



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

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| <b>School/Department:</b> Crossroads School | <b>Report Date:</b> 8/29/2022 |
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**Enrollment:**

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| <b>Current Enrollment:</b> 45 | <b>Intake:</b> 0         |
| <b>Acceptances:</b> 1 Pending | <b>Disenrollments:</b> 0 |

**Emergency Drills:**

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|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Fire Drill:</b> N/A | <b>Other (Specify Type):</b> N/A |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

The Crossroads Extended School Year concluded on August 12, 2022, with great success. External staff reported a collaborative and engaging atmosphere, 3 ESY staff applied and were hired as full-time staff members (2 paraprofessionals and 1 Special Education Teacher). We are excited to start the new year with an additional Pre-K classroom, thanks to the hard work of our intake team, staff dedication, and the wonderful relationships we have with our sending district case managers. As of September 2022, Crossroads will have 10 classrooms and 45 students. Intake records are incoming; however, given the number of staff vacancies we will be conservative on the acceptance of new students to ensure that we can support both students and staff.

Crossroads staff is looking forward to starting the year off with some changes in internal systems that have been put in place to help students transition more easier from one teacher to another. Teachers spent PLC time prior to the end of the school year collaborating with each other to ensure data collection methods were appropriate for the new classroom, materials were traveling with the students, and that assessment data were shared and explained in such a way that the students have less time between the start of school and the completion of assessments regarding regression and recoupment.

The Crossroads' staff has shown a great deal of collaborative professionalism throughout this process and will continue to fine tune these systems in the 2022-2023 school year. A big thank you to all of our staff, your hard work does not go unnoticed!

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

Due to external staffing concerns, Crossroads School staff and students did not participate in community-based instruction field trips. Community based instruction field trips will be reintroduced slowly as we gather information from staff, parents, and community members.

An emphasis on adaptive life skills will be implemented in the CBI and pre-vocational program in the upcoming school year, stay tuned for some exciting changes!

**Professional Development:**

Recertification for Safety Care Specialist will be led by Jennifer Bace, RBT and newly appointed Safety Care Coordinator. New(er) staff will receive initial training early in the school year.

Staff will continue to work as a PLC to increase students' functional communication goals, SEL and Literacy with ongoing professional development.



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

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|---|------------------------------|
| <b>School/Department:</b> Hillcrest Academy North | <b>Report Date:</b> 9/6/2022 |
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| <b>Enrollment:</b>                                     |  |
| <b>Current Enrollment:</b> 75<br><b>Acceptances:</b> 2 | <b>Intakes:</b> 25<br><b>Disenrollments:</b> 0 |
| <b>Emergency Drills:</b>                               |  |
| <b>Fire Drill:</b> N/A                                 | <b>Other: Lockdown:</b> N/A                    |

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| <b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>   |
| <p>During the summer:</p> <p>HAN spent the summer months recruiting students from Elizabeth. We interviewed and enrolled 25 students. They are all starting on September 7<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to a productive school year. A New Student Orientation took place on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Fifty people were in attendance, heard from the principal, and took a tour of the school.</p> |
| <b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>   |
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| <b>Professional Development:</b>   |
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**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

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|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>School/Department:</b> Hillcrest Academy South | <b>Report Date:</b> 8/31/2022 |
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| <b>Enrollment:</b>  |                                |
| <b>Current Enrollment:</b> 79   | <b>Intakes:</b> TBD            |
| <b>Acceptances:</b> 1   | <b>Disenrollments:</b> 2 moved |
| <b>Emergency Drills:</b>  |                                |
| <b>Relaxed Fire Drills:</b> N/A   | <b>Other:</b> N/A              |
| <b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>  |                                |
| <p>Mr. Van Cleef, the shared Supervisor of Instruction with Hillcrest Academy North Campus (HAN), modified all the credit retrieval courses. Ms. Flores, shared Spanish teacher with HAN, created a Spanish credit retrieval course while Mr. Barone, HAS health and physical education teacher, worked with Mr. Peters, shared health and physical education teacher with Lamberts Mill Academy (LMA), created a health and physical education credit retrieval course.</p> <p>Ms. Schulhafer, the shared Guidance Counselor with HAN, completed all students' schedules for the upcoming school year.</p> |                                |
| <b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>  |                                |
| <p>HAS was able to hire a new part-time Safety &amp; Security Monitor shared with LMA.</p> <p>Dr. Balsamello and Mr. Van Cleef visited Elizabeth for a second round of interviews for new prospective students and their families then held the New Student/ Family Orientation on 8/25/22. Dr. Balsamello and Mr. Van Cleef reviewed a brief introduction of HAS then various staff met with individuals to review and complete the required state and district forms.</p>   |                                |
| <b>Professional Development:</b>  |                                |
| <p>Dr. Balsamello participated in the New Staff Orientation on 8/29/22 when he provided an overview of the district, the schools and programs, as well as reviewed policies and procedures. We are all excited for staff professional development that is scheduled for 9/1/21 and 9/6/22 with the return of students on 9/7/22. Mr. Van Cleef and Ms. Schulhafer will be providing training on 9/6/22 for staff pertaining to testing, credit retrieval, as well as PowerSchool and PowerTeacher.</p>  |                                |



## Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

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|---|------------------------------|
| <b>School/Department:</b> Lamberts Mill Academy | <b>Report Date:</b> 9/7/2022 |
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| <b>Enrollment:</b>  |  |
| <b>Current Enrollment:</b><br><b>LMA Campus:</b> N/A<br><b>New Point:</b> N/A<br><b>New Point at LMA:</b> N/A | <b>Intakes:</b><br><b>Acceptances:</b><br><b>Disenrollments:</b> |

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| <b>Emergency Drills:</b> |  |
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| <b>Fire Drill:</b> | <b>Other:</b> |
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| <b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b> |  |
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**Social Studies:**

The students have been looking at the basics of Broadcasting and its roots. We started with a review of Shortwave radio and will be soon listening to the world on our own receiver. Examples of worldwide stations have been found on the internet and we have identified stations from around the globe. Students have learned to identify the major kinds of radiation stations including news, talk, entertainment, religious, and foreign language. We have also made distinctions between the programming and station range that is offered on AM and FM stations.

Our older group has spent time reviewing the early style of radio stations listened to by families in the 1930's. We recognized that this was early in the development of broadcasting and television as well as the internet had not yet been invented. We listened to the radio version of Gunsmoke and then watched an early TV production. We listened to and reviewed the famous HG Wells broadcast of "War of the Worlds" - its format as a news broadcast that scared thousands of listeners who had tuned in late. We will follow that with a viewing of the first movie version and compare the styles - and the ability of those early radio broadcasters to paint pictures in our minds without the benefit of viewing

**Mathematics:**

Students in mathematics classes spent time reviewing basic, life skills mathematics. We also spoke about the necessity of understanding math comprehension once they graduate from high school, and how it would tie into the zones of regulations. Students spent time working on their money skills, how to read a clock, and how to adjust recipes to increase or decrease their total amounts. Finally, students learned about probability, and we're able to apply it to the recent events in the lottery system. We discussed odds of winning; along with the zones of regulations on how it relates to many events involving chance, and probability.

**Science:**

Our science students have been exploring our world of direction through the use of the compass. Each student has learned how to orient to the north, identify directions, and use them proficiently. Activities have found them sorting directions, participating in a scavenger-like hunt, and relating the compass to other more modern systems of direction finding. Additional time will be spent relating them to famous explorers, astronauts, airplane pilots, and generally used car GPS systems.

**English:**

For this summer our theme, Zones of Regulations, was introduced, practiced, and applied to literature. Students learned about the four main zones of regulations, and we're able to identify and write about ways to describe it.

Students watched various, different video clips, and wrote about what zone of regulation each character fit into, and why. We also spent time this ESY reading the novel, *Tex*, by S.E. Hinton. While reading students were able to classify what zone of regulation each character was in, and how they transitioned in and out of the different zones. Students, while reading the novel, also had the opportunity to watch the film version of it, giving them the opportunity to compare and contrast the similarities and differences with the novel, and the film version. Finally, students spent time analyzing different song lyrics, as it relates to the zones of regulations. Reading song lyrics, and listening to the song, allowed students to analyze the lyrics, and make determinations regarding different zones of regulation for each song. In addition, students choose songs of their own, and wrote about what the song means to them, and what zone of regulation they are in when they hear it.

**Spanish:**

N/A

**Physical Education/Health:**

Students had the opportunity to play various different types of sports outside including basketball, frisbee, and walking. They had the opportunity to discuss the different zones of regulations as it applies to physical activity. On the days in which the heat prevented the students from going outside, students had the opportunity to participate in activities with the Nintendo Wii indoors. Students participated in a range of Wii virtual games including bowling, baseball, tennis, and archery. This was a good opportunity for students to learn about different sports, the scoring system, and how to appropriately socialize with their peers.

**LMA Clinical Department:**

ESY 2022 has been a great time of active participation and engagement for our students. During life skills group we review continued self-care as it pertains to social emotional wellbeing and encourage social interaction by all students. Students have had the opportunity to use their learned skills through classroom discussion, social skills activities and outdoor activities that increase group cohesion and use of interpersonal skills.

Students meet with their individual therapist for their weekly session and attend appointments with the psychiatrist for medication monitoring.

ESY life skills will conclude with preparation and planning for a safe and healthy summer break.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

**Professional Development:**



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| <b>School/Department: Nonpublic Services</b> | <b>Report Date: 8/30/2022</b> |
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**Enrollment:**

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| <b>Current Enrollment as of _____:</b>       | <b>Acceptances:</b> N/A    |
| Total Comp Ed Services: N/A                  | <b>Acceptances:</b> N/A    |
| Total Supplemental Instruction Services: N/A | <b>Intakes:</b> N/A        |
| Total Speech Services: N/A                   | <b>Disenrollments:</b> N/A |

**Emergency Drills:**

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Fire Drill: N/A</b> | <b>Other: N/A</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

Nonpublic Services Department continues to collaborate with Union County districts to finalize IDEA-B proportionate share allocations.

Nonpublic schools were sent their state allocations for Textbooks, Security, Technology and Nursing. Orders are being processed and staffing is on-going. UCESC has been approved as a vendor for the second round of the EANS program. Once allocations are finalized, services and orders will be processed.

**Update/Special Events:**

Nonpublic Services moved to a new office at 899 Mountain Avenue in Springfield. The move provides our teachers with a workroom for professional development and a location to work on days when their nonpublic school is not be in session.

After ongoing efforts to recruit staff, Nonpublic Services continues to be understaffed. We are beginning the school year in need of teachers, a speech therapist, paraprofessionals, and nurses. Unfortunately, candidates have not accepted offers of employment due to our low salary guide.

**Professional Development**

Nonpublic Services is in the process of surveying teachers to determine the professional development needs of the department this school year.



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| <b>School/Department: Technology</b> | <b>Report Date: 9/7/2022</b> |
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**Enrollment:**

N/A

**Emergency Drills:**

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Fire Drill: N/A</b> | <b>Other: N/A</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

- Cut over to new network infrastructure in L&T, perfect success
- 1571 IT reconstruction
- Jamf configuration for Apple devices
- 1571 vendor meetings
- Website project
- VoIP system build
- Building improved backup strategy
- 1571 gym sound system replacement
- PA improvements at 45 Cardinal
- E-Rate project scheduling
- Cybersecurity improvement project
- Apple School Manager creation and configuration
- PowerSchool work with Elizabeth
- Card access for 1571
- Surveillance work for 1571
- Meeting with trades at 1571
- Backup repair
- Holy Spirit network overhaul
- Asset Management setup and migration

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

**Professional Development:**



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| <b>School/Department: Transportation</b> | <b>Report Date: 9/7/2022</b> |
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|--|-------------------|
| <b>Enrollment:</b>   |                   |
| N/A  |                   |
| <b>Emergency Drills:</b>   |                   |
| <b>Fire Drill: N/A</b>   | <b>Other: N/A</b> |
| <b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>   |                   |
| <p>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. Four hundred thirty-two (432) routes have been bid and seventy (70) have been renewed. These routes travel to more than 178 different schools. Thirty-one (31) districts were serviced. In addition, late requests are arriving every day which will be run on an emergency basis and bid at a later date. One (1) route was established to Nonpublic schools transporting 47 students.</p> <p>For the second year in a row the turnout for Non-public bidders was extremely low this summer. Districts will have to pay aide in lieu for more students than anticipated.</p> <p>The extended school year was just completed. Three hundred fifty-four (354) routes were established which transported more than 1,000 students to 111 different schools. Twenty-eight (28) districts were serviced. This volume of work marks the busiest summer season yet in the transportation department.</p> |                   |
| <b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>   |                   |
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| <b>Professional Development</b>  |                   |
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**Union County Educational Services Commission  
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| <b>School/Department:</b> Westlake School | <b>Report Date:</b> 8/23/2022 |
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**Enrollment:**

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| <b>Current Enrollment:</b> 59<br><b>Acceptances:</b> 0 | <b>Intakes:</b> 1<br><b>Disenrollments:</b> 0 |
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**Emergency Drills:**

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Fire Drill:</b> (Relaxed Fire Drill)<br><b>Shelter in Place:</b> 8/1/2022 | <b>Other Fire Drill:</b> 8/9/2022 |
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**Curriculum and Instruction:**

Students participated in Westlake School’s ESY program which focused on maintaining skills in academic areas such as functional math and language arts, science, social studies, and physical education. Additionally, students participated in activities including arts and crafts, fitness, social groups, and music, along with three in school virtual assemblies.

Functional Language Arts Lessons included: Students working with their class to read/or listen to 2 books (Because of Winn Dixie and Judy Moody was in a Mood). Students reviewed the questions prior reading/listening to the chapter. We used the questions to predict what we thought may happen in the chapter. Students reviewed and discussed character development and vocabulary. Upon completion of Because of Winn Dixie we watched the movie to compare similarities and differences between the movie and the book.

Mathematics Lessons focused on students participating in a cooking lesson. Some of the items students made were smores, chicken salad sandwich, cupcakes, and fruit kabobs. During the lesson students worked on measuring, addition, subtraction, and creating patterns. Students enjoyed voting on the items to make as well as measuring and mixing. Not all students wanted to try some of the items, but they were able to make them for someone else. In addition, students worked on individual independent math worksheets. Some worked on Market Math to locate prices of items and to add the total.

In Science and Social Studies Lessons students reviewed current events news stories using News-2-You. Students read the article and answered questions at the end. Some of the news articles included Tour De France, Shark fest, Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Growing Plants in Moon Dirt.

Students also reviewed the daily national holiday and learned some of the history surrounding the day. Some of our favorites this summer included National Fortune Cookie Day, National Milk Chocolate Day, National Coloring Book Day, and National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day.

During our classroom meetings and cooking classes we reviewed science concepts such as making a prediction, changes of matter, and chemical changes. Students learned how to use a lemon to power a small light.

Vocational lessons included in school were instrumental in the process for breakfast and lunch daily. Students each had their own assignments and would rotate weekly to work on breakfast or lunch and their specific assignments. It was the student’s responsibility to check daily to see their assignment. Some tasks included collecting empty trays from the classrooms then washing and drying the trays, counting straws, napkins, main

components, side dishes, milk and/or juice. Students had to work collaboratively to complete the task. Students took a lead in directing and organizing fellow classmates. When the trays were complete the students delivered them to the classes. They enjoyed rotating through the tasks and learned new tasks quickly. Once a week students rotated to collect pizza orders from the staff. Students were able to work on data collection, conversation, social, and money skills.

Our “Skills to Pay the Bills” units focused on communication, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, networking, critical thinking, and problem solving, and professionalism. We focused on one skill each week during the summer. Some of the activities included role playing scenarios to learn about verbal and nonverbal communication, Ed Puzzle videos, working as a team to “cross the river”, and interviewing classmates and teachers.

Our NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health- Safety Training units focused on young worker safety, finding hazards, and making the job safer. Students engaged in activities including locating hazards in a picture of the gas station, grocery store, and office setting. We then located potential hazards throughout the building and discussed ways to keep the environment safe.

One of the ESY specials was music class. Students learned about different musical instruments, using various percussion instruments such as a drum, tambourine, bells, chimes, and wood blocks to help understand rhythm, melody, harmony, lyrics, and the instrumentation that accompanies a song.

To keep school spirit ongoing throughout the summer, students enjoyed themed Fun Days such as Crazy Hat Day, Superhero Day, Favorite Sports Team Day, and Wacky Sock Day. Three in school assemblies were provided for students, Magic of Science and Forces and Motion demonstrated theories of gravity, physics, inertia, linear motion and rotational force and Rizzo’s Wildlife providing opportunities for students to safely interact and experience a variety of animals such as frogs, turtles, chinchillas, and various reptiles. The assemblies were coordinated with themed lessons and classroom activities such as reviewing and attempting to complete some of the Magic of Science experiments. Once a week we have Magical Wednesday where the students will observe a magic trick and attempt to explain how the magician is able to complete the trick. Before the Rizzo’s Wildlife assembly, students predicted the animals we thought we would be able to observe and then talked about them and their habitats/eating habits. Once the assembly was completed, we compared our list to see how many predictions were correct. Students then attempted to draw some of the animals while watching a step-by-step video.

Students participated in Physical Education three times a week and engaged in various “summer” physical activities such as indoor kickball, badminton, fitness/yoga/stretching, wiffleball, relay and scooter races, and parachute activities.

Students benefited from attending the Westlake School Extended School Year program by participating in scheduled related therapies and maintaining the academic, social/behavioral and communication skills necessary through maintenance of IEP goals and objectives, instructional support and skill development.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

**Professional Development:**



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
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| <b>School/Department:</b> Work Readiness Academy | <b>Report Date:</b> 9/2/2022 |
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**Enrollment:**

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| <b>Current Enrollment:</b> 26 (includes WRA & Project SEARCH)<br><b>Acceptances:</b> 2 | <b>Intakes:</b> 2<br><b>Disenrollments:</b> 0 |
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**Emergency Drills:**

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| <b>Fire Drill:</b> 8/6/22 | <b>Other (Specify Type)</b> N/A |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

**WRA Program**

- The 2022 WRA Extended School Year Program finished on August 12th. The program ran for 30 days this summer.
- Eleven students participated in the program this summer.
- Students participated in internship experiences four days a week at the following sites: Cranford Swim and Tennis Club, Bobs Stores, Barnes & Noble, Hilton Newark Airport and Best Buy.
- Additionally, the students are operating a Dunkin Donuts beverage delivery service two days per week for professional staff at the Cardinal Drive offices.
- The instructional focus this summer was Effective Communication Skills.
- Students also participated in weekly yoga and fitness classes.
- On Fridays the program took trips into the community including to Linden Lanes Bowling, Duke Farms Environmental Preserve, Watchung Reservation, Sandy Hook, the Somerset Patriots and the Menlo Park Mall.
- The program will be welcoming back students for the new school year on Wednesday, September 7th. We currently have 18 students projected for enrollment.

**Project SEARCH Program**

- The Project SEARCH class of 2023 will have 8 new students and 1 returning student.
- The program will begin on Wednesday, September 7th.
- The students have spent the summer working with the New Jersey Travel Independence Program at Rutgers to learn how to utilize NJ Transit to commute to and from their homes to Overlook Medical Center.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

See Above.

**Professional Development:**

Staff participated in mandatory training and orientation on Thursday, September 1st and Tuesday, September 6th. Topics included: Emergency Management/School Safety, Staff Conduct, and Using Virtual Reality to Support the Development of Soft Skills.