

Principal's Report

Amherst School District

School: Clark-Wilkins Elementary School

April 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.

NH Statewide Assessment System (NHSAS)

Third and fourth grade students will participate in the NHSAS following April vacation. NHSAS (formally Smarter Balanced) assesses students' progress and learning against the New Hampshire Academic Standards for the students assigned grade. The assessment is comprised three testing sessions. In the first two sessions, students will complete an adaptive test in reading and mathematics, and the final session focuses on writing. All elements of the assessment are completed on the computer.

PACE and Assessment Maps

Clark-Wilkins teachers continue to collaborate with their colleagues at the state level in task development for PACE. As a Tier 2 school, Clark-Wilkins has been invited to participate in task development for grade 4 ELA, grade 4 Science, and grade 3 Math. Classroom teachers and curriculum coordinators have represented our school community at these sessions.

Grade levels are working on developing and refining assessment maps that outline the common summative assessments that are used at all grade levels. We have focused this year primarily on Math. We are working to ensure that we have a variety of high quality classroom assessments that enable our students to demonstrate their understanding of the standards and provide opportunities for students to show understanding beyond the grade level expectation.

Collaborative Team Time

Classroom teachers continue to meet weekly during Collaborative Team Time to work on their grade level curriculum, assessments, pacing, and effective instructional practices. Interventionists and reading specialists/case managers also push into specific content area meetings to review and discuss student progress data for students receiving tier II instruction. We are committed to continuing to schedule these essential meetings into our master schedule for the 18-19 school year.

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

Trauma 101

On April 10th, staff from Clark-Wilkins, MVVS, and AMS came together to participate in a presentation focused on Trauma-Informed Schools at Clark School. Ms. Emily Daniels facilitated an overview of childhood trauma and background information to the staff on how adverse childhood experiences (ACES) can impact our students. Our staff were excited to come together for this important learning opportunity and are eager to continue learning more as a

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professional community. Please click [here](#) to access the take-aways and additional resources that were shared with the staff.

Responsive Classroom

We are excited to offer a four-day institute within the district to Clark-Wilkins teachers from August 13th-16th. This institute brings together our teachers to learn ways to build community in their classrooms to support our students. This is critical to our work as we move forward with the goal of becoming a Schoolwide Responsive Classroom school.

Internal Professional Development – Book Read and Reflective Discussion Sessions

Twenty Clark-Wilkins team members are involved in a voluntary before and after school book group on the text [The Power of Our Words](#). This text pairs well with our school goals and works with Responsive Classroom. Staff are having important discussions about the type of language they use in their classrooms and throughout the school building to promote pro-social behaviors with students.

Safety and Security

Emergency Drills at Clark Wilkins

Building	Fire Drills	Total #	Lockdown Drills	Total #
Clark	9/29, 1/30, 3/29	3	9/29, 10/27, 11/29, 3/30	4
Wilkins	9/15, 10/24, 1/30, 3/29	4	9/29, 10/27, 12/14, 3/30	4

Diligent Fiscal Oversight

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

FY19 Budget: As we near the opening of the FY19 budget, we are developing a robust system of checks and balances that will allow us to closely and effectively monitor spending in all of our budgeted lines.

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

Inspirational & Effective Teaching

Teacher-Leader Effectiveness Evaluations

Observations	Completed to Date	To be Completed
Informal (10-15 minutes in class)	122	67
Formal (pre-observation conference, 45-60 minute observation, post-observation conference)	32	0

All four C-W administrators are currently completing observations.

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Staffing for 2018-2019

Professional Staff Positions

An intense hiring cycle for the 18-19 school year is coming to a close at CW. Seven members of staff are retiring at the end of June, and we have also had current CW staff transfer into open and new positions. These factors have created some open positions that we are pleased to be filling with skilled, enthusiastic, and dynamic educators. We will be presenting five classroom teachers, a P.E. teacher, and a BCBA to the board for nomination on 4/19/18. The candidates all completed several rounds of interviews, including telephone interviews, panel interviews, demo lessons (except the BCBA), and met with Adam Steel.

Interviews for our open Speech and Language Pathologist position are scheduled for 4/30/18.

Support Staff for 2018-2019

CW administrators have been working closely with AMS and SAU leadership to plan for our support staff needs for next year carefully. As our student population and student specific supports and services continue to fluctuate, we will closely monitor our needs and assign staff accordingly.

Innovative Technology Integration

Grade 3 Use of Technology in the Classroom

Students and teachers are putting technology to great use daily in third grade. Currently, SMART boards are being used in all classrooms to deliver instruction across content areas (Foundations, writing, mathematics - calendar, etc.) Students also have access to the digital form of Scholastic News, which has added videos, maps, and interactive questioning.

In addition, the Weather Station that is on the roof of the building is being used to track the weather for the weather unit. Students are also able to see weather information from all over the world using the weather web site.

Student devices such as iPads and laptops have been used for:

- Research for a performance task for the Government Literacy Unit
 - Guided research via QR codes for the Animal Literacy Unit
 - Accessing Mystery Science
 - Accessing Xtramath, Prodigy, Raz-Kids, and Storyline.
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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	40		
K	106	110	108	109	108	109	110	112	112		
1	138	136	139	137	137	137	137	136	136		
2	115	116	116	118	121	120	120	122	122		
3	131	133	134	133	135	135	135	132	132		
4	140	143	142	145	149	149	149	150	150		
Total	665	673	674	678	686	686	688	691	692		

Kindergarten Enrollment Figures for 2018-2019

Date	Current PK Students	On Census	New Students	Total
2/2/18	23	17	10	48
2/12/18	23	18	10	51
2/21/18	23	20	12	55
3/9/18	23	26	13	62
3/20/18	23	31	15	69
3/27/18	23	32	17	72
4/5/18	23	36	18	77
4/16/18	23	42	19	84

The census indicates that 122 kindergarten age students could potentially register. Historically, our enrollment figures have typically been within 10 (+/-) students of the census figure.

As of June 2017, we had 100 students registered for kindergarten.

Clark-Wilkins Administrative Team Transition

All four CW administrators have been working closely throughout the year to prepare for the change in leadership on July 1. At a recent staff meeting, we presented the next steps in our transition, shifting responsibilities for tasks such as payroll and PD approvals and communication. In the coming weeks, Nicky and Kathleen will be meeting with all CW staff in small groups to engage in a conversation about the upcoming shifts. Questions that will be discussed include topics such as the current traditions that must be preserved, what kind of leadership and support people are hoping for, and areas for growth and development. Nicky and Kathleen will present the common themes and their learning to the full staff on June 6th, the final staff meeting of the 17-18 school year.

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Summary of Upcoming Events

April 23 - 27	Spring Recess
May 1	Clark Hop-a-thon
	Incoming K Parent Information Session, Clark MPR - 6-7 PM
May 1, 2, 3	Grade 2 field trip - SEE Science Center
May 4, 8, 14, 18	Incoming K Screenings
May 5	PTA Son's Choice Event 4:30-6:30
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 (rain date May 11)
May 10	Grade 1 Music Show
May 14 - 18	Grade 3 Amherst History Week
May 14, 16, 18	Grade 4 Field Trip - Lowell Mill/Tsongas History Center
May 14	Clark-Wilkins Blood Drive
May 21	Visiting Author/Illustrator Stephen Swinburne
May 22	Clark School Field Day - Rain or Shine!
May 23	Celebration of Learning, 8 AM - 8 PM both buildings
	Book Fair - Wilkins only