

# Newton Public Schools

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*Dr. G. Kennedy Greene*  
*Superintendent*

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## **Principals' Reports**

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

*Provide regular opportunities for teacher collaboration*

- An ad hoc committee was created after our first meeting with all staff interested in this topic. At that meeting we identified our specific goals and reviewed the pros and cons of possible scheduling options. The conversation will continue with committee members as the year progresses.
- Karen Mazur and I spoke with our own Dan Cruz about his experiences with high school schedules that supported PLC time for teachers. Dan identified a model that supported scheduled meeting time for core content teachers only. Karen and Dan discussed issues with similar models we had experienced in the past. The outcome of this conversation is we have decided to run the initial build (of the master schedule) with this model included. Elective teachers typically have more opportunity to collaborate as they often work from the same physical location. I will keep you posted on our progress.

*Implement a research based academic intervention system to support at risk students*

- The number of students earning failing grades in the second marking period exceeded the number of students receiving failing grades in the first marking period by 15.6%. At first glance, this may lead us to wonder if our intervention system is working to support increased student achievement. However, it is not uncommon to see an overall dip in grade based student achievement after the second marking period. When we compare this year's increase (15.6%) to last year's increase of 24.6% over the same time period, we find our students have improved substantially.
- The guidance department and administrative teams combined forces to review second marking period grades as a means to determine the effectiveness of first marking period academic interventions. In some cases we found the current interventions to be successful and maintained the same services. In others, we found the initial interventions were not successful, so specific changes were made by adding and/or removing an intervention. In most cases we do not alter more than one intervention at a time so we can accurately track the effectiveness of each specific one.

*Other School News*

- Congratulations to Jenny Allen for being selected as one of a small group of agriculture teachers nationwide who received the 2018 Teachers Turn the Key professional development scholarship from the National Association of Agricultural Educators. As a scholarship recipient, Jenny was able to attend the NAAE annual convention in San Antonio, Texas.
- Congratulations to Jenny Allen for being selected as (keep reading this is not a duplicate) the Career and Technical Education Associations New Teacher of the Year. The award recognizes new CTE teachers who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers. Jenny's application has been forwarded to the next level and she is now a finalist in the Region I competition.
- Thanks to the Board for approving the following new courses: Health and Wellness, Social Media Marketing, and Project Citizen.
  - The Health and Wellness course has been requested as a means to help our students learn to deal with the pressures teens face in a fast paced world. The issues surrounding teen mental wellness have been well publicized of late, and our hope is this course will help provide students

- with coping mechanisms.
- The Social Media and Marketing course is proposed as a concurrent course with Centenary University. Our Marketing 1 and Marketing 2 classes have adapted over the last couple of years to include the rapidly growing social media marketing strategies and techniques. However, the content is becoming too vast to continue as an add-on to existing courses.
- The Project Citizen course was created and is being offered in response to student request. Most of you will recall a student presentation earlier this year outlining the need for a political science course that is accessible to a wider range of students. Currently political science is taught in our AP Government and Politics class.

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

- We developed a document which identifies a sequence of essential math skills. I will be discussing these skills with the faculty during the week of March 25th at grade level meetings. The goal is twofold: to bring greater coherence to our math sequence K-4 and to continue the discussion about the importance of standards-based reporting of student achievement. This process will be repeated for Language Arts in April. The progress report currently being used for students in math intervention is based on the skills identified in this document.
- I met with teachers who are using the I-Ready math program. The purpose of the meeting was to check on student progress. Teachers completed the second diagnostic and progress for students was noted. Growth areas for individual students were identified as were general grade level patterns. Curricular focus was adjusted to give greater priority to fractions in grades 3 and 4.
- Kindergarten teachers are now implementing guided reading / literacy learning stations in their classrooms. This supports the larger school goal of prioritizing student growth as the metric defining achievement and student-centered learning - differentiating instruction to meet individual student needs.
- I'll be meeting with 3rd and 4th grade teachers on March 19th and 20th to review questions types and prompts that may be on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for ELA and Math.
- The Family and Community Connection event was held here on March 6 from 6:00 to 8:00pm. This event connected community service providers with the students and families of the Newton Public Schools. Social Worker Jane Langeveld worked with staff from Halsted, High School, and District Administration to coordinate the event.
- During Love of Reading Week former staff members made videos discussing their favorite books. These videos were shown to students on each day of the week.
- Here is an update from our Library: <https://www.smore.com/tc9ph-february-2019-update?ref=email>

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

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

- Specific Target: Students with disabilities and students who meet the requirements to receive ELA/Math support/intervention, and students at risk of failure.
- Progress:
  - Generation Ready Professional Development with Harriette Grosvenor
    - Snow days delayed our teacher PD until February 28th - Harriette will meet with teachers based on teacher request. Teachers plan small group instruction lessons with the consultant and also discussed questions and concerns that they faced when using small group instruction
    - Administration met with Harriette on March 5th to construct plans to roll out small group instruction feedback and create an evaluation tool
  - Administration has developed a draft block schedule for 2019-20 that allows students to have 75 minutes of math instruction daily

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

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

- The Halsted 5 focus for the month of February was My Heart Swells with Halsted Pride
  - Students earned special “My Heart Swells with Pride.” which were displayed
  - Students continued to receive Halsted tickets and stuffed their grade level boxes in order to earn a grade level movie. The 6th grade won by a slim margin with 759 tickets over the 5th grade with 751
  - March’s Focus - Halsted 5 behavior (respect, listening, prepared, responsibility, pride)
  - Chris Boyle, Mark Newman, Megan O’Mara, Larissa Roman and Angela Dunbar attended a PBSIS Tier III Behavior Intervention Workshop on Function-Based Problem Solving Engaging in Repeated Behavior Problems on February 20th.

Other News:

- Mallory’s Army ([website](#)) Presentation - Mallory is a 12-year-old Rockaway student who took her life two years ago due to bullying. This assembly is presented by Mallory’s mother and its focus is on anti-bullying.
  - March 12 - Student Assembly
  - March 13 at 7 pm - Open to the Public

**Directors’ Reports**

**Athletics & Student Activities - Ryan Hashway**

- Mock Trial won the Sussex County Championship for the first time in school history, made it to the state finals, and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.
- Academic Bowl won the Sussex County Championship.
- Boys Ski Racing won its first ever NJAC National Division title. Giovanni Bevacqua placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the NJAC Championship Race.
- Boys Swimming won the NJAC North Division for the fifth straight season. Swimmers Steve Ward and Matt Freund qualified in two events each for the Meet of Champions. Matt finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the state. The Boys 400 freestyle relay qualified for the Meet of Champions.
- Girls Basketball won the NJAC Freedom Division. Kaitlyn Lynch scored her 1,000<sup>th</sup> career point during the Lady Braves opening round of states.
- In Wrestling, Luke Fisher and Wyatt McCarthy both won district and region titles. Wyatt finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state at 145 and Luke finished 7<sup>th</sup> at 220. Coach Bollette was named District 3 and Region I Wrestling Coach of the Year.
- In Indoor Track, Madison Lattimer won the 400-meter North I Group I State Sectional title.
- On March 8, we sent seven NHS student-athletes to the preschool at Camp Auxilium to read to the students and participate in their activities.
- The Pass It Along Scholar-Athlete Banquet was held on March 7, and Michael Rizzo represented Newton High School.
- Winter sports (final regular season records):
  - Girls Swimming – 9-2
  - Boys Swimming – 9-1
  - Ice Hockey – 5-18-1
  - Bowling – 3-14
  - Girls Basketball – 24-5
  - Boys Basketball – 9-15
  - Boys Ski Racing – 10-10
  - Girls Ski Racing – 2-11
  - Wrestling – 14-7

**Curriculum & Professional Development - Angela Dunbar**

Curriculum

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

- High School

- The Social Studies Department's last session with Generation Ready to revise their curriculum will occur on Friday, March 15th. The session will focus on reviewing curriculum alignment, revising units with the consultant, finalizing curriculum units for courses, and synthesis and closing.
- The principal and director of curriculum have scheduled meetings with CLT members/content area teachers to assess their needs in order to support them with revising curriculum and/or completing Phase II of the district curriculum map. The meetings will occur on March 18th, March 25th, and April 1st.
- Halsted and Merriam - Phase II of the curriculum writing process is the focus until May 1st.

#### *Professional Development*

- Reading Disabilities/ Dyslexia Training is required for: General Education Teachers employed in K-3; Special Education and Basic Skills Teachers; English as a Second Language Teachers; Reading Specialists; Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants; and Speech-Language Specialists
- The training covers an overview of screening, intervention, accommodations, and use of technology for students with reading disabilities. The training was sent to the staff members in the categories listed above. Kenney Lutz is assisting with the compliance of the training.
- Halsted's assistant principal, instructional coach, LDTC and school psychologist completed Part III of the Tier III system of support training on February 26.
- The district's Safe Schools assignment compliance as of March 13 is 97%. This percentage excludes outstanding assignments for substitute. Building principals and directors received Safe School reports of staff members with outstanding assignments.

#### **C2C - Elysia Ochs**

##### *Goals*

- 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.
- To establish collaborative relationships that offer opportunities for literacy and related educational activities to the families of participating students.
- To measure participants' progress and program effectiveness through monitoring and evaluating.

##### *Enrollment and Attendance*

- Merriam: 139 students registered, average daily attendance = 119
- Halsted: 222 students registered, average daily attendance = 91

##### *Community*

- Community Connections Event was incredibly successful for our students and families. 45 C2C families attended the event.
- 25 Merriam students have signed up with Sara Bartlett and the Newton Theater Academy and are working on *Seussical the Musical*.
- Halsted students met this week to sign up for Maker Day. Students will sign up to present and teach peers, parents, and teachers a new skill.

#### **Facilities Services - Joe Van Kirk**

- Materials were ordered for the Halsted nurse's office project. Construction started this week.
- I attended the New Jersey Buildings and Grounds convention in Atlantic City, earning 5 credits for my facility directors certificate.
- Met with landscape contractors to quote lawn maintenance throughout district.
- Finalized radio quotes for district-wide deployment of new devices for each location along with a repeater that will allow communication with the Camp Auxilium site and police radio band.
- Attended the LGEA exit interview to learn about potential measures to be considered in the ESIP.

#### **Preschool & Special Education - Jennifer Pasquali**

- Total CST students
  - PSD: 33

- MAS: 89
- HMS: 74
- NHS: 99
- OOD: 14
- Students currently being evaluated
  - PSD: 3
  - MAS: 2
  - HMS: 0
  - NHS: 0
- Special education students moved into or out of the district:
  - MAS: 2 In, 0 Out
  - HMS: 1 In, 0 Out
  - NHS: 0 In, 1 Out
  - OOD: 1 In, 0 Out
- Homeless
  - There are a total of 38 homeless students; 14 of the homeless students are Newton residents; 1 student is at Carrier Clinic, 1 is attending their home district, 1 is at 1st Impressions and all the rest are attending Newton Schools.

#### *Program Highlights*

- Preschool: Open House is scheduled for April 11 at Camp Auxilium. Preschoolers enjoyed several guest readers this month including Mr. Stanton ([Guest Reader #1](#)), Mr. Becker from Becker School Supplies ([Guest Reader #2](#)), and Ms. D'Alessandro ([Guest Reader #3](#)). Preschoolers in Mrs. Lange's, Mrs. Ciulla's, and Mrs. Rehl's classes enjoyed a Valentine Party at Friendly's on 2-14 and a trip is planned to Newton Veterinary Hospital on 3-22. This class trip ties in to their unit on community helpers. In the classroom the students role play, sing, and play games about our community helpers.
- NHS MD: Students are looking forward to a trip to Medieval Times on 4-22.
- HMS MD: Students went to the YMCA to swim on 3-6.
- DLM: 2019 Spring Window: 4/03 - 5/24. Planning is in progress.
- PARCC: PARCC accessibility features and accommodations for 504, IEP, and ESL students continue to be gathered, updated, and reviewed prior to final upload.

#### **Security & Character Education - Samantha Castro**

The Newton Police Department recently purchased a safety system, RAVE Smart 911 ([www.ravefacility.com](http://www.ravefacility.com)). The Newton Public Schools are able and will create a school profile for each location. By doing so, we will have added the security advantage at every NPS location of emergency responders having the ability to identify precise location during a 911 call, access to critical information to assist during a crisis. This is all at no cost and the feature will be activated as soon as possible.

#### *High School*

- Junior Danny Flores and freshman Noelle Casperson, are currently serving as representatives on the Youth Tobacco Action Group (YTAG); a youth group sponsored and organized by The Center for Prevention and Counseling. As a result, both will utilize the [kickbuttsday.org](http://kickbuttsday.org) activity called #bethefirst, which operates with the goal for students to take a pledge to be the first tobacco-free generation. During the week of Kick Butts Day (March 20th), students will post pledge cards at Newton Medical Center. Danny and Noelle are interested in increasing community relationships (i.e., town council meetings, town days, etc.).
- Ms. Bechtel attended the School Support Network Meeting of the Sussex County ABSs on March 5th at the Center for Prevention and Counseling. NAMI presented "Ending the Silence" on youth suicide and suicidal ideation. Ms. Bechtel also attended the County SAC meeting on March 8th. The Director of Community Relations from High Focus Centers provided an informational presentation on the services and programs offered there.

- The School Safety Climate Team administered the Staff and Student School Climate survey. The team will read and analyze the data to inform the needs assessment, as well as identify strengths for the building.
- The freshmen health classes welcomed guest speaker, Patty Tomaszewski, in February to discuss LGBTQ and transgender educational information.
- Peer Leaders are currently organizing participation in the Sussex County March of Dimes walk in May.
- We began a Girls Circle 10 week program on March 7th. The program focuses on ninth & tenth-grade females. It is specifically designed to engage and motivate female youth to make positive decisions and change behaviors. This is a comprehensive program that draws from the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens program.

#### *Halsted*

- Eighth graders and parents will connect with the high school guidance department on March 25th & 26th to participate in the annual "High School Scheduling" process.
- We recognized J.P. Reyes as the 2018-2019 recipient of the HMS Caring Award. J.P. will be publicly recognized at a breakfast on March 21st at Sussex County Community College.
- We opened our minds and hearts as Dianne Grossman spoke to the student body during the school day on March 12th and to parents on March 13th at 6:30 pm. Dianne's daughter, Mallory, was bullied into taking her own life. As a result, she has created an anti-bullying foundation called Mallory's Army to keep her daughter's memory alive, teach kindness, and create a positive behavior change.

#### *Merriam*

- We celebrated Love of Reading Week (February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>). It was full of activities, morning announcements from guest speakers, and themed days.
- On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Bob Salomon, author of *Beyond the Laces*, came for an assembly for our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th-grade students. He conducted a writing seminar for these students and read his book aloud for all to enjoy.
- On March 6<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the Family & Community Connections Event, which was a success. A variety of outside agencies and organizations set up tables throughout the hall to promote their businesses. Families within the community were able to walk around and learn more about what Newton has to offer.
- We hosted our first Free Farmers Market on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Families were invited to come into the cafeteria at dismissal to put together a bag of fresh produce donated from local grocery stores. This event was hosted by SnapEd and with their support, the hope is to host this event monthly. To make the experience more meaningful, SnapEd also provided families with a cooking demonstration on how to utilize the groceries in a variety of ways.
- The School Safety Climate Team meeting is set for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Pride Ambassadors are beginning to discuss ideas for their service project for the spring with details to be shared in the near future.

#### **Information Services - Mary Decker**

- The Civil Rights Data report is being uploaded to the federal website.
- The Technology Professional Development Committee has been visiting schools to assist in developing a comprehensive plan for 2019-20.
- Mary Decker attended a Google Education travel show at Roxbury High School for a presentation on upcoming changes to their GSuite for Education.
- Usage of Google Classroom throughout the district has increased over the current school year and has become a repository for many teacher lesson plans and instructional materials.
- Merriam is exploring adding standards-based measures to traditional grades on their report cards.
- The District Testing Committee has been meeting on a regular basis to ready staff for the testing beginning in mid-April. The state training in February was attended by members of the committee. All staff involved in the testing will receive some form of training over the next month depending on their role.
- This year the ACCESS/WIDA/ELL testing is online again. Testing has begun and will be completed by the end of March in all three schools.

## **Assessment & Bilingual Education - Kenney Lutz**

### *Assessment*

- The testing committee attended the state training for the NJSLA, formerly the PARCC, in late February. We were brought up to speed on all of the updates and changes that the new test presents for this year. We are ready to go and all preparation steps have been taken to start the tests on time this year. Parent notification letters will be sent out informing families of the testing window and when their student will take the test. Further updates on the progress of this assessment will be presented next month.

### *Bilingual Education*

- The Access testing for the district is under way. Currently the testing is completed at Merriam, just under way at Halsted, and about half way done at the High School. It is a lengthy process for the staff and the students to partake in due to the demands of the test. The testing is targeted to be complete by the end of next week.

## **Building Coordinators Reports**

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

*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*

- In Physical Education, students are learning about what to expect for their upcoming YMCA trips that will focus on helping them learn how to swim or how to improve on their swimming skills.
- The 4th grade students have been introduced to the ukulele in their music classes and are learning how to play this instrument.

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

- In PE, 3rd and 4th grade students will complete their Fitnessgram activities with their final Pacer Test of the year to track their improvement in cardiovascular endurance.
- 4th Grade is preparing for their chorus and band spring concert during their recess as well as after school.

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

- All students will begin learning about Jump Rope For Heart and the importance of cardiovascular exercise and healthy ways to take care of their heart.
- The Project Fit America vote was tallied and unfortunately our school was not selected as one of the four grand prize winners, but we were contacted about entering the contest again next year.

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

- Intramurals Club is continuing to run on Tuesday and Thursdays for 3rd and 4th grade. Students are currently playing Handball, a game that focuses on including everyone on the team and making multiple passes to all team members before they are allowed to attempt scoring a point.
- World Language students are getting ready for their healthy Spanish cooking contest that will be held at Merriam Ave.
- The 2nd grade had their concert on March 20th and performed in front of students and family.

### **Newton High School - Brian Bennington, Michael Grifone, Ana Maniago, Karen Mazur, Jake Mull, Brendan Scullin, Karen Seely-Nelson, Leesha Torppey**

#### *Career & Technical Education*

##### *Agriculture*

- We are now home to the 2019 NJ State FFA Floral Design Team, with the following team members and their individual ranking: Cassidy Viersma 1st in the state, Haley Alborano 5th, Shelby Perna 9th, and Kelsey Pittenger 13th. Five students also entered various floral arrangements for the Horticultural Expo and placed as following: Cameron Robbins with his National FFA Themed design 2nd, Sophia Loiacono with her Cactus/Succulent Dish Garden 3rd, Alix Wojcik with her Mardi Gras design 2nd, Haley Alborano with her Thank You Design 3rd, Cassidy Viersma with her Jersey Fresh arrangement 2nd and Look at that Container 5th, Kelsey Pittenger with her Cascading Bouquet 2nd, Welcome Wreath 2nd and her Easter

Basket 5th and Ms. Allen with her bouquet in the Advisor category 3rd. Congratulations Newton FFA and best of luck next week with your Winter Career Development Events.

#### Foods and Nutrition

- Currently in Foods and Nutrition we are learning about the properties of eggs and many different applications and uses for eggs. We made a pudding to demonstrate how eggs can be used as a thickener and today we made angel food cake to show how eggs can be used as a leavening agent. We will be further applying other properties of eggs next week.
- In International and Gourmet Foods we are currently learning about Italian food and cuisine. We have made bruschetta, focaccia bread, homemade pasta and ravioli, risotto, lasagna, pizza, and this week we made tiramisu. Next week we will be experimenting with different herbs used in Italian cuisine and we will make homemade pesto and linguine. Also in celebration of St. Patrick's day, last week we made a traditional Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, and glazed carrots.

#### Business

- In Sports & Entertainment Management, we are continuing to work with Centenary University on the implementation of a live event at Donaldson Farms in Hackettstown. On March 20th we visited Centenary to sit in on a sports management class. The students will cooperatively work together to discuss all aspects of the live event including vendors, pricing, sponsorships, games/activities, etc.

#### Technology

- All pre-conference projects for the state event are finished and brought for judging.
- Robotics made it to the semi-finals of the Bridgewater competition, but lost the match by 1 point.
- Our on-site TSA event is scheduled for April 13. We continue to grow the program and events in which we are competing.

#### English

##### Other News

- Alumnus Cole VanLuvender observed classes as part of his college course requirement.
- Teachers continue to evaluate and modify assessments and share ideas, projects, and rubrics.

#### Guidance

##### Student Accomplishments

- Congratulations to senior Austin Intoccia who was selected as the winner of the Superintendents Roundtable Award for excellence in community service, academics, athletics and student leadership.
- Congratulation to the following junior girls who have been selected as finalists for Girls State: Emma Bermingham, Emily Brothman, Hayden Caico, Erin Fucito, Ivy Nisler, Nicolette Occhifinto, and Grace Young. These outstanding young women will now compete for seats at this summer's Girls State program.
- Danny Flores has become a finalist for a spot in the NJ Scholars Program. Danny continues along in the selection process which will conclude in April.
- Junior Danny Flores and freshman Noelle Casperson, are currently serving as representatives on the Youth Tobacco Action Group (YTAG); a youth group sponsored and organized by The Center for Prevention and Counseling. As a result, both will utilize the [kickbuttsday.org](http://kickbuttsday.org) activity called #bethefirst, which operates with the goal of students taking a pledge to be the first tobacco-free generation. The students posted pledge cards at Newton Medical Center. Danny and Noelle are interested in forming and strengthening community relationships, and volunteered to be part of this opportunity.

##### Staff Accomplishments

- The counselors visited Green Hills and Long Pond Schools this month in order to register all 8th graders for their freshman year courses. Counselors meet individually with each student and family and review all course recommendations, possible elective choices, and general information pertaining to freshman year.
- Lisa Casamassina recently completed a highly successful season as head coach of the NHS Girls Basketball Team.

##### Professional Development

- Karen Mazur attended an informational tour of the Universal Technical Institute facility in Bloomfield, NJ, on March 20.

##### Other News

- The online scheduling portal for the 2019-2020 school year is closed and students have selected their courses according to teacher recommendation. Counselors are now meeting with students to finalize their course choices and review progress towards meeting graduation requirements.
- Seniors who have not yet met their graduation requirement for testing are being tutored in Portfolio Process by teachers Andy Iliff and Steve Runske. Guidance counselors are coordinating the completion of each student's portfolio submission for graduation approval. This process will conclude in May.

### *Health & Physical Education*

#### Student Accomplishments

- All students completed the School Climate Survey during their scheduling day on March 11th

#### Staff Accomplishments

- SGO's will be completed by all PE teachers by the end of the month.
- PE staff assisted with the School Climate Survey on Monday March 11th.
- Allison Mayhood will be teaching two Freshman Health classes so she can complete her requirements for her Nursing certification. Jess Jacobellis has met with her various times to review her lesson plans.

### *Mathematics*

#### Professional Development

- Members of the math department continue to update the Algebra 2 curriculum and scope and sequence.

#### Other News

- Mr. Yeager's Math League students completed their fourth test and at this time are in second place in the county.

### *Science*

#### Other News

- Small PLC meetings were held to collaborate on the forensic science, physics, biology, chemistry, and environmental science curriculum.

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

#### Student Accomplishments

- DaSilva - Mock Trial and Academic Bowl teams have had great success this year

#### Staff Accomplishments

- The Social Studies Department is headed into their final session with Generation Ready.

#### Other News

- DaSilva - XPO and APX study sessions have begun for the students in the AP US History II and AP Government & Politics classes. These two hour weekly sessions include concept review, test practice, pizza and study games and attract about 10 Govt students and 20 US History students every week.
- Scullin - Newsies performs March 22, 23, 24.
- Moretz - Western Civilization II Honors students completed lessons, activities, and assessments on Absolutism and the Scientific Revolution. Currently they are completing independent research on the Salem Witch Trials in preparation for writing a critical analysis research paper. They read a case study which they are critiquing and had a session on sources with Mrs. Marmara in the Library. Students were given the opportunity to complete a biography sheet on a person in Black History for extra credit.

### *World Languages*

#### Student Accomplishments

- Mrs. Adam's Spanish 2 ACP students presented fashion shows.
- Mrs. Adam's Spanish 2 CP students are designing their dream homes.
- Mrs. Adam's Spanish 1 ACP students are growing cilantro to make pico de gallo as part of their unit on food.
- Mrs. Hannig-Eisenberger's German 1 classes are learning about the German school system and will compare to their own.
- A German 3 student is in the process of applying for the "2019 German Summer Study Program for High School Students *Deutschland Plus*" which is a 3-week immersion program in a German family and high school.

- Mr Rueda's Spanish 4 students read a booklet in Spanish about Mexican history and then used Spanish to share the information with their classmates.
- Mr Rueda's ELL Social Studies class worked on a project on Greece using Google Slides and online sources.
- Mrs. Leone's French 1 & 4 completed their first EdPuzzle authentic audio performance assessment.
- Mrs. Leone's French 2 students are doing their first Integrated Performance Assessment using only authentic texts/audio.
- Mrs. Maniago's Spanish 3 students designed a fashion catalog describing clothing using all structures and vocabulary learned.

#### Staff Accomplishments

- Mrs. Gray-Reveredo took the required online course to become a National SAT proctor for the March 9 SAT at NHS
- Mrs. Gray-Reveredo joined the Professional Learning Community (PLC) of Ben Slavic for Acquisition Learning of a Second Language.
- Mrs. Hannig-Eisenberger was part of the panel of interviewers for the National German Exam/Pädagogischer Austauschdienst at Delbarton High School on 3-23.
- Mr. Rueda and the Spanish Honor Society are involved in the "Reading Exchange Campaign". Students from the Honor Society are reading along with the ELL students in English and Spanish, giving students the opportunity to practice their languages as well as meeting people with different backgrounds that attend our high school.
- Mrs. Leone's students hosted French exchange students who shadowed the students for 3 days at school.

#### Professional Development

- Mrs. Gray-Reveredo read "The Bite Size Book of Classroom Management" which focuses on classroom management of an acquisition-learning/natural approach classroom.
- Mrs. Leone attended the FLENJ workshop entitled "Creating the IPA and showing the way" about Integrated Performance Assessments.

#### Other

- The Spanish Club organized a successful dancing and lunch field trip with 24 students. Students learned how to dance salsa and merengue and enjoyed a Colombian traditional lunch afterwards
- Mr. Rueda and Multicultural Club has organized a food tasting during March, to honor Irish Heritage and the Second Annual Multicultural Club Movie Series on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Mr. Rueda and the Multicultural Club are organizing a multicultural night to be in the cafeteria on March 28th.

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

#### *Student Programming*

- The students in the LLD room went to the YMCA in Hardyston to participate in various activities. However, they had a favorite; swimming/diving for rings and playing basketball in the water!
- The Science and Language Arts Departments have combined for an interdisciplinary venture at the seventh grade level. To help students avoid plagiarism and learn how to take notes, students were assigned two articles about cell movement and regeneration by Mrs. Desautels. They then completed graphic organizers to determine main idea and details. The next phase occurred in ELA with Mr. Bolen where students learned how to paraphrase a section of the article as if they were taking notes for a mock research essay. The note-taking concept was furthered as students wrote a paragraph that included a direct quote after receiving instruction on in-text citations and their correlation to the works cited page. Finally, the following day in Science, students completed the final phase of the note-taking process by summarizing sections of an article about a football player from Rowan University who donated stem cells to a cancer patient. Through this cross-curricular project, students observed and experienced the effects of strong note-taking and reading comprehension when researching across multiple disciplines.

#### *Students of the Month*

- 5th Grade: Tamara Taylor

- 6th Grade: Alex Munoz Nava
- 7th Grade: Nicole Morehouse
- 8th Grade: Franklyn Chocoj Flores

*Community Service*

- The National Junior Honor Society is currently comprised of a group five 8th-grade students. These students have been working during the year updating the outdoor Halsted sign, updating our internal food pantry with donations, assisting with students in the LLD with their school community service activities, and serving as school ambassadors in many capacities. Recently the organization volunteered at the district's Family and Community Connection Night.