

# Principal's Report

## Amherst School District

School: Clark-Wilkins Elementary School

February 2018

Gerry St. Amand, Nicola Fraley

### Elementary School Excellence

**Building Goal:** Develop and implement high-quality curriculum, assessment, and instructional practices to support personalized student learning.

#### *STARS Program*

Program staff from C-W Stars and AMS LifeSkills have been working collaboratively to streamline our programming K-8 in the recent months. They have engaged in rich conversation about curriculum, service delivery, and effective practices. On Friday, March 23 staff from both programs visited a school in Massachusetts to gain experiences and understanding of exceptionally effective structures and supports this targeted group of students.

#### *Assessment, Grading, and Reporting*

The Clark-Wilkins Assessment, Grading, and Reporting team facilitated a staff meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> focusing on the book On Your Mark by Thomas Guskey. Facilitators led small group discussion stations targeting specific chapters read by the full staff. Staff were able to share new learning with each other and discuss important take-aways from their reading. The Assessment, Grading, and Reporting team will be working with the staff again during the May late start.

#### *Report Cards*

All C-W students received their trimester two report cards last week. Our teachers worked with their grade level colleagues to discuss grading and align their practices before sending out their reports. The report cards reflected student learning, progress, and growth.

**Building Goal:** Establish a community, classroom, and school-wide, that fosters and ensures the social-emotional development and growth of all students.

#### *March 27 Late Start – Introduction to Responsive Classroom*

Support staff from Clark and Wilkins buildings engaged in a professional development activity that focused on the overarching philosophy and approach of Responsive Classroom during the rescheduled Late Start.

#### *April Late Start and Faculty Meeting– Becoming a Trauma Informed School*

The Clark-Wilkins team is excited to bring a speaker to the staff during the April late start professional development time. Ms. Emily Daniels will be providing the staff with an overview of childhood trauma and the impact it has on students today. Staff will be provided with strategies to support students in regulating emotions and responding to challenging behaviors.

#### *BIMAS*

The kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers completed the Winter screening of BIMAS for their students. These student screeners will provide important information for the review of the full day kindergarten program at Clark-Wilkins Elementary School.

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### Diligent Fiscal Oversight

**FY18 Budget:** The C-W Administrative team is continuing to review and approve requisitions as they come forward.

**FY19 Budget:** We are celebrating the passing of the FY 19 budget by getting to work to put \_\_\_ in motion. We have posted the new professional positions that were included in this budget (Math Interventionist and BCBA) and are already accepting applications.

**FY 20 Budget:** We are also looking forward and are beginning to evaluate our long-term plans so that we can start preparing for the upcoming FY20 budget season.

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### Inspirational & Effective Teaching

#### Teacher-Leader Effectiveness Evaluations

Observations	Completed to Date	To be Completed
Informal (10-15 minutes in class)	98	91
Formal (pre-observation conference, 45-60 minute observation, post-observation conference)	32	0

All four C-W administrators are currently completing observations.

#### Staffing for 2018-2019

##### *Professional Staff Positions*

The administrative team has worked with the SAU to post vacant positions for the 2018-2019 school year. These positions include Speech and Language Pathologist, BCBA, Physical Education Teacher, Classroom Teachers, Mathematics Interventionist, and Student Services Administrative Assistant.

Our search for highly skilled, knowledgeable, and passionate teachers has begun. We have completed the first and second round of interviews for our open classroom teaching positions. We began with over 110 applicants and are now down to ten as we approach the final round. Candidates that are moving into our final round will be coming in to teach a mini-lesson in the coming days and then move on to meet with Adam Steel. Our search for a physical education teacher is also well underway. With over 30 applicants in the pool, members of the administrative team conducted first round telephone interviews with nine candidates on Tuesday. The next step will be to meet with a larger school team for a traditional interview and finally selected candidates will be invited to teach a lesson as part of their final step.

##### *Support Staff for 2018-2019*

C-W and AMS administrators recently met with SAU leadership to discuss and plan for support staff needs and assignments for the 2018-2019 school year. Meeting together allowed us to plan across the district, pre-k to grade 8, to ensure that all of our students are supported by the appropriate personnel.

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### Innovative Technology Integration

#### *Grade 4 Use of Technology in the Classroom*

Each day our fourth-grade teachers are using the SMART board, its software and the LCD projector to present in all instructional areas. Using these technologies, our teachers are providing the students with engaging opportunities such as interactive modeling of math problems, engaging with Mystery Science, student led instruction or presentation of learning, and even supporting classroom management.

In addition, students are also using technology on individual devices in the following ways:

- Accessing content specific resources such as XtraMath, Dreambox, Prodigy, Thinking Blocks
- Recording data from science experiments and analyzing results
- Extension/enrichment in science for those wishing to explore beyond the curriculum
- Accessing Safari – supplemental videos that help to support specific instruction, particularly in science

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### SAU #39 Strategic Planning

#### Clark-Wilkins Enrollment Figures 2017-2018

Grade	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Pre-K	35	35	35	36	36	36	37	39			
K	106	110	108	109	108	109	110	112			
1	138	136	139	137	137	137	137	136			
2	115	116	116	118	121	120	120	122			
3	131	133	134	133	135	135	135	132			
4	140	143	142	145	149	149	149	150			
<b>Total</b>	665	673	674	678	686	686	688	691			

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### Summary of Upcoming Events

March 26	Tanglewood Marionettes – Clark MPR – PK & K
March 28	Culmination of Clark Read-a-Thon
March 29	AMS Music Presentations to 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
April 4	Grade 1 Science Guy Staff Meeting - MVVS
April 10	Late Start – Social and Emotional Learning – Trauma Sensitive Schools
April 16 & 17	Grade 4 Lowell Mills in-school program
April 18	Staff Meeting - Wilkins
April 23 - 27	Spring Recess

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May 1 Incoming K Parent Information Session, Clark MPR - 6-7 PM

May 1, 2 & 3 Grade 2 SEE Science Center

Staff Meeting - Clark

May 7 - 18 Spring NWEA

May 7 4-5 Transition Night @ AMS

May 8 Late Start - Assessment, Grading, and Reporting

May 9 Walk-A-Thon