



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Crossroads School	Report Date: 10/12/2022
---	--------------------------------

Enrollment: as of September 30, 2022

Current Enrollment: 43	Intake: 2
Acceptances: 0	Referrals: 6
Entered: 4	Disenrollments: 1

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: 9/13/22	Other (Specify Type): 9/15/22
----------------------------	--------------------------------------

Curriculum and Instruction:

Crossroads School began the 2022-2023 academic school year on September 7, 2022. Crossroads staff received professional development training over the first two days of school. All Crossroads staff was recertified on the first half of Safety Care training during professional development. District and school professional learning goals were identified by the administration with an emphasis on staff professional development in functional communication and social-emotional learning.

Multiple staff meetings have occurred throughout the month of September. Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent, Ms. Carrie Dattilo, joined Crossroads Staff to welcome staff back and answer any questions they may have. We look forward to having Ms. Dattilo visit our school in early October as well.

Crossroads School is excited to announce that we have two Pre-k classrooms this year and four Middle school classrooms. We welcome Gabriela Valdes, Hannah Amengual, and Peggy Barsa as classroom teachers. Likewise, we would like to welcome Jessica Barnum as our new art teacher. Also joining our team are Andrew Weiler (practicum student-Seton Hall), Sylvia Lubalin, Danelle Johnson, and Thomas Dorans, as paraprofessionals in various classrooms.

Classroom Highlights/Achievements:

Allison Gebler’s Room 103

Allison Gebler’s class focused on back-to-school activities. Target skills included appropriate social interactions with students and staff, building classroom routines using visual supports, locating academic and reward materials, and an introduction to individualized communication platforms and/or token economies. Students were assessed for appropriate placement in individual and group curriculum, VB-MAPP, and their retention of previously mastered IEP skills.

Language Arts:

- Each student began individualized programs for reading/matching and writing/tracing their personal information.

Math:

- Students engaged in math skill sets via Morning Meeting calendar information, hands-on review during Activity Schedule, and fun-filled learning centers.

Science / Social Studies Thematic Units: All About Me and My Community

- Students completed All About Me Projects to share with their peers.
- Students reviewed Community Helpers and learned more about those they interact with daily: teaching staff, bus drivers, custodians, nurses, receptionists, etc.

Individual Progress:

- Ava demonstrated mastery in multiple IEP goals since she started in our classroom.
- Harith has made progress in the number of tasks he completes compliantly in order to earn a preferred activity.
- Leo adjusted well to his new visual schedule and token board.
- Lyla maintained a large portion of the progress she made in her individualized phonics lessons.
- Yusef improved his tolerance for being in school and for transitioning to therapies outside the classroom.

Room 103's Star Student: AVA

Anna Kane's Room 106:

The start of the school year is going well in Rm 106. Teachers and students are adjusting to our new classroom. The students are establishing a classroom routine with visual schedules and a token system. They are also exploring new materials and staff is determining what can be used for their reinforcement.

Our class is learning the calendar, weather, and identifying their names during Morning Meeting. Yachin and Joesslin are practicing waiting their turn to put the words on the board that we are identifying. Abhinav, Josselin, and Aiden will answer questions on their device with prompting.

For the past couple of weeks, we have been reading a Back-to-School interactive story, a story about Apple and currently we are reading a story about Fall. The students have to match the pictures to a picture or a picture to the word.

All the students are working on matching letters and colors. Abhinav and Josselin are currently being assessed in Edmark.

In math, Aiden is identifying numbers 1-31 with his device. Abhinav is also working on identifying numbers and correlations. Josselin is working on puzzles and Yachin is working on number recognition.

We are looking forward to getting better established with our school schedule and all the fun things happening in October!

Alexis Lorenz's Room 109:

The students were so excited to return to a new school year. We moved rooms and the students adjusted nicely to their new surroundings. During the month of September, the students enjoyed baking cinnamon rolls and Oreo brownies. They each had a turn adding in the ingredients and mixing. Once they were baked, they all enjoyed their masterpiece.

The students had an opportunity to work on a variety of household chores. They are all learning how to sweep the floor, wipe down the tables and clean up after they eat breakfast and lunch.

Everyone is doing a great job and picking up on all the steps in each job.

Natalia Amador's Room 111:

For the month of September, my staff and I have been working hard on establishing a strong rapport with our students and getting them to feel comfortable with one another. We are also working on maintaining consistent classroom rules and routines that will enable our students to be successful throughout the day. All students at this point are being assessed and books are being updated to match their present academic levels.

In the area of social studies, we have been exploring various topics through reading, writing, crafts, and videos. We have researched topics such as Labor Day, 9-11, and community helpers. For Labor Day, we read a story called "When I Grow up by Mercer Mayer". Students worked in dyads to answer Wh questions and sequence the story. Students were given the choice of a few different community helpers to research and write a short text about what they learned. I wrapped up my lesson by giving them a craft.

For ELA and math, all students are working on strengthening mastered skills prior to being introduced to upcoming concepts. Students are being assessed during various times, for example, during morning work they are working independently on completing skills that they have already acquired, however, during class meeting, I've been assessing them through participation and teamwork.

So far this year in PreVoc/ independent tasks, students are working on understanding the small details that are required to complete the tasks independently. They are exploring the classroom and the location of all required materials.

September 2022 Monthly Report
UCESC Crossroads School Speech Department
Dana Bartone M.A. CCC-SLP, Alayna Quattrocchi, M.S, CCC-SLP,
and Hope Weinstein M.Ed., CCC-SLP

The Speech Department is excited to welcome Dana Bartone, our new speech-language pathologist, to Crossroads School. Dana is also treating students at Work Readiness Academy (WRA), and Lamberts Mill Academy (LMA). She worked at Crossroads this past summer during our Extended School Year program. Welcome, Dana!

Thematic lessons for the month of September included fall, back to school/school supplies, "all about me", apples, and pumpkins. Core words this month included *up, down, in, and out*.

Specific Student Outcomes:

Alaiyaa D. is a second-grade student in classroom 104. Her spoken language skills and speech intelligibility have greatly improved! Currently, she is generating three (3) word sentences varying in function. This tremendous improvement in her functional communication skills has also shown growth in her socialization skills with her classmates, classroom staff, teachers, and therapists. Keep up the great work, Alaiyaa!

Occupational Therapy Monthly Report
September 2022

The OT department has been busy this first month of school preparing schedules and modifying/modifying/modifying them as needed, establishing sensory diets and providing equipment, organizing the workspace and materials, and establishing a routine with the students.

It has been very busy becoming familiar with students on each caseload and new staff. There have been many trainings and refreshers for providing sensory techniques within the classrooms for teachers and paraprofessionals.

Dina has been involved in the pre-school group to modify IEP goals, as part of the SCIP committee.

Physical Therapy- Aliza Feuerstein:

Currently we have twelve students receiving individual physical therapy sessions. Therapy mandates and goals have been reviewed, parents have been contacted and overall, our students are off to a great start and are excited to be back in PT!

I attended a great two-day course this month on Dynamic Movement Intervention (DMI). "This specialized certification is a therapeutic technique used in physical and occupational therapy to treat children with motor delay by improving automatic postural responses and promoting progress towards developmental milestones. The goal of DMI is to provoke a specified active motor response from the child in response to defined dynamic exercises prescribed by the therapist. This comprehensive intervention incorporates current research on neurorehabilitation, technologies, and methodologies. DMI stimulates neuroplasticity to facilitate new neuronal connections and the development of motor milestones. (taken from www.dmi.com).

This month I also attended Safety Care recertification and Achieve NJ training. My PDP plan and SGO goals have been established and data collection has begun.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development:



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Hillcrest Academy North	Report Date: 10/12/2022
---	--------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 82 Acceptances: 7	Intakes: 7 Disenrollments: 0
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: 9/14/2022	Other: Lockdown Drill: 9/16/2022

Curriculum and Instruction:
<p>Curriculum and Instruction: With much excitement we opened our doors and classrooms to a new school year in the month of September. The school year kicked off with an enthusiastic welcome back and an “all-new appreciation” for learning in the classroom!</p> <p>Collectively as a staff, we have been focused on building culture and climate from the ground up with personalizing lessons for students to immediately learn more about themselves as students. Algebra students assessed themselves and developed a personal analysis of their individual learning style. Students discovered their percentages as Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic and how that relates to their success in each class.</p> <p>In English, students created a “Narrative Snapshot” pamphlet about themselves as a “getting to know you” activity. Students began the year by completing a pre-assessment task consisting of fiction and non-fiction texts. Students were then issued laptops and taught how to navigate Google Classroom, PowerSchool, and IXL. Students began a launch unit on close reading or “muscle reading” in which they were introduced to the following reading strategies: annotating, context clues, and various other active reading strategies such as summarizing, evaluating, connecting, visualizing, predicting, and questioning. Students also learned how to identify the main idea and details of a text, support responses with textual evidence, and how to write a summary.</p>
Community Based Instruction and Special Events:
<p>The NEW social work office has hit the ground running this school year. Starting the second week of school, SEL lessons started – and topics related to the “Theme of the Month” (Self-awareness and management) were discussed. Students identified a goal for semester one as well as reviewed their transcripts. This empowered students to be in control of their school year by knowing exactly what they need to set out to accomplish this school year. Additionally, the social worker assisted in meeting with students as they got settled for the new year - handed out schedules, helped facilitate student orientation, and developed the students advocate roster.</p> <p>Back to School Night was on October 6, 2022. It was a success!</p>

Professional Development:

During our PLC time in the month of September, Hillcrest Academy North staff worked to integrate social-emotional learning activities into the classroom. They also set PLC goals for the 2022-2023 school year. For social-emotional learning, staff began facilitating the district-wide initiative of student self-reflection. Lessons in Success Seminar for the first part of the month focused on the importance of self-reflection and how to effectively answer self-reflective questions. Students were then presented with beginning and end-of-class reflection prompts for every class period.

**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Hillcrest Academy South	Report Date: 10/12/2022
---	--------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 79	Intakes: tba
Acceptances: 2	Disenrollments: 12 (2 moved, 2 transferred, 2 stayed in Elizabeth, 4 never attended and 2 conduct)
Emergency Drills:	
Relaxed Fire Drills: 9/8/22	Other/ Testing of school's communication system and procedures: 9/12/22

Curriculum and Instruction:

Ms. Ferrari Classes:
Classes have worked on establishing rules, procedures, rituals, as well as classroom and school expectations. The students have assembled an all about me tessellation (see below) that featured an individualized cut tile about themselves. The Algebra I students have completed the first unit on basic algebraic concepts. They applied real world applications such as using unit analysis to compare the speeds of trains around the world. The students used a concentric circle diagram to help classify whole numbers, integers, rational numbers, and how this population of numbers relates to all real numbers. Additional skills the students have worked on include, but are not limited to adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers, order of operations, and simplifying algebraic equations. The geometry students worked on the first unit on basic geometric concepts. They applied real world applications such as determining how airport runways are numbered based on the angles they form with due north. The students used the Pythagorean Theorem to help them conceptualize the distance formula. Additionally, the students worked on points, lines and planes, the segment addition postulate, as well as angles and their measure.



Ms. Fernandez-Siejack's Classes:
Began all of her mathematics classes with basic skills review. Students reviewed basic math vocabulary, adding/subtracting/multiplying/dividing signed numbers, order of operations, and one step equations. Once they were done with basic skills, each set of classes moved on to their respective subject areas. Algebra 2 began with graphing. They first reviewed the cartesian coordinate system and how to graph an ordered pair. Then students graphed linear equations in the slope-intercept form, rearranged equations to slope-intercept form before graphing,

and graphed linear inequalities. Probability and Statistics continued with basic skills and reviewed adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and decimals. Then they began lessons in probability about what is more or less likely to happen in an event.

Ms. Arora's Forensic Science Classes:

Students worked on observation skills. In this unit, they learned how to become a good observer and performed virtual training. They also solved small riddles on the basis of those skills. After this unit, students will start observing everything critically. In Environmental Science, students learnt about Natural resources. In this unit, they understood why natural resources are important for us and how to manage those resources in a sustainable way, so everyone is able to benefit from those resources in the present as well as in future. In Biology they learned about cells. They studied why cells are the building block of life and their detailed structure. In all, the subjects' students were made models and PowerPoints.

Ms. Cioffi's English Classes:

Courses have focused on learning the routines and rituals of the class. Students have been learning how to enter the classroom to get their class folder and to begin working on their Do Now in the first five minutes of class every day. They have also learned about class expectations and the class prototype of all skills being modeled by the teacher first, then completed independently. Instructionally, English lessons have been centered on reviewing basic skills such as annotating texts and identifying main and central ideas. Students need these foundational skills to build upon throughout the school year. Also, since students have had traditional in person instruction interrupted due to the pandemic, basic review of these skills is crucial. Classes have also been introduced to the learning program IXL and working on getting baseline data of their overall reading and ELA level on IXL. This data will be used for the teacher to differentiate lessons and teach remediation skills throughout the school year. English courses will also continue learning the skills linked to the English Curriculum Consensus and Projected Maps.

Ms. Vlastaras's Class:

Students have been working on reading informational texts and working on skills such as determining the main idea, identifying the speaker, audience, and purpose of the text, as well as finding textual evidence to support their claims. They have just started on working towards crafting a claim for an argumentative essay. For Creative Writing students have been working on writing tasks related to memoirs, while reading a novel which is a collection of vignettes in order to examine the way by which the author developed her story. In Computer Science students worked on learning about inputs and outputs and worked on a project for proposing an app to solve a problem in their world.

Ms. Duarte's Classes:

Students were able to become acquainted with our school and her classroom in a fairly seamless manner this September, and as a result, students jumped into their units of study. In USII, we studied the Progressive Era by looking at the problems associated with urban living, immigration, working rights, and the rights of minorities. Students used images and firsthand accounts to better understand the time-period and extend these conversations to issues still plaguing the United States today. In Economics students began to understand the market economy and their role as consumers and producers. Classes developed an understanding of opportunity cost as we created our own scenarios and are better equipped at making financial decisions that reflect our best interest.

Ms. Wrzesinski's Classes:

In US History I, students started out with the proper way to read, analyze, summarize, and show evidence of analysis with primary and secondary sources. Students then learned the proper way to read and analyze a current event. Students then started their Unit 1 topic of Pre-America. Students learned first about Portugal, their explorers, trade routes, advancements in technology, claimed lands and failures. Students then learned about Spanish conquistadors, their explorers, trade routes, advancements in technology, claimed lands, and failures. Students just learned about the Cortes' conquest of the Aztec empire and Pizarro's conquest of the Inca Empire in Peru. World History students started out with the proper way to read, analyze, summarize, and show evidence of analysis with primary and secondary sources. Students then learned the proper way to read and analyze a current event. Students then started their geography unit where they learned about the different types of and all aspects of a map, how to read longitude and latitude, and the five themes of geography.

Mr. Barone's Health and Physical Education Classes:

The students have discussed a number of important topics during the month of September. During Health, students are currently working on their Understand Health and Wellness unit. Students have learned about the importance of the Health Triangle which includes physical health, mental/emotional health, and social health. Mr. Barone stressed the importance that no piece of the triangle is more important than the other and when one area is lacking, the individual's overall health begins to become affected.

Mr. Peters Health and Physical Education Classes:

Students have hit the ground running to start the 2022-2023 school year. Although we are still without a gymnasium due to the flooding, students are still able to participate in many sports on nice days. Utilizing the parking lot of the Lord and Taylor, students are engaged in sports such as basketball, football, soccer, frisbee, and even cardiovascular exercises such as walking and running. For Health classes, we have started Unit 1: Health and Wellness and are discussing topics such as the health triangle, health risks and behaviors, and promoting health and wellness. Students created comic strips in class focusing on strategies for avoiding risk behaviors spoken about in class.

Ms. Flores's Spanish Classes:

Students have been getting experience by researching "El Mes de la Herencia Hispana", celebrating Self-Awareness, and Hispanic Heritage Month. Students researched Latinos who made contributions in the United States that have Hispanic descendants. For example, Celia Cruz, Tito Fuentes, Mark Anthony, and others along with using different Spanish vocabulary to write stories about their findings. Students took a pre-assessment about the "Para Empezar" unit to measure what students know and what they need to accomplish at the end of the unit to enhance their learning. Individuals enrolled in Spanish have been spending time working on "Duolingo", the online language learning platform helps the students to practice different learning techniques to make the language experience more fun and effective in addition to what is being taught in Spanish. Students are learning how to practice vocabulary, listening, reading, and writing along with all the different pronunciations associated with them. In the area of social emotional learning, students have been exploring the reading and writing process working on sentence structure about different Spanish countries in Spanish, using the "Que tal" magazines.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

The HAS Community Service Program (HASCSP) hosted a Nourishing Neighbors Food Drive to benefit the food pantry at the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. Donations of non-perishable breakfast foods were collected and will ultimately be distributed to the families in which the organization serves. The annual HAS Rock the Vote-Voter Registration program was held this month in advance of the upcoming midterm elections in November. The object of this community-based learning program was to educate students on the importance of voting and how to register to vote for the upcoming election. We were excited to see 12 HAS students register during this event! Students were encouraged to transfer the knowledge they gained through the program with others in their home communities. We encourage everyone to join HAS to register and Rock the Vote!

Ms. Gilchrist, HAS's Social Worker:

Began the year counseling and teaching SEL's to all the students. A special emphasis has been placed on the special education students and students in crisis. The Social Worker supports staff and administration in a multitude of functions including translating, contacting students, and reviewing their academic classrooms. Additionally, she continued to track and counsel students with substance abuse violations. Ms. Gilchrist also planned monthly incentive trips that will reward students with the best attendance, grades, and behaviors.

Ms. Schulhafer, shared School Counselor:

Ensured that all students understood their schedules and how many credits they currently have. Ms. Schulhafer met with seniors to review their graduation requirements and what is required of them to complete in order to graduate in 2023. Ms. Schulhafer also reviewed credit retrieval with each of the students who need to complete credit retrieval in order to regain credits from previous classes failed. The school counselor also worked with staff to ensure that they understood credit retrieval procedures, PowerSchool, and any other concerns they may have. Ms. Schulhafer will also continue to meet with students and review credits, credit retrieval, and any other academic concerns they may have. Ms. Schulhafer worked closely with Ms. Rosenfield, Ms. Schulhafer's maternity leave replacement.

Ms. Rubin, School Nurse:

Ms. Rubin has been assisting with entry procedures, including bag searches. The school nurse has been screening students for illness to comply with new exclusion guidance. The nurse made calls and/or sent emails to all of the absent students' parents/guardians each day. Ms. Rubin is updating health files and obtaining A-45 records from Elizabeth Academies and the New Jersey Immunization Information System for the new students at HAS. The nurse has also been entering immunization information into PowerSchool. The school nurse has been updating student files and reaching out to student's physicians and parents for food allergies, asthma, and other health concerns. The nurse has applied and received certificates for free eyeglasses for the students at HAS who have no insurance. Several teachers have referred students for screening and the free program information was shared with the families. Ms. Rubin also covered the Westlake School on 9/23/22.

Every Friday or the last day of the week is a themed School Spirit Day in which staff and students dress according to the theme. For students who participate and email Dr. Balsamello a picture, they are entered into a raffle for a five-dollar Dunkin' Donut gift card. September's themes were to wear red, white, and blue on 9/9/22 in observance of 9/11, wear the colors of your country's flag in observance of Hispanic Heritage month on 9/16/22, wear fall/ autumn colors on 9/30/22, wear crazy/ mismatched socks on 9/30/22.

September's Students of The Month names were posted in Dr. Balsamello's Google Classroom, on Instagram, emailed to parents, and student's received a certificate and a five dollar Dunkin' Donuts gift card. The overall Student Of The Month was also provided a Hillcrest Academy South Campus shirt of their choice.

Student of the Month: Kamori Bray; Citizenship: Quasim Hill; Community Service: Na'yyanie Robinson; Respect: Angelique Correa-Henderson; English, Ms. Cioffi: Emely Ferrada; English, Ms. Holden: Kevin Popoca; English, Ms. Vlastaras: Leonardo Mejia; Health, Mr. Barone: Yasin Bowser; Health, Mr. Peters: Leonardo Mejia; Health, Ms. Rubin: Angelique Correa-Henderson; Math, Ms. Fern: Alma Rivera Santiago; Math, Ms. Ferrari: Kamori Bray; Science, Ms. Arora: Alma Rivera Santiago; Social Studies, Ms Duarte: Valeria Chacon; Social Studies, Ms. Wrzesinski: Enzo Rodriguez; Spanish, Ms. Flores: Lazaro Argueta; Perfect Attendance: Catherine Aguirre, Lazaro Argueta, Kamori Bray, Jhosel Ciudad, Leanette Gonzalez; Outstanding Attendance: Kenai Carandang, Valerie Chacon, Angelique Correa-Henderson, Taje Flemings, Briana Lafaix, Alma Rivera Santiago, Na'yyanie Robinson, Heavenlii Romero, Alnasia Wilson; Perseverance: Luna Herrera, Quasim Hill, Jaquan Rhett, Victoria Rivera, Enzo Rodriguez, Heavenlii Romero, Dream Whitfield

Professional Development:

On 9/1/22, staff met at Westlake School as a district then at HAS for the afternoon of 9/1/22. On 9/6/22, HAS met at Hillcrest North where Mr. Van Cleef and Ms. Schulhafer provided training regarding testing, credit retrieval, as well as PowerSchool and PowerTeacher. On 9/27/22 staff participated in a webinar through GCN online professional development platform on Seizures and Epilepsy. Schools are closed on 10/10/22 for staff professional development. More information will be revealed in next month's report.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Lamberts Mill Academy	Report Date: 10/12/2022
---	--------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 45	Intakes: 4
LMA Campus: 31	Acceptances: 3
New Point: 14	Disenrollments: 0
New Point at LMA: 4	

Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: 9/8/22	Other: Testing of School Communications 9/12/22

Curriculum and Instruction:

Social Studies:
 Students in all the History classes have been given a syllabus and expectations of the courses. The Students in History 1 started exploring Ancient Early civilizations and early explorers that came to the Americas. Topics discussed that have been discussed with the students have been what it has been like for early explorers. We will be discussing the first settlements in North America, the contact and interaction with native Americans and the impact of geographic regions. Students have been engaged with article handouts, google slides, and videos on the topics. In History 2, Students have been working on project-based learning for the Industrial Revolution. They are researching early inventors during that time period. In World History we have explored Geography and early civilizations. We have worked on Atlas activities to learn more about various maps and regions. In Art History, we have been introduced to what Art History is all about. We learned about photography, various mediums used, and how to be more of an art critic. Students have access to Google classroom and hand out assignments.

Mathematics:
 Students in all mathematics classes started the year by discussing, “how do we use mathematics outside of the classroom”. Dedicated conversations on mathematics used outside of the classroom we’re discussed for the first week and allowed a transition into careers in mathematics. All students discussed different careers they are interested in, and how each careers uses mathematics, and in what form. This set the tone for the beginning of the year.

Students in Consumer Mathematics have started working on computing gross and net pay based off different time sheets. Individuals in Algebra classes are working on basic skills including PEMDAS, solving variables and evaluating expressions. Students have been using communicator boards in order to solve equations for unknown variables. Finally, students in Geometry class have been working with the coordinate plane system and learning how to apply the midpoint and distance formula to two ordered pairs, along with applying it to real maps of different states and cities.

Science:

To kick off the 2022-2023 school year, science classes completed 'getting to know you' activities, since there is an impressive number of new students. These activities included student surveys, creating digital collages to reflect who they are, and filling out posters that hang up in the classroom (i.e. "In the future I would like to be... and I would like to take a vacation to..."). It was nice to see students huddle in the front of the posters to read what their classmates wrote and identify things they had in common. School and classroom room expectations were reviewed and so was the grading system. Google classroom continues to be a reliable platform for the students and those who prefer paper-based assignments were identified in the student survey. Students continue to be reminded to complete the DoNow at the start of class as part of the expectations of class and part of their daily routine. To introduce the subject of science across all disciplines students are learning about the basics of science; what investigating entails and the difference between scientific law and scientific theory. A multi-sensory approach is used to present lessons to maximize interest, participation, and reinforce concepts. Technology is a source heavily relied on, such as videos, Ed Puzzle, and Kahoot to enhance engagement. It's an exciting time; the start of a new academic year.

English:

We began the year focused on learning routines and group norms in our learning communities to ensure a smooth, organized, and safe learning environment. The emphasis was on becoming comfortable with the technology within Google classroom and IXL as well as our weekly routine for learning. We have been reviewing skills and attaining a baseline for instruction as we began our First Unit of Argumentative Writing and Informational text Close Reading. We honored Hispanic Heritage month by listening to a TedTalk from America Ferrera, which described how Latinos are treated in the media and how identity is your superpower. Lastly, we are completing the baseline assessments within IXL, analyzing the students' individual literacy skills.

Spanish:

The students began a review of vocabulary specific to La Familia - the Family. Our group ranges from beginners to native speakers. Activities included repetition-based videos, worksheets, and viewing Spanish language American TV shows with English subtitles. Most students also began use of a self-paced online program in addition to the class activities.

The students also began a review of vocabulary that they had in Spanish 1. The students are also expanding their basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students feel more at ease with simple conversations and brief written descriptions on familiar topics. Students are gaining a deeper appreciation of, and sensitivity to, diverse cultures and customs of Latin America and Spain. Currently we are discussing identity and culture. We are currently working on projects that pertain to Hispanic Heritage Month. We are also working on activities that include websites and worksheets that students will build on prior knowledge from.

Physical Education/Health:

Students in Health and Physical Education have hit the ground running to start the 2022-2023 school year. Although we are still without a gymnasium due to the flooding, students are still able to participate in many sports on nice days. Utilizing the parking lot of the Lord and Taylor, students are engaged in sports such as basketball, football, soccer, frisbee, and even cardiovascular exercises such as walking and running. For Health we have started Unit 1: Health and Wellness and are discussing topics such as the health triangle, health risks and behaviors, and promoting health and wellness. Students created comic strips in class focusing on strategies for avoiding risk behaviors spoken about in class.

Career Exploration:

Our seniors and post grad students began a look at the world of work that will impact them after they complete their education. We completed interest surveys, skill surveys, and set up simple life goals. Many of the students were pleased to see the results and realize the importance of aligning their life goals with skills and interests that are part of their tool kit already.

Pathways/Career Preparation (Post Graduate Program):

The post grads began a unit on proper health support and nutrition. As they move to a life position where these responsibilities may fall largely to them, discussions were held to see who already takes charge of these areas for them. We also reviewed resource options for seeking this support as independent young adults.

The group also looked at community involvement and have already been participating in areas of support for LMA. The students have taken a major role in support of our school store. They conducted an inventory, developed a needs list, and visited our local supermarket to replenish missing stock. On a daily basis they also prepare orders for student delivery just before lunchtime.

The students have also developed an ecology program meant to collect most of the recyclable items used at LMA. They made a presentation to the classes and re-introduced the blue garbage bins as the collection boxes. They gave the program the name BiRP (recycled bottle program), have made signs, and plan to recycle the drink bottles into cup coasters, pendants, and key chains. Additional plans include to nearby businesses for orientations to jobs they might hold there. We are also scheduled to help at the Union County food bank at St. Teresa's church in Westfield, NJ.

Clinical Department:

We welcomed the students back to begin the 2022-2023 school year and everyone appeared happy to be back! The students kicked off their Lifeskills groups discussing how they spent their summer break and were encouraged to share the activities they took part in.

September's monthly theme is Self-management and Self-regulation. Therefore, with the use of this theme students engaged in group discussions on the use of healthy coping skills, how to manage their feelings and emotions and self-awareness. We wrapped up the month with research and discussion of Hispanic Heritage month.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Mr. Bell, Mr. Lopreiato, and Mr. Bornstein will begin to brainstorm, and plan CBI experiences for LMA's Post Graduate students in the upcoming weeks.

Professional Development:

Professional Development this month included establishing LMA routines, negotiables/non-negotiables, and starting our weekly communication and PLC meetings.



Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

School/Department: Nonpublic Services	Report Date: 10/12/2022
--	--------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment as of September 30, 2022: Total Comp Ed Services: 985* Total Supplemental Instruction Services: 434* Total Speech Services: 112*	Acceptances: N/A Acceptances: N/A Intakes: N/A Disenrollments: N/A
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: N/A	Other: N/A
Curriculum and Instruction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nonpublic Services Department continues to collaborate with the public-school districts we contract with to effectively utilize IDEA-B proportionate share funds for eligible students. Nonpublic School Textbook, Security and Technology orders continue to be reviewed and processed. The Nonpublic Nursing Program is up and running for the eligible nonpublic schools in Union and one school in Essex County. The Nonpublic Nurses continue to assist in maintaining student health records (A-45) and completing specific screens for students' grades k-12. UCESC continues to serve as a vendor in the EANS (Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools) program. Nonpublic Services purchases goods and provide services to various nonpublic schools in Union and Essex Counties. 	
Update/Special Events:	
Professional Development	
Nonpublic Services held the first PLC meeting for this school year. This year, PLC meetings will focus on the diverse learning styles of students and differentiating instruction to meet their needs.	



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Technology	Report Date: 10/12/2022
--------------------------------------	--------------------------------

Enrollment:

N/A

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: N/A	Other: N/A
------------------------	-------------------

Curriculum and Instruction:

- Improving internet access at L&T
- Improving internet access at Holy Spirit
- Determining VoIP solutions for 1571
- Working with multiple vendors to organize delivery and configuration of infrastructure projects at 1571
- Working with hyperconverged infrastructure vendor to refresh network backbone
- Meeting with trades regarding IT timeline at 1571
- Website project
- E-Rate project scheduling
- Cybersecurity improvement project
- Apple School Manager and Jamf configuration
- Backup infrastructure upgrade roadmap
- Asset Management system setup
- GAFE cleanup

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development:



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Transportation	Report Date: 10/12/2022
--	--------------------------------

Enrollment:

N/A

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: N/A	Other: N/A
------------------------	-------------------

Curriculum and Instruction:

The 2022-2023 school year is another busy one for the Transportation Department. As of September 1, 2022, the Commission had established 602 routes with private bus companies transporting approximately 3,013 special education, vocational, and public-school students. These routes service 34 districts and 203 schools/programs. The Commission is also providing after-school athletic and/or field and trip busses for three participating districts. The Transportation Department once again bid for nonpublic, private, and parochial school routes this past summer for the coming school year. One route was established transporting 48 students servicing 3 districts. The turnout for nonpublic bidding was exceptionally lower than in previous years. The transportation coordinator feels this is due to the nationwide bus driver shortage along with the cap for Non-Public bidding coupled with increasing gas prices.

This year, the Commission is operating 5 routes on its own vehicles which are transporting 24 students from 5 districts servicing 4 schools and programs. In the month of October, the Transportation Department began to establish the daily routes which will service the various Commission schools and programs throughout the rest of the school year.

Sixteen school vehicles were presented to the Motor Vehicle Commission for inspection on September 9-12, 2022. All sixteen vehicles passed and are set for another six months of service.

Since the start of school in September, approximately 182 additional routes were created to accommodate late requests. Other changes to existing routes which were routine (address and phone number changes, additional or deleted students, etc.) numbered in the hundreds and contributed to the hectic climate of the beginning of school. Slowly but surely order is being established from chaos so that by the fourth week of school a more controlled atmosphere prevailed, and another school year was underway.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Westlake School	Report Date: 10/12/2022
---	--------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 59 Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 5 Disenrollments: 0

Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: (Fire Drill) 9/21/22	Other Shelter In Place: 9/23/22

Curriculum and Instruction:

Mr. Carten's Class:

In math the students have completed assessments on their mathematical levels. We are also working on money skills related to ADL's. Listed are the skills they worked on money skills identifying coins, adding various coins and bills which are functional skills needed for independence. Language arts we are working on fact and opinions, capitalizations, and sentence structure. We started a new chapter book called "Report to the principal office" by Jerry Spinelli. During Hispanic Month, we have covered the country of Peru and its rich history and culture. Students learned about Cesar Chavez and how he worked it make working conditions better for farm workers. Currently, in science we are studying the solar system. The students have engaged in discussion about the sun which is the center of the solar system and our star. Social studies we are learning about the 50 states. Arizona and California have been covered this month.

Mrs. Convery's Class:

We began this school year just as we left the last- in our temporary home at Holy Spirit in Union. Hopefully everything will work out and we will be back at 1571 after Winter Break. The students have settled in well. This year's class consists of several students from last year and some students who have aged up into the high school program. They are getting to know each other and are starting to gel nicely. We have begun the academic year by studying Celia Cruz for Hispanic Heritage Month. The students enjoyed listening and dancing to her music. We have also completed a unit on Johnny Appleseed by utilizing our weekly Scholastic magazine both in the classroom and online, listening to stories and completing worksheets both in Language Arts and Math. Students were assessed in the area of money skills and are hard at work learning to identify coins, counting coins and bills, and making change. The hallways have once again filled with the fragrant smells of the students making their signature peanut butter dog biscuits prepared in our Workplace Readiness class. We are planning to begin making CBI trips again in the near future. We have plans to go to the grocery store, Target, and bowling.

Mrs. Fernandez's Class:

Students have been studying current events in the news and making connections to their personal lives. During our meetings we review mastered skills and use them throughout our class meetings. Students have been finishing up their assessments and working on their individualized programs for academics. In SEL we are identifying different types of emotions and matching them with situations in our lives. We also do a daily check in and explain we feel certain emotions. In social studies we are traveling the world. Our first stop is Australia and we have learned about the Great Barrier Reef and how it is the site of remarkable variety and beauty on the north-east coast of Australia. It contains the world's largest collection of coral reefs, with 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish and 4,000 types of mollusks. We have also spent time studying the different cultures of

Australia and comparing and contrasting our own. In science we are studying weather and becoming weather watchers. We have learned new vocabulary for different types of weather as well as made instruments to better study the weather and make predictions that keep us safe. In math we practice our individual skills and study finance and budgeting by tying those skills into our everyday lives. We are focusing on money identification and matching money to amounts.

Mrs. Gewirtzman's Class:

The students have been in school for 17 days and the students are acclimating nicely to the new classroom environment and staff. Students are beginning to settle into routines and take initiative independently with starting daily activities. In Reading and Math, we have been working on assessing the students using the AFLS assessment, establishing routines, and taking instructional data which will aide in creating individualized programs in the coming month. In Social Studies, students learned about Hispanic Heritage Month. We read several News2you articles, made a Mexican taco dip, and listened to authentic Hispanic music to celebrate. In Science, we began learning about how apples grow, and students answered questions about which type of apples they like best. We also began working on independent activity schedules and are using task analyses to track student progress toward independence.

Mrs. Pajewski's Class:

This month, we have been reviewing skills. Together we have practiced geometry, (shapes and lines), touch points, counting and some addition/subtraction. In reading we have been reading about apples. We have learned how long an apple tree lives and produces fruity. Students have also practiced alphabetical order using our apple vocabulary. In Social Studies we have read our Scholastic magazine. Topics have included School Rules (What are our rules?). & Friends go together (kindness to friends). We have explored self-awareness and Spanish Heritage. In Science we have started the unit Animal Biodiversity/Characteristics using Mystery Science. Together we are learning how animals are grouped together (fur, feathers, bones, lays eggs...) In our work readiness students have enjoyed using the laminator to complete jobs for staff.

Mrs. Palmer's Class:

We are back in school, and everyone has adjusted well to the class and our schedule. The Candy Business is very busy. One student sold candy at the Back to School Night. We are getting candy ready for the Pumpkin Patch at Holy Name Church in North Plainfield. Mrs. Palmer will be selling candy on two Saturdays at the church. We have been working on several jobs from Candyland Crafts. The students are still organizing the lunches and doing a great job. In the beginning of the month, we completed papers about ourselves to go along with self-awareness month. The students are also learning about Hispanic countries to go along with Hispanic Heritage month. They have also made egg and bacon tacos during Food Preparation class. They read about Chile and Peru so far. Today the students finished their first paysheet and were paid. They were very happy with the money. In math we are working on money and banking. During Food Science we study about food borne illness and kitchen safety. During Food Preparation the students made pancakes, french toast, and egg tacos.

Ms. Porchetta's Class:

In language arts, students are being evaluated to update individual programs. In math we took a virtual trip to an apple orchard. This gave us an opportunity to graph our favorite apples. We also compared the results reviewing greater than and less than. In social studies, we are focusing on Hispanic American Heritage. Students learned how Peruvian and Mexican culture effect our country. We asked Mrs. Marelly questions about her experiences with moving to America many years ago. Her biggest challenges came with people judging the way she spoke and we were so happy to hear the many ways she overcame those challenges.

In vocational, students are making good progress with their independent schedule. We are also creating new materials to support the Bead Shop.

Mrs. Robles's Class:

The students work on calendar activities every day. They work on identifying the day of the week and the current month. They also work on identifying what day was yesterday and what day it will be tomorrow. In Language Arts the students are identifying pictures of food, clothing, weather, and everyday objects. They are also categorizing these items. In Science the students learned about apples and where and how they grow.

They identified the parts of the apple. In Social Studies the students are learning about the rainforest and its impact on the rest of the world. The students watched Rainforest Adventure by Terry Mitton and learned about the different animals that live in the rainforest. They also watched "Layers of the Tropical Rainforest" and labeled the four layers. They will be learning about one of the products that the rainforest produces, the tagua nut, and how the indigenous people of the rainforest are harvesting this non-toxic, eco-friendly, and sustainable item and producing jewelry and other items. The students will also be listening to some types of South American music and will make an instrument.

Mrs. Shaw's Class:

Welcome back to the new school year. My class started off the lessons "Hispanic Heritage Month and Self-Awareness and Management" themes. In Reading / Language Art: The students listened to the story "The Day You Begin" and they discussed how to celebrate diversity in the classroom and how we can learn from each other. The students also read a story about "School Feelings (Self-Awareness)" to learn how to identify different emotions and learn strategies for handling themselves. Life Skills, the students participated in mock lessons on how to save money at the grocery store by utilizing the coupons. The students also worked on filling orders using the inventory numbers to check whether they fill an order accurately. Math: Students worked on how to subtract money using coupons. The students also worked on how to read and interpret pictographs. Social Studies: Students learned about Día de los Muertos (Day of death, a Mexican holiday) and they were able to understand that various cultures have differing views of life and death. The students also learned about Mexican traditional craft by making Papel picado (colorful paper sheets with intricate cut-out details). Science: Decorating sugar skulls is part of the Día de los Muertos (Day of death)'s tradition. The students enjoyed learning about the structure and function of their skulls to understand their body.

Vocational Class:

First, I wanted to update you on our outside service project for The NJ Sharing Network. Over the summer Mrs. Swisher's classroom packaged 16,000 bracelets and 4,000 pens for the NJ Sharing Network. We are awaiting additional supplies (pens and tissues) and the students are eager to begin packaging. We learned about the NJ Sharing Network so students were familiar with the organization we would be helping. We are excited to announce that we have taken the first steps to start our Work Based Learning (WBL) program. We have several students participating in internal WBL assignments and will begin our external WBL assignments next month. Mrs. Swisher has met with our current participating businesses, and we have created our training plans. Initial meetings with students have been ongoing to discuss work expectations which include uniform/dress codes, hygiene, self-advocacy, productivity, problem solving, and responsibilities.

Mr. Shanfield – Physical Education:

It's great to be back and in full swing of things with the students at Westlake. This month we are working on body and spatial awareness. The activities we are engaging in teach or remind our students of the importance of following directions (one-two-three step directions), understanding various verbiage (up, down, side, left, right, over, under, around, behind, in front, on top, threw, below, etc.). These lessons also increase the students' cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and time on task. It is so much fun seeing the students engage and be so successful!!!

Mr. Shanfield - Health:

In Health, this month the students are working on the food plate and mindfulness. During health class the students were also practicing their Social Emotional Learning through breathing techniques and guided meditation. As always, the SEL theme is an ongoing theme in my classes and will always be infused in the lessons to ensure all students and staff feel like my class is a place of learning, but also safety and love.

Occupational Therapy:

We are back for another school year and the OT Department is so excited to be back! Alison and Sara have been helping the students get re-acclimated to the building and to OT. The students seem happy to be back and ready to learn. Jess Trelles continues to come to Westlake for 1 ½ days to treat students which is great. Since September is Hispanic Heritage Month, the students celebrated by learning to make guacamole in OT group in which they were able to exercise and practice many functional skills. We have also attended a handful of IEP meetings already where we have reconnected with the parents to come up with individualized OT goals for the students this

upcoming school year. We are looking forward to having a fun and amazing year!

Speech Therapy:

Super September! The speech therapy department welcomed back Westlake students, both old and new, for another wonderful school year. We are also super excited to welcome our new SLP, Victoria Buscarnera! The month has been filled with many fun activities focused on increasing functional communication and language skills! Several of our sessions incorporated this month's SEL themes: self-awareness and Spanish Heritage Month. Many students worked on increasing their self-awareness through activities targeting expression of personal information, such as first/last names and birthdays. Hispanic heritage was incorporated into language activities. Some students worked on basic concept comprehension by identifying sombreros of different sizes. Other students played Hispanic Heritage Guess Who. Various objectives, such as describing, comparing/contrasting, and expanding utterances, were targeted while learning about famous Latinx-Americans. We also read books featuring Hispanic culture while targeting new vocabulary and answering comprehension questions. On the business side, many initial and annual IEPs were completed. We have started to use the AFLs as a guide for writing some of our speech therapy objectives and are focused on using various non-standardized assessments and probes to help improve our instructional techniques and therapy targets. We are looking forward to moving into October. Hello Autumn weather, pumpkin spice, and continued growth in speech therapy!

Physical Therapy:

Currently, we have 17 students receiving physical therapy in individual and group settings. Our students are off to a great start and are excited to be back in PT! SGO baseline measurements on balancing on one foot and jumping distance have been taken and data is recorded each week on these goals. The physical therapist attended a fantastic two-day course this month on Dynamic Movement Intervention (DMI). "This specialized certification is a therapeutic technique used in physical and occupational therapy to treat children with motor delay by improving automatic postural responses and promoting progress towards developmental milestones. The goal of DMI is to provoke a specified active motor response from the child in response to defined dynamic exercises prescribed by the therapist. This comprehensive intervention incorporates current research on neurorehabilitation, technologies, and methodologies. DMI stimulates neuroplasticity to facilitate new neuronal connections and development of motor milestones. (Taken from www.dmi.com).

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Westlake is currently working on setting up CBI trips for students to go out of the building. Places they will go are to Shoprite, Target, bowling and possibly the Cranford movie theatre to work on movie skills and jobs while they are closed. Work Based Learning for students has started today with two students going to Olive Garden and two students went to work at Walgreens. Students are excited to get out to work!

Professional Development:

Safety care re-certification, GNC Training



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Work Readiness Academy	Report Date: 10/12/2022
--	--------------------------------

Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 27 (includes WRA & Project SEARCH) Acceptances: 2 (for SY 2022-23)	Intakes: 2 Disenrollments: 1
---	---

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: 9/13/22	Other (Lockdown) 9/15/2022
----------------------------	-----------------------------------

Curriculum and Instruction:

WRA Program

- The Work Readiness Academy opened the 2022-23 school year this September with 18 students enrolled. The program is expanding in anticipation of our move to Holy Spirit School location in Union, New Jersey come January 2023. We have added 6 additional seats...with new students coming from Westfield, Hillside, Union, Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Kenilworth.
- Due to the increase in enrollment, the program is now divided into two separate homerooms. This also allows us to better split the students by ability, age, and classification for classes.
- Some additional changes this year include the addition of a weekly counseling group led by UCESC's new Student Assistance Counselor, afternoon Cycle classes, and a weekly Friday elective class.

Project SEARCH Program

- The Project SEARCH class of 2023 has started the year with 8 new students and 1 returning student.
- Most of the students 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. One student is utilizing Access Link, and another student is driving himself to and from the hospital each day - a first for our program!
- Students also started their first internship rotations this month.
- The Project SEARCH program at Overlook also received a notification this month that the program has been recognized for outcomes tied to the class of 2020-21. 76% of the interns in the class of 2021 achieved a positive employment outcome.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Students in the Work Readiness Academy were launched into their Work-Based Learning Experiences the week of October 3rd. We are working with more than 20 businesses in and around Union County, including our newest partners: the Children's Specialized Hospital Outpatient Facility in Union, NJ, South Avenue Dental in Cranford, TC Graphics in Cranford, Hilltop Bicycle in Cranford, and Mr. J's Sandwich Shop in Cranford.

Our programs recognized Hispanic Heritage Month in September and learned more about Self-Awareness and Self-Management, our monthly SEL theme.

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.

Additionally, certified staff participated in mandated Seizure and Epilepsy training this month.

Teachers are currently working on finalizing their individual Professional Development Plans for the new school year.

A full day of staff development is planned for Monday, October 10th.