

Principal's Report

Amherst School District

School: Clark-Wilkins Elementary School

September 2017

Gerry St. Amand, Nicola Fraley

Elementary
& Middle
School
Excellence

- **Hopes and Dreams:** All C-W staff have begun the school year reflecting and developing Hopes and Dreams for the upcoming year. Our Hopes and Dreams are displayed in the foyer area of both buildings for all of our stakeholders and community members to read. In many classrooms, students have also developed hopes and dreams that have been the basis for conversations in the classroom and school-wide rules process.
- **School-Wide Rules:** Since the first day of school, students and staff have been busy in their classrooms establishing classroom rules. Through a collaborative and democratic process, these individual classroom rules have come together to form our School-Wide Rules. Student and staff delegates signed the Clark Constitution and The Wilkins Constitution on Friday. The school-wide rules were shared with the larger school community on Monday, September 18 during our Constitution Day activities.
- **Late Starts:** C-W teachers and staff will engage in a variety of professional development opportunities during our ten scheduled Late Starts this year. Five of the meetings will occur in collaboration with MVVS as we continue to move forward with our work with Performance Assessment and PACE. The remaining Late Starts will focus on our Assessment, Grading, and Reporting work, and technology. The schedule below provides information including meeting dates and focus areas.

Month	Date/Time	Topic	
September	Late Start – Sept 12 th	1. Overview of PACE / Timeline - celebrate and prepare for our work ahead 2. Curriculum work or STAGES session for Individual PD Goals	Performance Assessment Sessions (choose one):
October	Late Start – Oct 10 th	Performance Assessment Sessions	• Brainstorming / Task Development
November	Late Start – Nov 14 th	Assessment, Grading, and Reporting	• Rubric Development
December	Late Start – Dec 12 th	Performance Assessment Sessions	• Validation / Task Revision
January	Late Start – Jan 9 th	Technology	• Calibration and Scoring
February	Late Start – Feb 13 th	Performance Assessment Sessions	
March	Late Start – March 13 th	Performance Assessment Sessions	Grade levels can send representatives to different sessions.
April	Faculty Meeting – April 4 th At MVVS: 3:30-4:30	Our PACE Journey: AMS perspective	
April	Late Start – April 10 th	PACE - Assessment Map Development	
May	Late Start – May 8 th	Assessment, Grading, and Reporting	
June	Late Start – June 5 th	Celebration of Learning	

- **Assessment:** Each fall C-W collects benchmark data in the areas of literacy and math in students in grades K-4. The data is used to guide and develop interventions, targeted

instruction, and assist us providing our children with multi-tiered instruction in core content areas. These assessments include AIMSweb and NWEA for literacy and math. Additional benchmarks are given at select grade levels to provide us with a broader picture of the student's strengths and areas for targeted instruction.

Diligent
Fiscal
Oversight

- In collaboration with Curriculum Coordinators, teachers, administrative assistants, and building administration the first round of the FY 19 C-W budget has been developed and entered using Google Forms. The process seemed to go smoothly, and we will continue to meet with district and SAU personnel as we move forward.

Inspirational
& Effective
Teaching

- **Responsive Classroom:** During the early summer 15 C-W staff participated in Responsive Classroom(RC) training, including classroom teachers, interventionists, and administrators. An additional four have previously participated in the training and implement RC practices in their classrooms. As we have moved into the school year, we developed a master schedule that includes time for Morning Meeting. Also, all staff and students have developed classroom rules that formed the building blocks for our school-wide rules. Our regular faculty meeting begins with a "Morning Meeting" that allows us to model practices while simultaneously continuing to build a positive and safe community for staff and students.
- **Social/Emotional Learning:** In addition to the work being done with RC we are also implementing the Second Step curriculum in all grades K-4. Second Step is currently being implemented by all of our guidance counselors and a lead teacher at each grade. The units of study focus on Skills for Learning, Empathy, Problem Solving, and Emotion Management. Through direct instruction, students will develop strategies that enable them to navigate challenging situations, develop self-regulation skills, and build self-confidence. Guidance counselors and classroom teachers will be joining our October ASB to provide the board with an update and further information.
- **Special Subject Schedule:** At Wilkins School, the specials schedule has undergone a significant change this year. In the past, students have moved through specials on a six-day rotation with each day providing the students with a different special experience. This year, students will engage in one special for an entire week (Monday-Friday) before moving into a different special subject. This change allows specials teachers to dig deep into their units of study and capitalize on instructional time as review and re-establishing behavioral expectations at the beginning of each lesson is no longer required. Feedback from specialists has been positive thus far, and we will continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this model for our students and teachers.

Innovative
Technology
Integration

- Mrs. Bevilacqua's second-grade students have been introduced to Xtra Math and Prodigy to help aid math skills and Raz-Kids for reading. They are enjoying these programs. Login information for each program has been sent home as well so that students can continue to practice at home.
- In Mrs. Ireland's first-grade class students have been using the smart board to play whole class math activities as a review and reinforcement of skills. They also access the smart board weekly for scholastic news. The children read aloud as a class, learn

vocabulary from the text and play an interactive game to assess what they learned. They love it!

SAU #39
Strategic
Planning

- **Current Enrollment at C-W:** As of Friday, September 15, **673** total students are enrolled at C-W in grades PK-4.
Preschool - 35
Kindergarten - 110 Clark Total - 145
First - 136
Second - 116
Third - 133
Fourth - 143 Wilkins Total - 528
Total - 673
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Summary of
Upcoming
Events

September 18-20: Grade 4 Hike Pack Monadnock - 2 classes each day
September 25 - October 6 - NWEA Assessment Window
September 25: Open House - Grades 3 and 4 (6:30-7:30), Clark (pk 5:30-6:30, K 6:00-7:00)
September 26: Open House - Grades 1 and 2 (6:15-7:15)
September 27: Picture Day @ C-W
October 6: SMILE Day
October 9: Columbus Day - No School
October 10: Late Start day, school begins at 10:25
