



# Weare Middle School

**Mark A. Willis, Principal**  
**Phil Matzke, Dean of Teaching and Learning**  
**Scott Daniels, Special Education Director**

**Mission:**

*Weare Middle School, with the support of the greater community, will foster academic, physical, emotional and social development of students who will become productive citizens in an ever-changing world. We will provide high quality instruction within a challenging curriculum in a safe and secure learning environment that values relationships, self-awareness, respect, and responsibility.*

## Principal's Monthly Report

**Submitted by: Mark A. Willis**

**Date: September 19, 2017**

### **Activities Related to Goals:**

**Curriculum and Instruction:** Offer a rigorous and relevant curriculum for all students.

- **Goal A:** Ensure continuous student growth through improved instruction utilizing strategies of the Professional Learning Communities and provide everyday enrichment activities to improve student's ability to use higher order thinking skills in all content areas.
- **Goal B:** Improve classroom instruction, provide embedded enrichment activities, and improve student's ability to use higher order thinking skills through the use of the processes of the Professional Learning Communities during the 2016-2020 school years.

### **Math:**

- The math team will be working on creating and using performance assessments in all grade levels. The second goal for the team will be to focus on the calibration of the scoring for both the formative and summative assessments.

### **Social Studies:**

- Teachers got together over the summer to redesign an initial common assessment for students regarding "historical skills". This was a part of our shared ESLOs for 6th-8th grade. The assessment is given at the beginning and end of every year, grades 6-8 and tracks how students are growing in the following areas of chronological thinking, identifying sources, and identifying and developing claims (arguments).
- Following the CBL training this summer, teachers of Social Studies are working on developing rubrics focused on how students can achieve 1-4 for each individual earning target 6-8. In addition, teachers are working on creating performance assessments and providing more student choice in assessments.

### **Enrichment**

- **Scripps National Spelling Bee:** We are registered for the Scripps National Spelling Bee and will be sending home more information this month!
- **Habits of Learning:** A big focus to start our school year has been on growth mindset and our habits of learning. Students have been discussing what the various habits of learning might look like in different classes, comparing them to one another and to outside of school situations. Students have participated in team building activities and self-assessed their habits of learning.



*Team Building Robo-Writing Activity*

- This will continue in enrichment groups. Enrichment students will analyze their self assessments and write one SMART goal for each Habit of Learning Competency for the first trimester. By the end of the month, enrichment students will begin exploring extended independent learning opportunities.

**Assessment and Data:** *Utilize a variety of assessment practices to measure students' understanding, skills, and application of skills for academic growth.*

- **Goal A:** *Develop and maintain a systematic process for reviewing student performance data to inform instruction through the 2016-2020 school years.*
- **Goal B:** *Develop and maintain a systematic process for reviewing effective practice in the areas of Curriculum and Instruction, Culture and Climate, Supervision and Evaluation of Personnel, Professional Development, Community Support and Involvement and involvement by 2020.*

### **iReady Training:**

- Amanda Berry, from Curriculum Associates Inc, visited WMS/CWUES Thursday, September 9th to train approximately 85 SAU24 staff members in facilitating iReady testing for ELA and Math and using the iReady interface to analyze student data and access differentiate ELA instructional supports. The SAU24, WMS, and CWUES administration staff have worked diligently to prepare for iReady testing. CWUES kicked off its testing on Tuesday, Sept. 12th in their 4th Grade classes. WMS kicked off its testing in ELA classes on Monday, Sept. 18th and will focus on Math testing starting on Wednesday, Sept. 20th. We thank Greg Reinert and Chris Auger for the tremendous support they provided during this training.

**Professional Development:** *Provide opportunities to staff for continuous professional growth*

- **Goal A:** *Build a common understanding of effective teaching practices with teachers and support staff.*

### **Performance Assessment Workshop:**

- WMS kicked off our 2017-2018 school year with several training sessions including, but not limited to, My Perspectives for ELA teachers and a Performance Assessment Workshop for Math, Science, Social Studies, and Unified Arts teachers. The CBL Cohort was kind enough to take Phil Matzke, our new Dean of Teaching and Learning, under it's wings and together they planned a productive day full of

break-out sessions, vertical curriculum team discussions, and grade-level team meetings. Break-out sessions, designed and led by Bethany Chapman and Brittany Philibert, focused on elements of Performance Assessments, Depth of Knowledge considerations, and Rubric drafting. Curriculum discussions were facilitated by Bethany Chapman, Alexis Garcia, Brittany Philibert, and Bronda Crosby. Grade-level Team meetings were led by Suellen Fullbright, Jan Dwinnells, and the Brittany/Bethany team. We thank our CBL Cohort for its guidance and all of our Teacher-Leaders for their brilliant contributions.

### **PowerTeacher Pro Training:**

- A panel of Teacher-Leaders dug into the PowerTeacher Pro training videos and visited HCS to prepare a workshop on the new PowerTeacher Pro interface for reporting student progress on competencies and learning targets. Matt Hammond, Sarah Caouette, Amy Campbell, Joelle Henry, Chris Auger, and Phil Matzke designed differentiated workshop where participants were oriented to the interface as a large group and then quickly broken into small groups to focus on individual concerns around creating assignments, linking learning targets, and reviewing data. We hope to roll these Teacher-Leaders into a team of Tech-Savvy Trainers for WMS/CWUES... We are still looking for an awesome title for the team... and we invite any other staff interested to join the team. Thank you, Matt Colby, for providing guidance for this workshop, and thank you to our tech-savvy teacher-leaders for their dedication and flexibility.

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

- **Goal A:** *To develop and implement a systematic approach to hiring qualified teachers that will ensure academic success for all students during the 2016-2020 school year.*
- Nicholas Sica-Long-term Social Studies 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Emily Foote-7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

**Culture & Climate:** *Promote an atmosphere that supports a forward-thinking, professional learning community to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century education.*

- **Goal A:** *To nurture a professional learning community that provides a safe and responsive learning environment that supports all students.*
- A luncheon was held for all WMS/CWUES staff on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> as an opportunity for meet and greet between staff members, new and returning.
- The Wellness Team will be reviewing the policy this fall to update and revise in collaboration with Center Woods.
- The Wellness Team will be meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:10 to 2:50 PM

**Community Support and Involvement:** *Promote positive relationships with the entire community to support education through the use of informational media through the 2020 school year.*

- **Goal A:** *Provide the Weare community with on-going methods of information sharing regarding the progress and activities that occur during the school year.*

### **Library/Media Center**

- The book fair is open at WMS/CWUES. We receive 40% of sales to use on Scholastic merchandise. If the school exceeds the \$3000 mark, then we receive 50% of sales and all of it is used for our school. There is a 10% discount for all teachers and staff that purchase items that are used in the classroom.
- September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. was the annual "Open House" at Weare Middle School. Parents were introduced to new staff, provided insight in to changes for the school year and the opportunity to visit their child's team teachers. Teachers provided information regarding the everyday management of the

team environment and parents will get a picture of what their child's curriculum will look like during the school year. The Book Fair was open at the "Open House" for parents to visit and make purchases.

**Facilities and Operations:** *Work with other school Building & Grounds supervisors and the SAU Business Administrator to develop consistent methods that maintain efficient facilities environment and operation.*

- **Goal A:** *Address issues regarding preventive maintenance at Weare Middle School to ensure that a well maintained and safe learning environment is available for all students and staff.*

### **Building & Ground**

- The custodial & maintenance staff have been busy with room moves & final preparations for the new school year.
- The school parking lot was cleaned by Mike Rabbitt Enterprise with the remaining winter debris was collected and disposed.
- The parking spaces, including all Handicap, No Parking & Fire Lanes were repainted by Celtic Sealcoating.

### **Instructional Technology Updates**

#### **Completed:**

- Perform maintenance on existing Teacher laptops and inventory. (Some were kept over the summer)
- Replace Promethean projector bulbs where needed.
- Perform NutriKids software rollover
- Create Google accounts for new staff and Windows Active Directory accounts for WMS and CWES
- Prepare for I-Ready software
- I-Ready training for all Teachers and start testing the week of 9/11/17
- Make sure all classrooms are ready with phone access, network access and Promethean Boards working correctly.
- Set up new Teacher laptops for CWES staff, printing, Promethean board issues

#### **To do:**

- Setup and install 23 new computers for our computer lab to include all necessary software.
- Install lobby flat panel display and set up Viewsonic digital signage player
- Continue ongoing support for CWES

### **School Announcements, Upcoming events, Accomplishment:**

- The school is currently taking a hurricane relief collection for this week to donate to the Red Cross.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

September 13	WMS Open House
September 18-22	iReady Assessment WMS
September 18	Girls Soccer at home against Litchfield Boys Soccer will be away at South Meadow
September 19	WMS Staff Meeting
September 19	Cross Country at Goffstown Mountain View Middle School
September 21	Girls Soccer away at South Meadow Boys Soccer at home against Pelham Cross Country meet in Manchester