



Union County Educational Services Commission
 45 Cardinal Drive • Westfield • New Jersey • 07090
 (908) 233-9317 • FAX (908) 233-7432

(Att. 2)

Report of the Superintendent to the Board of Directors
August 30, 2017

WESTLAKE:

Enrollment as of August 15, 2017 Actual: 76 – September Enrollment Changes: Entered: 11 Exited: 0	Referrals: Intakes Scheduled: Accepted: 11
Fire Drills: August 9, 2017	Emergency Drills: Lockdown – External Threat
Suspensions: 0	August 8, 2017

Westlake School promotes the acquisition of social and vocational skills as well as developing functional skills in all academic areas. During the extended school year program instruction focused on skill development in two main academic areas, functional math and language arts.

Each class worked on varying skill levels with an emphasis on sight word recognition, oral reading, listening comprehension, spelling in the Explode the Code workbook, synonyms and antonyms, vocabulary, finding details to answer questions, and identifying the main idea of a passage. Mrs. Beach's class read the books *Frindle* and *Midnight on the Moon*, where they discussed characterization and practiced summarizing. They used four square writing, where students used a graphic organizer to organize their thoughts prior to writing.

Math lessons at Westlake focused on number identification, ordinal numbers, comparing numbers, addition and subtraction computation, word problems, patterns, coin identification and counting and telling time. Students also practiced two and three digit addition and subtraction with regrouping, multiplication and division facts, elapsed time, identifying fractions of a set, adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators, math bingo and crossword puzzles.

In Science, students learned about ocean animals such as seals, crabs, whales, penguins, sharks and jellyfish. Teachers also focused their lessons on land animals, such as lions, tigers, snakes, and zebras. Students completed fact sheets and organizers after each lesson as a means to assess their work.

Students enjoyed various themed ESY Fun Days such as Superhero Day, Pajama Day and Crazy Hat Day. Additionally, students attended a field trip to the Raritan Valley Planetarium as well as three in school assemblies: Music Technology, Corey the Dribbler, and The Secret World of Robotics. The field trip and assemblies were coordinated with themed lessons within classroom instruction that included constellations, planets, the space shuttle, and the first men on the moon. Students made their own constellation with marshmallows and toothpicks. Students also learned about sports legends like LeBron James, Michael Jordan, and Shaquille O'Neal.

Physical Education is required for all students three times a week. Students participated in various activities such as golf, basketball, fitness, backyard games (cornhole, ladder ball, carnival games) during the ESY program. Students also had the opportunity to participate in our karate enrichment program. Karate reinforces listening and responding to directions, as well as taking turns when in a larger group.

As ESY comes to an end, we are preparing for the 2017-2018 school year. Eight students graduated in June 2017 and Westlake has been conducting ongoing screenings and intakes. Currently, we have accepted 11 new students, some who attended our ESY program and some students will start on September 7th.

We have also been preparing for September by interviewing for various school positions. Westlake hired a second behaviorist to support our ongoing behavioral needs. We have also interviewed for PT, OT, paraprofessionals and a teacher position. We are confident that the candidates hired will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their positions at Westlake.

The first few days of school are opportunities for professional development to train and update our staff. Our behaviorists have attended training on Safety Care, a new crisis management training. During professional development, the behaviorists will begin to train all UCESC staff on these new techniques to effectively manage student behaviors.

LAMBERTS MILL ACADEMY:

<p>As of August 18, 2017 ESY:25 <i>(As of September's projected '17-18 SY start)</i> LMA Actual: 43 LMA District - Non-New Point: 39 New Point Specialty at LMA: 4 Changes: 0 Entered: 0 Pending: 0 Exited: 0</p> <p>Trinitas Hospital (As of Junes's Monthly report): 74 Bedside Instruction: 48 Day Program: 92 Approved-Agreement signed: 59 Classified: 29 Regular Ed: 48</p>	<p>Fire Drills: (2) Fire Drill: 07/18/17 and 8/8/17</p> <p>Security Drills (2): 07/25/17 and 8/9/17</p>
<p>Referrals in July/August : 7</p> <p>Intakes Scheduled: 3 Intakes Pending: 4 (awaiting district's response to schedule Due to district's case managers out of office until September)</p> <p>Completed: 3</p> <p>Accepted LMA placement: 3</p> <p>Placement Pending : <u>0</u> for July/Aug <u>(2</u> from <u>June's</u> Report Due to district's case managers out of office until September)</p>	<p>Suspension out of school: 0 In School Suspension: 0 HIB: 0</p>

Administration

Lamberts Mill Academy has successfully completed the Extended School Year with innovative academic and therapeutic accomplishments. Our students, who were eligible to attend based on their sending district's determination of regression and recoupment statement in their I.E.P, continued to grow therapeutically, socially, emotionally, and academically. ESY eligible students were afforded the opportunity to participate in Credit Recovery for missing credits in content areas when placed at LMA from their sending districts. The ESY gains that were made couldn't have been accomplished without the foresight, planning, and diligence of LMA's talented educators.

Our students were emotionally/academically enriched through a Project Based Learning, *PBL*, experience in Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics, *STEAM*, to design, create, and build our Tranquil Meditative Zen Garden on campus. They gained knowledge and skills by collaborating, investigating and responding to an authentic, engaging and complex challenge.

The Tranquil Meditative Zen Garden "speaks" to our students' personal concerns, interests, and issues in their lives. Students approached this project with genuine interest and enthusiasm as they worked hard to create a beautiful space that can be used throughout the year. The pride from completing their project was fully evident while our students used this space and shared it with our visitors.

Academics

English Language Arts: This month, students have experienced language arts and social studies curriculum as it related to key themes (i.e. space, criminal investigation, geography, self expression, etc.). Throughout this summer, students in language arts class focused on developing their own voice in expressive writing. Additionally, they were exposed to literary works from historical sources (Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes) and asked to analyze the historical voice in them. Students further explored the concept of an author's tone/voice by assessing how the geographical theme of place (human and physical characteristics) has impacted popular music and was used as a plot device in storytelling. Each week students were provided with a free-writing opportunity where they were asked to write stories or draft an argument for or against a key discussion point reviewed in class.

History: In social studies, students' ability to craft arguments and analyze primary and secondary documentation was challenged. Students were asked to conduct investigations on popular historical mysteries by analyzing primary and secondary documentation of varied media types to craft plausible theories as to what happened. They analyzed the impact of freedom of speech on various facets of human expression including investigative journalism and self expression. Students analyzed the boundaries and lasting impacts of freedom of speech by hearing dueling sides to arguments for investigative journalism. Additionally, students analyzed the national geography of the United States and utilized imagery to determine the impact of the geography of the people who lived there through the 5 themes of geography. Throughout the summer, students were given engineering challenges that asked them to assess problems faced by developing nations, or that emphasized the 5 theme concepts of movement and human-environment interaction. These challenges asked students to work as a group to solve the posed problem and reflect on their success or failure.

Mathematics: For the month of July, students attending LMA spent time planning, creating and assembling a fence and arbor around the LMA garden. Students learned about scale drawings, and artistically created their own scale drawings of the fence and arbor. They also applied basic formulas to help them measure and put up the fence including perimeter around the artists' renditions. Students got hands on experience working with different ratios when they mixed concrete by hand and used different ratios of water and concrete.

Finally, students learned about symmetry, measurements and different angles as they creatively designed a symmetrical arbor.

Science: In Science class students explored the plant cycle by working with the plants, vegetables and flowers that was being designed in the LMA garden. They were able to describe the different stages of the plants that were growing. Students were required to design the structure and tend to the plants to ensure growth. Students were responsible for watering plants, and ensuring plants had an appropriate structure to grow within. In addition to working on the garden students explored Outer Space and the components of a rocket ship. This unit was tied into Math when discussion on distance, time and rate of a rocket ship were discussed.

Physical Education and Health: During ESY students worked diligently in developing new skills while in Physical Education class. We continued with our Softball/Wiffleball/Baseball Unit and are currently in the Recreational Games Unit. Students have been learning different recreational games such as Cornhole, Can Jam, Spikeball, and Ladder Ball. Students enjoyed the variety of recreational games which also promoted teamwork and good sportsmanship.

In Health students continued the Family Life Skills Unit and are moving into the Drug Use and Abuse Unit. We have been covering all the different types of recreational drugs that are available to youth and the dangers associated with these drugs. We have also covered other addictive substances such as alcohol, nicotine, and prescription drugs and the lifelong repercussions that are associated with each.

LMA Clinical Department: During ESY the clinical team worked with students focusing on increasing positive social interaction while building on students' strengths and abilities. Using hands on activities students had opportunities to develop communication and social skills. Students continued to assist with multiple aspects of the construction of the LMA garden.. A few students took pride in show casing their talent in photography by taking pictures of ESY activities and then posting a collage of all their work. Lastly all students were actively engaged in "The Snakeman" presentation that was held at LMA on July 28th. This presentation and group activity proved to be quite therapeutic for the LMA students as it assisted with sensory integration, listening skills, team building skills and communication skills.

CROSSROADS:

Enrollment as of August 16, 2017 Actual: 46 Changes- Entered: 0 Exited: 0	Referrals: 2 Intakes Scheduled: 1 Accepted: 0
Fire Drills: August 9, 2017	Emergency Drills: July 7, 2017

Crossroads School Extended School Year was in session from July 5 through August 15, 2017. This has been the second consecutive year that the school embarked on a six week extended school year program. Forty-five students actively participated in the session. Crossroads staff provided instruction and exciting enrichment activities throughout the Summer. We were fortunate to have many internal staff members decide to work the program which assisted the administrative team in creating a seamless transition from the regular school year. Our parental community was extremely appreciative and impressed with our program this summer and three of our parents expressed these sentiments in writing to Crossroads Principal, Reed Leibfried.

Throughout the six week program weekly enrichment themes that were aligned to our “Symphony of Senses.” The concepts of sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste were integrated into lessons provided by our teachers and therapists. Our students were exposed to a variety of instructional and fun activities during each thematic unit. Each week concluded with an “Enrichment Friday.” Theme teams were created and assigned to assist at a variety of stations that focused on different activities highlighting the specific sense of the week. For example, in one activity students participated in a smell relay that required students to wear eye masks while identifying mystery scents in quick succession. The first team to identify all of the scents won.

The Westfield United Fund led by Executive Director, Mrs. Deirdre M. Gelinne once again allowed our school community to participate in the annual “Rain Gutter Regatta,” on July 14, 2017. The Westfield United Fund partnered with the Cub Scouts of America to host this event at Crossroads School and provided our students with boats to decorate, assemble and race with their friends. This event has become an extended school year tradition that our students and staff love and look forward to throughout our regular school year. The students thoroughly enjoyed the race especially Antonia S. who won and stated, “ my favorite part was when I won the badge and rubber duck”

Students and staff visited numerous venues during our weekly community based field trips. Ponderosa Park, ShopRite, Screaming Parties and many more were all places our students visited to practice daily living skills in real life situations. This consistent practice benefits our students tremendously in a multitude of ways and provides the environment that assists our students and staff in creating teachable moments in the community.

Our culminating event of the extended school year program was held on Monday, August 14, 2017. Crossroads Behaviorist, Mrs. Christine Gottsmann and her family gave the students and staff an amazing gift of Ice Daddy snow cones. While snow cones are a classic icy treat, the gift is the story behind their visit. After Mr. Gottsmann brought home a snow cone machine the children Logan (12) and Caleb (9) used the ice machine to treat their neighbors while spreading good will. Soon the children decided to expand their efforts and by turning their janitorial cart into a hot rod Ice Daddy was born.

Since that time they have modified their recipe to offer the best ingredients based on their research, purchased the company domain name, been the feature of Logan's school TedTalk, developed marketing materials, and volunteered and provided icy treats for multiple community activities, including a 5k fun run in town.

Ice Daddy understands the needs of special education students and when Ice Daddy visited Crossroads School they brought with them a colorful choice board featuring the flavors offered to assist the students in selecting their snow cones. We would like to thank the Gottsmann family, especially Logan and Caleb for their kindness and generosity to our students.. The world could certainly use more people with the vision, ambition and acceptance of others that the Gottsmann family has demonstrated.

HILLCREST SOUTH:

Hillcrest Academy South Campus (HAS) will start the 2017-2018 school year with some program modifications, new staff, and building updates. HAS will begin in September with 104 out of 108 students. Successful enrollment of students for the start of the year was achieved through collaboration of the Hillcrest Academy principals and liaisons from the Elizabeth Public School who organized four days of student interviews to fill the seats of students who graduated.

An orientation at HAS was held on Wednesday, 08/23/17, where 11 new students and families attended. Students and family members were given a tour of the school, met with staff who volunteered to assist, and completed paperwork required for the start of school on Thursday, 09/07/17.

Renovations to two rooms over the summer are almost completed. As a result of splitting the rooms in half two additional classrooms will be available for student use. One room will be utilized by a teacher who worked last year from a cart and the other room will be used as a Study Hall where students can work quietly and receive counselling as needed. The additional rooms will help to support the positive reinforcement strategies that will be implemented this year.

We welcome the new staff who are joining the HAS team this year. Ms. Ferrari will be teaching mathematics and Mr. Young will assume the role as part time Supervisor of Instruction.

Always looking for ways to improve our programs we will be introducing two new initiatives this year. Newly developed Google Classroom courses will be utilized for credit retrieval. A new referral process through Google Forms will also be utilized.

HILLCREST/NORTH:

<p>Enrollment as of: 8/18/17 Actual: 81 Changes: Entered: 26 Exited: 31 graduated</p>	<p>Referrals : work in progress Drills: NA</p>
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HAN is pleased to report that 29 out of 31, 2016-2017 graduates will be attending college or post-secondary education programs in the fall. Our end of the year celebrations and activities such as the Senior Recognition Dinner, Awards Night, Field Day and BBQ, were extremely rewarding, appreciated, and successful.

This summer both principals, Mr. Marquet and Dr. Balsamello, have interviewed and accepted 46 students from Elizabeth Public Schools to replace students from last year’s graduating class. Intake appointments are ongoing and will continue until the school is at capacity. Both Hillcrests have been working off of student lists sent by Elizabeth Public Schools and will continue to communicate and be diligent in scheduling intake appointments.

A New Student Orientation will take place on August 22nd with 24 students and their families. Mr. Marquet will make a 45 minute presentation outlining the expectations and open a dialogue to ensure clarity and comfort.

A new success seminar course and credit retrieval Google classrooms have been developed this summer with the help of Ms. Datillo and some full-time teachers. We included these course initiatives into our 2017-2018 master schedule.

Maintenance to the building has been a priority during the summer hours. The building has been painted, floors have been sanded and finished, rooms have been organized, and small projects have been completed. The building looks and feels ready to open. HAN is looking forward to another great year!

NONPUBLIC:

Chapters 192/193

Compensatory Education	1,473
English as a Second Language	15
Supplemental Instruction	713

Speech and Language	248
Examination/Classification	100
Annual Review	20
Home Instruction	0
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Total Chapters 192/193	2,569
Public School CST Evaluations	30
Title I	0

Director and Nonpublic Staff have been organizing textbooks, technology, nursing, 192/193, IDEA and Title I programs for the new school year. Textbook and Technology orders have been initiated with our Districts. Nursing contracts and schedules have been sent out. Teacher schedules have been prepared and account for the number of contact and non contact days. Teacher assignments will be given at the beginning of the school year.

We are excited about beginning our 2017-2018 school year.

TRANSITION SERVICES:

- Work Readiness Program ESY Individual Student Enrollments: 10
- Project SEARCH-Overlook Medical Center Enrollment: 9
- Westlake School ESY (Job Academy): 5
- Lamberts Mill Academy ESY (Job Academy): 0

Highlights from the Transition Services Department this month include:

Ten students participated in the UCESC Work Readiness Academy Extended School Year Program this summer.

The students spent two full days and two half-days at internship experiences with businesses in the community including Panera Bread, Summit Medical Group, the UCESC Business Office, Marshalls, the UCESC Buildings and Grounds Department, Walgreens, Barnes & Noble, and Bob’s Store.

The students spent two additional half days in the training classroom working on personal and career exploration, as well as the acquisition of critical employability skills.

Every Wednesday, the students participated in a 45-minute yoga class led by a certified instructor from Ashrams for Autism based in Morristown, New Jersey.

On Fridays, the students enjoyed trips into the community to visit local businesses and learn about entry level employment opportunities and specific qualities employers look for in candidates. The students celebrated their hard work each week with a barbecue lunch on Friday afternoons.

The Work Readiness Academy targets students with disabilities (ages 17-to-21) referred from sending districts across Union County.

On Tuesday, August 1st, the Project SEARCH-Overlook Medical Center program hosted an all day travel training orientation session for the newly accepted students. The program was led by a team of travel trainers

from NJTIP at Rutgers. The students learned about various types of public transit (trains, buses, light rail). They also were introduced to paratransit (i.e. UC Paratransit and Access Link) -- and newer economy-sharing options like Uber and Lyft. The students were taught how to go online and use the NJ Transit website to plan a trip, determine required fares, and locate the nearest bus or train station to their home. A full bus demonstration was also provided aboard a real NJ Transit bus.

The students have since been participating in individual travel training sessions during the month of August. Each student will complete 3-4 individual sessions with a trainer from NJTIP. On August 24th and August 31st students will participate in practice runs allowing them to travel on their own with NJTIP and UCESC staff in the field monitoring at checkpoints.

We are grateful to the County of Union and its Board of Chosen Freeholders for providing funding support to help offset some of the costs of this valuable and intensive travel training program.

The 2017-18 student cohort consists of nine students. The students hail from the following school districts:

Plainfield

Kenilworth

Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Elizabeth

Union

Montville (accepted because there is not currently a Project SEARCH program offered in Morris County).

Year two of the Project SEARCH program at Overlook officially begins on Thursday, September 7th.

This year we are hoping to expand our internship experiences into several new departments including Information Technology, Clinical Engineering, Central Sterile, and the Overlook Foundation.

Project SEARCH is a collaborative effort between UCESC, Overlook Medical Center (part of Atlantic Health System), the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the Arc of New Jersey, the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities, and NJTIP at Rutgers, Project SEARCH

TECHNOLOGY:

A plan was created to migrate all staff share data from local Windows servers to Google Apps for Education Cloud. A new backup infrastructure was also created to fully support our GAFE environment. Staff will be provided Chromebooks at the beginning of the school year as we continue towards the full implementation of GAFE.

We continued the retirement of 2003 domain controller servers. DNS and DHCP have been a challenge since so little documentation was provided to the current IT staff. However every week we are making strides forward, gaining clarity into all of our systems and removing corrupted data. We successfully transferred all critical domain services to 2012 domain controller.

A ransomware attack was thwarted.

Several Tier 1 candidates were selected and interviewed for our IT team. Procedures were created for IT department staff leaving and entering employment at UCESC.

Troubleshooted multiple trust relationship issues since DC demotion/DHCP migration.

We continued working with Comcast to complete the implementation of our new telco systems.

Several improvements to network firewalling and security were made. We also made improvements to the DNS databases. Due to many longstanding issues there is great deal that goes into repairing the DNS systems however it is improving slowly but surely.

Workflows were created for the IT department to troubleshoot multiple common problems including trust relationships, lost local admin accounts, and wireless disconnection.

Crossroads' main data closet was rewired. We removed all old equipment and replaced it with updated modern head-end devices. Cable management has allowed for much greater ease of access.

Other tasks this month included creating a full audit of all Non-Public IT equipment and completion of the E-Rate work for 16-17 reimbursements.

TRANSPORTATION:

Bidding for fall routes has been completed and the department is ready for another year of filling the transportation needs of the students of Union County. Two hundred fifteen (215) routes have been bid and 274 have been renewed. These routes travel to more than 150 different schools. In addition, late requests are arriving every day which will be run on an emergency basis and bid at a later date. Twenty-one (21) routes were established to Nonpublic schools transporting 735 students.

The extended school year was just completed. Three hundred ninety-one (391) routes were established which transported more than 1,000 students to 120 different schools. Twenty-five (25) districts were serviced. This volume of work marks the busiest summer season yet in the transportation department.

cc: Robert A. Behot, Business Administrator/Board Secretary