



School Board Report
September 2017
Center Woods Upper Elementary School
Submitted by: Shawne Hilliard, Principal

Mission: *CWUES, in partnership with families, is dedicated to ensuring the social, emotional and academic growth of every student in a safe, respectful environment.*

Vision: *Our vision is to work collaboratively with the community to be a high performing school where all students achieve their maximum personal growth.*

Activities Related to Goals:

Assessment and Data:

Utilize a variety of assessment practices to measure students' understanding and skills for academic growth

We have completed training staff in the use of iReady and am excited to begin using this assessment three times a year to gain information on the progress of our students. As of this writing most of 4th grade has completed the math assessment. Students commented that they liked the built-in breaks, and it was less confusing than the ones they did last year. 4th grade teachers also spoke to the ease of pausing the test and quickly getting back to testing, as well as how the interface was much easier for students to understand.

Our Title I students, who have returned permission slips, have begun to meet with Corey Sulzen in order to receive additional support in math. Nikki Vandersea is currently supporting students with additional reading interventions. The grade level teams, including interventionists, will be using the data from iReady to achieve flexibility in groupings and use the WIN block to target instruction.

Two areas in the front office are designated as the Student Support Centers. This allows our staff who have received training as Registered Behavior Technicians to be available to support students in class on a more consistent basis. Our goal is to respond to student's behavior needs, utilizing strategies that will minimize the disruption to classes while maximizing the time students remain in class.

Curriculum and Instruction:

Offer a rigorous and relevant curriculum to all students

Students in the Upper Elementary are now involved in all Unified Arts classes including FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences) and Tech ED. The students who have been to those content areas have commented on how much they are learning, (chocolate croissants delivered to the principal are another benefit!)

All grade levels in the building are increasing the connections between classroom learning and the world outside our doors. This includes looking at appropriate field trips, speakers, and projects.

We are again visiting the public library on a regular basis and have continued our collaboration with Library Director Michael Sullivan. Mike comes to Susan Russell's 5th grade class to provide instruction in the fascinating game of chess, and her class will continue making the lunchtime trek to the library for more chess time.



Library Director Michael Sullivan provides chess lessons to Mrs. Russell's 5th grade class



The class takes some time to put their lessons to use against each other.

Teachers in 4th and 5th are becoming immersed in the Lucy Calkins reading and writing programs. It is exciting to see the students engaged in these lessons.

The RTI committees will continue to meet this year to review data and make recommendations for students who are not making adequate progress. This group focuses on academic growth while the Student Support Team will focus on behavior concerns and the ways we can meet the social and emotional needs of our school community.

Professional Development:

Provide opportunities to staff for continuous professional growth

We ended the summer with a team leader retreat at which we discussed and re-focused on the goals of a PLC. Those talks have led to deep discussions regarding data, how we use it and how best to support our students.

During our opening staff workshop days Shayna Phillion came in to present information regarding the most appropriate ways to work with our students who struggle with their behavior. Teachers have been willing to try new strategies and reach out for support in order for students to remain in class.

The Lucy Calkins training, provided by Kelli Killion for 5th grade and the Calkins trainer for 4th, was a huge benefit to those teachers. Kelli Killion continues to support these grade levels as they plan the first units and utilize all the materials.

We have been able to register staff for upcoming trainings that will benefit the school. Two of the first ones are *Best Practices on Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* and *The 2017 New England Social Emotional Learning Conference*.

Personnel:

Recruit and retain professional, innovative, and dynamic staff dedicated to the success of all students

We are fully staffed at the Upper Elementary School. It is wonderful to see the 4th and 5th grade teams who are now entering the 2nd or 3rd year of being together form such collaborative and supportive groups. The new staff members, guidance counselor Rachel Boucher and art teacher Jessica Chauca, are great additions who are already becoming positive members of our community.

Culture and Climate:

Promote an atmosphere that supports a forward-thinking, professional learning community to meet the needs of 21st century education

“Do you have a minute? I just wanted to tell you something. The feel in the building this year - I don’t know, it just seems so warm and welcoming. Everyone is glad to be here, students and staff.” This was a comment made to me by one of our staff the first week of school. It is amazing to hear that within just a few days we have truly become a positive learning environment and a true community.

We will continue to look at opportunities to build on this climate with school wide activities and connections within our community.

Facilities and Operations:

Provide and maintain facilities that support healthy teaching and learning

Through a grant we were able to receive a “Friendship Bench” which will be placed by the playground. This bench will be dedicated during our special presentation on October 12th.

Community Support and Involvement:

Promote positive relationships with the entire community to support education

After-school activities being offered are School Historian/Yearbook, Art, Drama Club and Foreign Language Club. We will also be looking for opportunities to include our students in the Stem activities offered after school.

The before and after school program offered by the Boys & Girls Club has been a huge success. Families pay anywhere from \$5 to \$60 a week depending on their needs. This provides their child with the hours of care, snack, special activities and access to the club locations during vacations and snow days.

Our Open House this year will include a welcome, structured classroom visits and a scavenger hunt with a number of activities to complete.

Weekly newsletters and some emails will go out via Constant Contact for the Upper Elementary School. SwiftK12 (replacing Blackboard Connect) will be reserved for alerts only.

9/15 CWUES Open House

9/16 Drop Everything and WALK (monthly, every 3rd Friday)

10/6 Teacher Workshop, no school

10/10 Columbus Day holiday, no school

10/12 Acacia Woodly Friendship Bench Presentation

10/21 Drop Everything and WALK

10/28 Early Release at 12:30 pm

10/31 Halloween Celebration (details to follow)

11/8 Common Day Workshop, no school

11/9 Grandparent's and Friend's day brunch

11/11 Veterans Day holiday, no school