

Newton Public Schools

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Principals' Reports

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/Math support/ intervention, and students at risk of failure.
- Progress:
 - Generation Ready Professional Development with Harriette Grosvenor
 - Administration met with Harriette on April 16 and created a plan to roll out a structure for professional development to incorporate small group instruction and specific guidelines for teaching a blocked schedule.
 - Week of May 6th - Professional Development/Block Daily Agenda Rollout

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
 - Private individual counseling has started for students, made possible with funding from Thorlabs
- Progress:
 - The Halsted 5 focus for the month for April was an incentive activity. [Photos](#)
 - April's Focus - Respecting school property
 - Chromebook care
 - Students created videos demonstrating Chromebook Care and the top three were voted on by staff and students.
 - May's Focus is our Halsted 5 pillars (respect, responsibility, pride, prepared and listening). The grade level with the most Halsted 5 tickets will earn an additional recess.
 - During teacher appreciation week students will provide staff with recognition/ appreciation tickets during the week of May 6th.

Newton High School - Jeff Waldron

Provide regular opportunities for teacher collaboration

- Last month's report outlined two options our adjunct scheduling committee has been evaluating for implementation next year. These two options were selected because they offer the greatest opportunity for teacher collaboration while allowing us to work within our 9 period day schedule. The scheduling committee will meet one more time next week to finalize our plan for 2019-20.

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

- With the first three quarters of the 2018-19 school year behind us, we have noted a significant decrease in the number of failing grades in each of the first three marking periods. Our primary intervention seems to be our Academic Enrichment course which is designed to assist students with organization while tracking their progress in each class. As a result, we will be doubling the sections next year so that we offer at least one section during each of our 9 periods. We are able to accomplish this by replacing our Academic Support class (previously a special education support class) with Academic Enrichment. This allows us

greater flexibility as we can include both classified and non-classified students in the same section. In addition to increased flexibility, this move allows us to offer supports to our special education students in a least restrictive environment.

Other School News

- Congratulations to Jenny Allen for being selected by the National FFA organization to serve as a judge for the national officer finalist selection process. Judging will take place July 21-26 in Indianapolis.
- Congratulations to the following students for being selected to the New Jersey All State Chorus. Alyssa Dionne, a junior, was selected into the Mixed Ensemble for her second year in a row. Marissa Dionne, a sophomore and Zachary Halteman, a freshman, have also been selected to the Ensemble. These students competed against hundreds from all over the state and received top scores in order to qualify for the elite Mixed Ensemble. Thanks to Ms. Foster for her time and efforts in preparing our students for the selection process.
- Student Noah Metzgar participated in an internship with the accounting firm Nisivoccia, LLP, throughout most of this school year. As a result of his work, Noah will be meeting with the head of the firm's human resources department to discuss future internship and career plans. Thanks to Hal Mordkoff for arranging the internship and to Robert Charlton, Partner, and CPA with Nisivoccia for serving as Noah's internship advisor.
- Congratulations to student Abigail Nicholas for being named one of four finalists in the UNEEBOT Upcycle Challenge. Students created a short video and submitted a paper explaining their ideas to upcycle specific waste components. Nicole selected polyurethane and neoprene rubber. Nicole's plans will be featured, with the other finalist, at one of the stations at KEENFEST. The submission that receives the most votes at KEENFEST will be put into prototype production. Good luck Nicole and thanks to Jim Hofmann for providing the opportunity.

Merriam Avenue School - Kevin Stanton

- Second grade teachers were trained in an assessment program called Edulastic. This is a digital platform that allows teachers to build standards aligned assessments in language arts and math from an archive of questions and prompts. Teachers can then use the program to analyze student answers to determine what specific skills students are proficient in and what areas need further instruction. This helps to group students for small-group instruction according to their specific academic needs.
- Grade level meetings with grades three and four to train on the use of Edulastic are scheduled for later in May.
- I and other staff reviewed PowerSchool Unified Classroom which is a single sign-on data management site that is able to integrate with incoming student assessment data from a wide variety of sources including state and local assessment data. The site allows teachers and administrators to easily see and analyze student test, demographic and other data. Standards-aligned assessments can be constructed, archived, and edited on the site, and reports of individual student assessment results as well as school-wide results can be produced.
- Another meeting with representatives from PowerSchool to review grade reporting systems through PowerSchool's assessment and Unified Classroom platforms is scheduled.
- I met with staff to explore the feasibility of providing Tier 3 interventions in speech, language, and communication for identified students. We discussed screening procedures, eligibility and the content of potential interventions.
- New Jersey Student Learning Assessment testing will take place for third grade students during the week of May 6, and for fourth grade students during the week of May 17.
- Here is a link to the library newsletter: <https://www.smore.com/cnabk-my-smore-newsletter?ref=email>

Directors' Reports

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 Participation

- Merriam: 140 students registered, average daily attendance = 130
- Halsted: 227 students registered, average daily attendance = 101
- Total Level of Service: 231

Community

- C2C participated in Halsted's Family Activity Night on May 3. 31 C2C families attended with their student(s).
- 301 votes were cast for the C2C Logo. Fourth-grade student Kira Caban-Specht was the winning design. Her design, [seen here](#), will be printed on C2C t-shirts.
- June 4 is our final C2C Family Activity Night. We will be hosting a barbeque at Halsted and students will be tie-dyeing their C2C t-shirts.
- Our Girls on The Run (GOTR) teams at Halsted and Merriam will be running in their 5k this Saturday, May 11th. [You can click here to register yourself for the 5k or be a volunteer](#). GOTR Spirit Day is May 10. Support our runners by cheering them on and posing for Spirit Day Pictures.

Facilities Services - Joe Van Kirk

- The shaft in the High School Auditorium ventilation fan was replaced during spring break.
- The flashing on canopy at Merriam that was damaged by a garbage truck was replaced on April 23.
- The balance of the sound panels were installed in the Halsted choral room on April 24.
- The antenna for the district radio repeater was installed at Halsted during spring break, and the repeater is scheduled to be installed on May 14.
- For the Halsted nurse's office project, the electrical was installed and the plumber is scheduled to start on May 15.

Preschool & Special Education - Jennifer Pasquali

- Total CST students
 - PSD: 34
 - MAS: 92
 - HMS: 72
 - NHS: 96
 - OOD: 15
- Students currently being evaluated
 - PSD: 1
 - MAS: 1
 - HMS: 2
 - NHS: 1
- Special education students moved into or out of the district:
 - MAS: 0 In, 0 Out
 - HMS: 1 In, 1 Out
 - NHS: 0 In, 2 Out
 - OOD: 0 In, 0 Out
- Homeless

- There are a total of 33 homeless students; 10 of the homeless students are Newton residents; 1 student is at East Mt. School, 1 is attending their home district, 1 is at First Impressions and the rest are attending Newton Schools.

Program Highlights

- **Preschool:** We currently have 35 GE preschoolers on our roster for 2019-20 either returning students (11) or new who are in the process of registering (24) with only 13 open spots. First Impressions has 15 students enrolled for the 19-20 school year. Preschool celebration will be held on 6/10. On 5-7 Newton Police visited Camp Auxilium preschool classes to educate the students on basic safety (bicycle safety, helmets, outdoor safety), and to give a tour of the police car ([Newton Police Visit](#)). Preschool Disabled Program classes enjoyed a spring egg hunt outside ([Searching for Eggs](#)). Students also were invited to visit a 2nd grade classroom to see baby chicks which just hatched ([Baby Chicks](#)). The classes have been studying about baby animals born in the spring, and animals that are born from eggs. Students had fun observing the adorable chicks! On 4/2 Barbara Popek and I were invited to a reception at Camp Auxilium to meet visiting Councilor from Rome, Sister Chantal Mukase ([Sister Chantel Bio](#)) ([Group Photo](#)). Visiting Councilors visit each province of the Institute every six years. It was a nice evening of conversation about various missions to empower children and women around the world and about education. The sisters were thankful that Newton Public Schools was represented and Sister Chantel was very interested in and pleased to hear about our mission to provide high quality free preschool for all residents.
- **Halsted Best Buds Club and Lunch Bunch:** Students went to Shoprite to shop for their lunch bunch group. Student work on valuable life skills of making and using a lists, checking out, paying for groceries, and bagging their groceries. ([Checking Out](#)) ([Learning to Bag Groceries](#)).
- **Halsted MD:** Students will be going to the YMCA to swim on 5-14 and this will be a monthly trip.
- **NHS MD:** This is a busy month for the students in the MD program. Students participated in SWAP bowling ([Bowling with Friends](#)) and Unified Sports track meet in Morristown on 5-8 ([Unified Sports Team Photo](#)) ([Newton Braves!](#)). Students and staff will be attending the Newton Police Special Olympic Torch run on 5-10. Upcoming trips/events include the Best Buds Taco Tuesday on 5-21, Miners game at Skylands Stadium on 5-22, Unified Track meet on 5-22, and the annual Swartswood State Park picnic.
- **DLM: 2019 Spring Window:** 4/3 - 5/24. Eleven students participated in DLM this year in grades 3-11 and testing was completed this week.

Security & Character Education - Samantha Castro

- At the April 23rd Board Meeting, Samantha Castro presented to the Committee of the Whole about security upgrades and steps taken over the past year to address our security needs and in turn the comprehensive plan. Click on the link to view the [security memo](#).

Merriam

- The SSCT is working to analyze the parent, staff, and student surveys to pinpoint programs for next year.
- May 11th marked the MAS Girls on the Run first 5K!
- MAS is hosted a Farmer's Market on May 9.
- The students and staff have decorated specific bathrooms with positive messages for all to see.

High School

- The SSCT hosted the Center for Prevention on May 8th as they presented training on how to use the SSCT effectively. The team will debrief over the next few weeks to discuss areas in which we can utilize the information provided.
- Peer Leaders/Peer Mentors will assist with the Merriam Field Day on May 31st. Field Day weaves physical fitness, character, and community building altogether.
- Nurse Jill Aquino will be hosting the annual Blood Drive on June 7th.
- Peer Leaders and #TAGS will assist in Tri-District Field Day on May 28th at Memory Park.

Halsted

- We will host #TAGS for the annual end of year BBQ.
- We will be hosting "Altitude Rally Day" to focus on celebrating the achievements of this year and to plan for new and exciting events next school year.

- On May 3rd we will be hosting our annual "Family Fun Night". This night offers families the opportunity to engage with other members of the Halsted Family through participation in games and activities.
- National Junior Honor Society will celebrate the induction of its newest members on May 23rd.
- We will open our doors to the 4th Grade students and staff for a visit as a preparatory step for their transition to the 5th grade.

Information Services - Mary Decker

- NJSLA: Testing for ELA, Math and Science will be finished the week of May 27th. Our technology was used extensively with only minimal issues.
- The final submission for direct certification for the 2018-19 school year has been completed. We have a total of 293 students enrolled in the lunch program through this process. Last year we had 292 students.
- AP testing is again using technology to send, record and transmit results for world language and music.
- DLM testing has been completed with no issues.
- The Raptor system is now being used at all four locations.
- Congressman Gottheimer's office has been working with our district to bring better internet access to our school district. He and his staff toured the NHS robotics lab and discussions were held on the current state of internet infrastructure in Sussex County.
- Scheduling is in process at Halsted and the High School. Halsted will be using a block scheduling methodology in PowerSchool for the 2019-20 school year.
- Our newtonnj.org website is being reviewed to make it more user-friendly.

Assessment & Bilingual Education - Kenney Lutz

Assessment

- The NJSLA State Assessment has been completed in Halsted with no issues to report. The testing is underway and halfway completed at Merriam. We anticipate being completely done by the end of next week. Testing will start at the High School on May 20th and will be done by May 30th. The NJSLA Committee has done an excellent job preparing for this process.

Bilingual Education

- We are in the process of completing the state's bilingual waiver. This waiver provides us the opportunity to continue to offer both a low and high intensity ESL program to our student population in addition to offering small group instruction, such as reading and math intervention.

Athletics & Student Activities - Ryan Hashway

- For the first time in school history, Newton has two female golfers, Davis-Ann Boyd and Julia Zonca, qualify for the golf tournament of champions.
- Michael Freda was one of two athletes in the state to receive the NJ Wrestling Officials Association scholarship.
- Newton Country Club will be hosting the North I / North II state sectional golf championship.
- The athletic department hosted the thirteenth annual Disque Rampone Relays.
- We will be hosting a Sussex County track invitational for the 9th year in a row next month.
- Newton Wrestling received a certificate of appreciation from the American Cancer Society for their efforts and funds raised and donated.
- Boys Golf clinched the Colonial Division regular season championship.
- Girls Track clinched the Colonial Division regular season championship.
- Boys Tennis qualified for the state tournament and will play their first round on May 8 vs Mountain Lakes.
- Michael Rizzo will be representing NHS at the May 19 NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete luncheon.
- Spring Sports:
 - Baseball – 6-8
 - Softball – 5-9
 - Girls Track – 5-0 (League Champions)
 - Boys Track – 1-4
 - Boys Tennis – 2-11

- o Boys Lacrosse – 1-13
- o Golf – 12-4 (League Champions)

Curriculum & Professional Development - Angela Dunbar

Curriculum

- Goal: Develop curriculum that strengthens student-centered learning to increase student achievement.
- High School: Teachers and the curriculum leadership members are updating Phase II of their curriculum. The director of curriculum assisted several content area teachers with completing Phase II of their curricular units.
- Halsted: Phase II is complete for ELA, Science and Social Studies; teachers plan to complete Phase II during the month of May
- Merriam: The principal is working with teachers on the completion of Phase II for all content areas

Professional Development

- An additional bus driver/ bus aide training program is now added to Safe Schools to comply with the new regulation.
- Dyslexia training is 96% complete (2 outstanding assignments)