culture prior to his next visit. Up next, teacher try first strategies.
- The Curriculum Learning Team (CLT) is in Phase 2 of assisting teachers with the Atlas curriculum database.
- We welcome Mr. Scott Weiland, a student teacher from William Paterson University for the Fall semester. Under the supervision of Jean Perrier, Scott will be completing his dual certification in English and Special Education this December.