



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Crossroads School	<b>Report Date:</b> 12/2/2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment as of December 2, 2022:</b>	
<b>Actual:</b> 43	<b>Referrals:</b> 8
<b>Changes: Entered:</b> 0 <b>Exited:</b> 0	<b>Intake Scheduled:</b> 4
<b>Acceptances:</b> 2	<b>Disenrollments:</b> 0

<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> 11/28/22	<b>Other (Bomb Threat):</b> 11/29/22

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

The staff and students at Crossroads School continue to work tirelessly as we approach the holiday season. Classrooms have been engaged in discussions and activities around the monthly themes of gratitude and Native American Heritage. Crossroads School is also excited to report that during the month of November, our Middle School students were able to resume community-based instruction for the first time since 2020.

Crossroads School is excited to announce that there have been a few new faces added to our office staff. Ms. Christina Cruz started as the new Secretary of Crossroads School on October 17th. Additionally, Mr. Matthew Fernandez started in the role of principal on November 9th. Please feel free to stop in the office and to say hello.

**Classroom Highlights:**

**Consuelo Alzate - Room 101:**

This month, the children in the preschool class are showing progress in the areas of social emotional, academics, self-help and communication.

In the area of communication, the students are showing great improvements as they become more assertive in communicating their needs and wants using single words, AAC devices or PECS. The students in the classroom have been working hard on various thematic units including but not limited to Fall, Harvest and Thanksgiving. The children are enjoying story time and creating arts and crafts projects reflecting our Thematic Units.

**Peggy Barsa - Room 102:**

Ms. Peggy's Preschool class has been exploring the fall season and its associated colors and traditions. Additionally, students are learning to identify and recognize their names by participating in the daily attendance activities incorporated into morning circle time. Each student's direct instruction also has an activity where they can recognize and match letters in their first name. The students also continue to practice appropriate social greetings! Crossroads School lends them many opportunities to work on making proper eye contact and waving to say, "Hi", to staff members and other Crossroads students who enter the classroom or pass by in the hallway.

**Allison Gebler - Room 103:**

In Room 103, Allison Gebler's class focused on the thematic unit focused on seasonal changes, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Students began maintenance programs of the skills they have acquired and continued to learn from staff on goals they have not yet mastered. Target skills included all of the class jobs and data collection via task analysis of the steps involved in each job.

Language Arts:

- Students continued learning about fall vocabulary via Morning Meeting: fall scavenger hunts and fall based materials to complete individual learning goals.
- Students began small group instruction for leveled literacy and reading skills: SRA, Edmark, matching to a sample, and listener responding.

Math:

- Students completed hands-on activities using fall-based materials: 1:1 correspondence games with apples and cherries, counting and number ID using leaf clip cards, measurement and size sequencing practice using leaves.

Science / Social Studies Thematic Units:

- Apple painting, tasting and labeling the parts/lifecycle.
- Fall scavenger hunt and craft lessons.
- Weekly cooking, involving cross-curricular skills based on individual goals.

The classroom's favorite thing about November was getting to do lots of fun turkey crafts and activities! The classroom is looking forward to decorating for the holidays and lots of classroom staff birthdays in December!

**Hannah Amengual - Room 104:**

In November, students in Room #104 have been learning about Fall, Thanksgiving, and having Gratitude through different activities and crafts. These crafts and activities also practice different VB-MAPP skills such as matching to sample, tacting, and listener responding. Some favorites include 'labeling parts of the turkey' and counting 'how many owls'.

For this month, we have focused on showing gratitude in some of our group work and individual work. We showed gratitude for our health and bodies by singing and labeling the parts of the body. We also were grateful for our families and have been practicing recognition of our parents and siblings as part of our direct instruction. And we got to enjoy a miniature Thanksgiving feast of mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and sliced turkey homemade in our classroom microwave on personalized placemats.

**Gabriela Valdés - Room 105:**

In Room 105, Gabriela Valdés' class focused on the thematic unit of "Thanksgiving". We read an interactive story about different foods that you can find on a Thanksgiving table. Our students answered questions throughout the story and got to interact with the book individually as well!

Language Arts:

- Students learned about different foods that are commonly found on a Thanksgiving table. We practiced identifying the shape and color of each food through matching and saying it vocally or through AAC.

Math:

- Students identified the amount of each item that was needed for each craft. They were responsible for locating and counting the amount prior to the start of the craft.

Science / Social Studies Thematic Units:

- Paper Plate Turkey Craft
- Pumpkin Pie Counting/Craft
- Sensory play

Our favorite thing about November was learning about different Thanksgiving foods.

Our classroom is looking forward to snow!

**Anna Kane - Room 106:**

We have still been working on fall and Thanksgiving themed activities for Math, ELA, Social Studies and Art.

For Math, the class has been matching and sequencing on our November Interactive Bulletin Board. This gives the students a chance to stand up and get some movement in while learning. They also have been counting the days in the month in Morning Meeting. The students have been pointing to the number as we call it out.

The class has been reading books about Thanksgiving. They are learning and reading about what families do and eat during the holiday Thanksgiving. The class made turkey with paper circles and glued on paper feathers. Our students also made a plate of food with foods they like to eat during Thanksgiving. We are excited to see what December will bring to Room 106!

**Stephen Goham - Room 108:**

**1. Thematic Unit/Instructional Objectives**

Thanksgiving – Students learned how to use a graphic organizer/story web to tell a story about the Pilgrims and Indians, and the first Thanksgiving. The children applied new vocabulary as well as map skills to their learning. They also used their graphic organizer to answer “wh” questions related to the topic. The children were challenged to think critically by comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences between present day thanksgiving traditions to those of the pilgrims and Indians. For those students who required modifications, they were encouraged to apply visual perception skills by matching photos of every vocabulary word.

Fall/Thanksgiving

Language/Reading includes “Thanksgiving” sight words. Introduce and review new words, utilizing flashcards, write 3x each, etc.

Math includes concepts of addition, time, and money skills; One-to-one correspondence when engaged in arts & crafts activities.

Map Skills - America and Europe. Mayflower journey over the Atlantic Ocean.

Giving Thanks – Family, friends, and food.

**2. Literacy and Technology**

“Thanksgiving is for Giving” – By Margaret Sutherland

“Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving” – By Dav Pilkey

“I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie” – By Alison Jackson

Weekly Readers – Come Join the Feast

A Pilgrim’s Day

Who was Squanto?

What Did Wampanoag Kids Do?

**3. Community Based Instruction Trip**

11/8 - BJ’s Wholesale, Watchung

11/22 - Cranford Theater

11/29 - Clark Commons

**Alexis Lorenz; Room 109:**

For the month of November, the students worked on a Thanksgiving craft. The class talked about different foods people eat on Thanksgiving. The students then colored pictures of a variety of Thanksgiving foods and glued them onto a paper plate. The students worked on coloring, cutting and gluing skills.

The students also started working on the school store. They walked around to each class with a script and sold yummy treats to the staff and students. They all did a wonderful working on conversation and money skills.

### **Susan Parenti - Room 110:**

#### Social Studies

##### Unit- Veteran's Day

Veterans Day is an opportunity to teach the students the meaning and significance of the day. Also, to honor and give thanks to those who have served or are serving in the military. The students read a story and we discussed all the military Veterans, the five branches and their roles. We discussed the characteristics of a soldier, and we completed an activity. Students created a book and colored all the different soldiers. We also watched a short video on Veteran's Day.

##### Unit- Thanksgiving

The focus of The First Thanksgiving for the students is to understand the experiences and hardships encountered by the Pilgrims on their voyage on the Mayflower to the New World and in establishing a new settlement. We also discussed how the Wampanoag Indians assisted the Pilgrims during their first year in Massachusetts. How they instructed the Pilgrims on where to hunt for food and how to grow crops. The students learned how the Pilgrims shared a meal with Wampanoag people who had helped them and that this is what is known as the first American Thanksgiving celebration.

The students also watched a short video about the First Thanksgiving and put the events in the correct order.

We read the book: Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman. We also read Thanksgiving is For Giving Thanks By Margaret Sutherland. The students learned that it is so important to be thankful, and we have so much to be thankful for. As a class, we named things that we are thankful for, and we created a chart. The students then used the chart to make a turkey and each feather stated something they were thankful for.

#### Science

##### Unit- Autumn

We discussed the season- Autumn and focused on what types of clothing people wear in the season Fall. We sorted clothing for the different seasons. We also went for a walk and collected leaves. We used the leaves to create leaf prints using paint.

#### Community Based Instruction

We went to Five Below on November 22nd. We worked on conversational skills, waiting skills, reading a shopping list, locating items in the store, money exchange and check out skills.

We also went to the Cranford Movie theater.

Each student has a job assignment

1. Movie Theater Setup- one student and a staff member sets up the concession stand and ticket stand.
2. Ticket Cashier - Student and assigned staff member collects money from each student in line and

distributes a double ticket to each student. Money will be placed in the cash register.

3. Concession Stand Worker - Student and assigned staff member collects money from each student and distributes popcorn and/or water to those who order it.
4. Usher - Student and assigned staff collects tickets at the usher stand, rips the double ticket and hands one ticket to each student. Students will then be told which theater by number they should enter.
5. Movie Theater Breakdown - One student and assigned staff member cleans up at 10:30.

### **Natalia Amador - Room 111:**

For the month of November, we have had a month full of fun learning experiences! We learned the importance of voting and what the process is like. To make the lesson relevant to our students, we hosted our own election where our students went out to other classes and had them vote for our Senator. We also learned about Veterans Day through readings, crafts, and technology. Students were introduced to some of the symbols, songs, and the pledge that represents our country.

Last week students learned about Thanksgiving by exploring the rich historical and cultural aspects of this American holiday through cooking activities, crafts, and books. Students also baked traditional apple pies and pumpkin pies to share with their families.

Our class has continued to work on strengthening their pre-vocational jobs by completing the many tasks here at Crossroads and by attending community-based instruction. This month our community-based instruction has consisted of visiting Clark Commons, Shoprite, and the Cranford Movie Theater. Community based instruction has truly fostered a lot of independence skills and important daily living skills among our students. So far, we have worked on completing Ellison orders, doing laundry, collecting recyclables, and this month we are working on utensil orders and kitchen inventory.

For science and social studies, the middle school teachers have been rotating into all the classes and we have been teaching thematic units. This month's thematic units include Seasons, Election Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and community helpers.

For direct instruction, all students continue to work on their VB MAPP goals, reading curriculum and IEP goals.

**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 participated in many themes this month including Election Day, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving festivities. With the students, we shared experiences to practice voting, honoring those who have served, and recognizing Thanksgiving through reading, creating recipes, and identifying areas of gratitude.

Thematic lessons for the month of October included fall, elections, Thanksgiving, family, and food. Core words this month included *see, more, all done, and give*.

### **Physical Therapy- Aliza Feuerstein:**

Currently we have thirteen students receiving individual physical therapy sessions at Crossroads School. One student was added this month. In addition, we recommended PT services for another student, and he will likely begin services soon. Our students continue to make outstanding progress with their PT goals and objectives.

Y.K. began physical therapy this month and is already showing nice gains with his goals. He has transitioned well to PT and is progressing with jumping and stairs. L.M. continues to demonstrate outstanding progress on the stairs. In the past few weeks, she has gone from scooting down the stairs to walking down the stairs while alternating her feet! Classroom staff has reported that L.H. is also demonstrating great progress on the stairs and she is starting to alternate her feet more regularly with less cues.

### **November Monthly Report - Jessica Barnum – ART:**

This month in the art room students have been working with a variety of different types of materials. We started the month by using real apples as a tool for printmaking. Students used apple pieces to dip in paint and to print leaf shapes for their trees. A material like this challenges student to see objects in different ways than they are used to seeing them. It also challenges them as a motor skill to use the apple as an art making tool.

Students continued to learn about Native American heritage as they completed their first jewelry making project. Students chose a Native American symbol to use on their pendant and then threaded beads onto their necklaces in various patterns. We talked about pattern and texture. Students then added feathers to complete their piece.

Students are progressing in their determination to complete a task. I observed this the most when students were putting beads on their necklace. Many students who typically ask and receive help wanted to complete the task independently.

Students finished out the month with a Thanksgiving themed pie project. Students learned basic weaving techniques to make the lattice of their pie. Students then followed step by step directions to complete the task.

### **Rich Horn - Physical Education:**

During the course of the past month, students have continued working hard on their daily health and physical education activities. Students have done a great job upstairs in the conference room and are improving weekly. Stressing things such as structure, getting into a routine and reviewing classroom expectations have been constant and made lessons very successful.

Students have been practicing a multitude of skills during class and are getting better day by day (walking, running, stretching, relay races on foot and scooters, obstacle courses, letter, number, picture, and color matching activities, striking a beach ball with 2 hands, striking a balloon with a tennis racquet, catching and following single and multi-step directions etc.) Moving forward, we will continue to build off the above-mentioned activities and slowly add new and more challenging ones.

In health class, we are currently learning about community helpers. Students have participated in various social stories, matching activities, interactive lessons on the computer/touch screen and completed various group activities along with multiple worksheets. Our next unit will be on safety signs.

### **Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

### **Professional Development:**



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Hillcrest Academy North	<b>Report Date:</b> 12/11/2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 86 <b>Acceptances:</b> 4	<b>Intakes:</b> 4 <b>Disenrollments:</b> 2 (attendance)
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> 11/8/22	<b>Other: Shelter in Place/Hazardous Spill:</b> 11/29/22

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

In Art, the month of November was spent creating journals and learning beginning drawing skills. Students created journals by hand and personalized them according to their tastes and interests. This project’s overarching idea was to initiate the discussion of what makes a “craft” into “art”. Students created meaning for their journals through design and over time, they will be more of an art than a craft as they fill it with doodles, thoughts, and ideas.

Drawing was introduced this month, specifically drawing from life. Students focused on cylindrical based vessels and learned how to break down an object with ellipses and circles. Composition was introduced as well as “refining” the objects’ contour by finding little details. After learning the formal process of observing and creating objects on paper, students will learn to abstract with the aid of a French curve or through their own design. “Expressive” still life is the goal that will be used to learn skills such as shading and painting.

In English, students are starting each class answering critical thinking questions. Students finished writing their crime reports for “A Matter of Diamonds.” They then focused on learning about credible sources: what are credible sources, and how to tell if a source is credible.

In Creative Writing, students are starting each class coming up with a story about a picture or are writing an answer to a creative question. Students learned about the writing process. They came up with a territories list and answered questions about themselves to get ready to write a personal narrative. They brainstormed ideas and details based on their questions. They are currently writing their introduction.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

Despite the shorter month, November has been a busy month in the social work office. Perhaps the most exciting part of the month was our first school field trip in nearly 3 years! A group of 12 seniors took a tour of the Kean Campus on 11/18. Students were able to see the campus and learned about the “Kean Promise” - a program that allows low-income students to attend the university for free (Kean will cover costs not covered by FAFSA and scholarships).

**Professional Development:**

During our PLC time in the month of October, staff met several times as an advocate team. They discussed student progress and made phone calls to the homes. Lessons in SEL focused on the importance of “Gratitude.” Activities included positive affirmations, gratitude journals, and a review of goals set for marking period.







**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Hillcrest Academy South	<b>Report Date:</b> 12/2/22 (November 2022)
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 74 <b>Acceptances:</b> 5	<b>Intakes:</b> TBA Disenrollments: 3 (1 GED, 1 moved to Florida & one refusing to attend)
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drills:</b> 11/2/22	<b>Other:</b> Bomb Threat 11/4/22
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<p><b>Ms. Vlastaras’s English classes:</b> Students focused on drafting, revising, and finalizing their argumentative essay on whether or not animals should be used in medical experiments and product/drug testing. They have also been practicing skills on IXL as recommended based on the adaptive diagnostic. In Creative Writing the students finished reading <i>The House on Mango Street</i> and responded to writing tasks based on the reading in order to analyze how the author used figurative language, social commentary, and voice in order to discuss life events and experiences. The students are in the planning stage of their project focused on creating vignettes that relate to their life in the style of <i>The House on Mango Street</i>. In Computer Science the students are continuing the unit on web development, so they have begun working with basic HTML coding in order to understand how a website is built through code. They have practiced the basics of coding, creating paragraphs within the body of code, as well as styling a web page using HTML.</p> <p><b>Mr. Barone’s and Mr. Peters’s Health classes:</b> Students were introduced to a new unit entitled Nutrition for Health. This is a very important topic and covers the importance of nutrition, understanding nutrients, learning about healthy food guidelines, understanding nutrition labels and food safety. Students learned about which nutrients the body uses for energy and the benefits of following a healthy diet. In addition, many students admitted they skip breakfast on most days and now understand why they have little energy in the morning. Throughout the unit, a number of students realized they needed to start making changes to their diet in order to feel better and more energetic throughout the day.</p> <p><b>Ms. Fernandez-Siejack’s Algebra 2 classes:</b> Students ended substitution and moved on to elimination. Students were able to eliminate two equations with no changes, two equations where they had to change the sign of one equation before eliminating, and lastly students learned how to change the coefficient of one equation before eliminating. Using those skills, students then were able to use elimination to solve a three-equation system. From there, students moved on to review the basics of exponents. First, they practiced how to solve basic exponent questions including powers of 1 and 0. Then they learned the basics of the power rule, the quotient rule, and the product rule. Students finally ended the month working on negative exponents and how to make them positive as well as fractional exponents which used all the above-mentioned exponent rules. For Probability and Statistics students worked on combination probability. Their focus was at first on independent events to get used to the idea of multiplying probabilities. Then, they moved on to dependent events where the second of two probabilities changes based on the outcome of the first. To end the month, students began working with venn diagrams to prepare them for unions and intersections of probability. Ms. Fernandez-Siejack has been doing an excellent job as HAS’s Media Liaison. Check out our Instagram page @ucesc_has.</p>	

**Ms. Ferrari's Algebra classes:**

Students worked on plotting points on the coordinate plane, graphing linear equations, graphing equations on a calculator, graphing intercepts, finding slope and rate of change, graph using slope-intercept form, and graphing linear functions. The skills the Geometry students worked on included inductive reasoning, making a conjecture, conjunction and disjunction, conditional statements, writing converse, inverse and contrapositive statements, bi-conditional statements, deductive reasoning and laws of detachment, reasoning with properties of algebra, and proving statements about segments. In addition, all HAS students created a Turkey Tessellation because for the month of November we focused on Gratitude and Native American Heritage. Tessellations or tiling is when a surface is covered with a pattern of flat shapes so there are no gaps or overlaps.

**Ms. Arora's Forensic science classes:**

The students worked on fire science. In this unit, they learned how to use a fire extinguisher, apart from that they also learned what could be the reasons for natural fire and arson. In Environmental Science, students learnt about management of natural hazards and disasters like volcanic eruption, earthquake, wildfire, tsunamis, and hurricanes. In this unit, they researched what preventive measures and how to prepare for those natural disasters. In Biology, students investigated how to use the microscope both virtually and in person. In this unit they are learning how the plants make food.

**Ms. Duarte's classes:**

Students began to look at the ways in which our decisions affect our life outcomes. This made its way into Economics as weather classes studied the use of credit and debit cards alongside the effects of using these cards in our everyday life. Students became familiar with the benefits and drawbacks associated with each card. Most importantly, students were able to walk away with an understanding of which cards they can apply for at the moment. In USII the students began to look at the start of World War I, the causes of the war, and the nature of trench warfare. Students were able to understand trench warfare by looking at primary sources in the way of pictures and first-hand accounts. As a result, students in both classes became more aware of how our choices, whether it be to open up a credit card or join a war effort, can have lasting effects on our future.

**Ms. Flores's Spanish classes:**

Students started with the pre-assessment for the second unit about School life (“*La Vida Escolar*”)/ *Traditions*. The unit “*La Vida Escolar*”/ *Traditions* was designed to introduce the basic and advanced elements of Spanish grammar and vocabulary about schools and traditions in different countries that speak Spanish as well as some of the many manifestations of Hispanic culture in the high school classes. In doing so, the stress was on communication through the acquisition of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Classroom time was spent studying and practicing the grammatical structures, practicing the reproduction of the sounds of the language, learning vocabulary, reading a wide variety of authentic materials, and working to improve writing skills. Based on the student's current level of performance, students interacted with each other using Total Physical Response Storytelling (TPR). Finally, SGOs were in place as the formative writing and reading assessments every week. Through embracing diversity, we celebrated Thanksgiving (“*El Día de Acción de Gracias*”) where students recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Native Americans to the United States and also the students celebrate their heritage culture with the SEL theme “Gratitude”. The students worked on different projects about the theme, and they are currently displayed around the school.

#### **Ms. Wrzesinski’s US History I classes:**

Students completed the following assignments and topics. 13 colonies unit on how the colonies were established, organized, governed and run. Students were able to compare and contrast the differences between the New England, Middle, and South colonies. Students also completed a DBQ question and essay on the different economies of the colonies. Students looked at the different employment opportunities, climates, imports/exports, relationships with natives, relationships between other colonies and colonists, the relationship of religion and governance, political affiliations, and the relationship with England. Students also took a deeper look into Native American culture, relationship with the land and the relationship, or lack thereof, with the colonists. Students then completed a “road to independence” activity that solidified all the information discussed above. Students just started their second marking period that discusses the colonists' dissatisfaction with the British. World History students finished their classical empires unit as they researched Classical Rome, Classical India, Classical China, and Classical Greece. Students discussed political struggles, golden ages, technology, education, prominent people, and main ideas of the empires. Students then moved on to World Religions. Students learned about Daoism and Confucianism first. Students reviewed the main ideas of the religions, the history of how they came to be, their creators, and how people can use ancient religions in modern times.

#### **Ms. Cioffi’s English courses:**

Students continued working on evaluating arguments. Students practiced reading pro-con articles and various argumentative texts where they identified the author’s claims, supporting evidence, counterclaims, and other elements of strong, successful arguments. Students then practiced writing their own claims with supporting evidence and counter arguments. At the end of the month, students wrote their own argumentative essay based on a pro-con article they read and analyzed in class. Lessons had students evaluate the claims stated and supported in each text and to write their own claim based on the topic *Are Zoos Ethical?* Once students wrote their claim, they produced a five-paragraph argumentative essay where they introduce their thesis/claim, support it with evidence, write a counterclaim, and a conclusion. This prepared students for the final argumentative essay that will take place in December where students conduct research and write their own argumentative essay based on a topic of their choice.

#### **Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

The HAS Community Service Program was busy in November. In recognition of National Diabetes Day, a lunch time fundraiser was held to support the organization in their research for a cure for this serious health condition. Given continued Covid restrictions, the HASCSP was unable to resume its annual service day at the Community Food Bank in Hillside. Therefore, a fundraiser was held in order to help the Food Banks' mission of providing food for families in need throughout Union County. Students in Ms. Holden’s classes read a play based on O. Henry’s short story *Two Thanksgiving Gentlemen*. The theme of the play was generosity and gratitude. As an adjunctive to this assignment and in support of the district’s theme of gratitude, students created cards for the residents of the Memorial Veterans Home in Metro Park. Additionally, the HASCSP supported the district’s efforts for the Jeans for Troops program. HAS is very grateful for our veterans and are indebted to them for their service.

Ms. Gilchrist, HAS’s Social Worker, continued counseling and teaching SEL’s to all the students. A special

emphasis was placed on the students in special education as well as students in crisis. The Social Worker continues to support staff and administration in a multitude of functions. This included translating, contacting students and families, as well as reviewing academic progress. Ms. Gilchrist was also planning monthly incentive trips that will reward students with the best attendance, grades, and behaviors. Unique to this year is the World Cup on a four-year cycle. The matches have been aired daily and organized to include students who are passing all classes, behaving appropriately, and attending school daily. It was incumbent upon the classroom teacher to decide and release students to the designated viewing area.

The School Nurse, Ms. Rubin has assisted with entry procedures that included bag searches. Ms. Rubin periodically reviewed the 'stay at home if you are sick policy' with families of absent students. The School Nurse made calls and/or sent emails to all of the absent students' parents each day. The Nurse continued to update health files and A-45 records for the students at HAS. She has been in constant communication with the student's physicians and parents for food allergies, asthma, and other health concerns. Annual school health screenings have begun. She has helped students with paperwork and measurements for sports in Elizabeth. Ms. Rubin has also met with Ms. Ramirez, the district's SAC, to coordinate care of students who are in need of counseling. Ms. Rubin has always assisted with class coverage and lunch coverage whenever needed.

Ms. Rosenfield is the long-term Guidance Counselor maternity leave replacement for Ms. Schulhafer who trained Ms. Rosenfield since September. Ms. Rosenfield has focused on student interviews by contacting Elizabeth Guidance Counselors and families. Ms. Rosenfield reviewed prospective students' current credits on Elizabeth's Powerschool GradTracker. Ms. Rosenfield has also covered classes when needed. Ms. Rosenfield has also assisted in crisis intervention counseling sessions with students. Ms. Rosenfield utilized Ms. Schulhafer's elaborate manual that was created to explain particulars of PowerSchool and the scoop of her tasks.

#### **Professional Development:**

Administration performed weekly walkthroughs in classes. Feedback was provided on Danielson's rubric Domain 2c that focuses on classroom procedures. Additional feedback was provided on Danielson's Domain 3b as indicated in HAS's Staff Professional Growth Plans. This domain focused on a higher level of questioning and discussion techniques being utilized through a lesson.



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department: Lamberts Mill Academy</b>	<b>Report Date: 12/2/2022</b>
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<b>Enrollment: 41</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment: 41</b> <b>LMA Campus: 30</b> <b>New Point: 10</b> <b>New Point at LMA: 3</b>	<b>Intakes: 3</b> <b>Acceptances: 2</b> <b>Disenrollments: 1</b>

**Emergency Drills:**

<b>Fire Drill: 1 (11/2/22)</b>	<b>Other: Bomb Threat Internal (11/4/22)</b>
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**Curriculum and Instruction:**

**Social Studies:**

At the end of the marking period the students in History classes explored many topics and a variety of information. In US History 2 students have been finishing up learning about the end of the Industrial Revolution. In Art History class students have been learning about the Art found in many ancient civilizations. We continue to explore and create Art through those civilizations. In World History, students are learning about ancient civilizations and students researched and presented their civilizations through google slides. In the month of October, all LMA students in their classes explored Hispanic Heritage month. We are currently discovering Native American Heritage month which we are incorporated in our US History 2 for the rest of the month.

**Mathematics:**

Students in Consumer Mathematics have continued to work with real world mathematics to answer the essential question, “How can I avoid being taken advantage of in life?” Students have been researching, and comparing Holiday sales including select days such as “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday”. Students have been learning about the meaning of these big sales from a historical perspective, along with determining if the savings are valid enough to justify the wait (their time). As more students in Consumer Mathematics have been finding job opportunities in different settings such as restaurants, and retail settings; students are having meaningful conversations regarding the holiday season, and how it affects their wages.

Students in both Algebra courses are continuing to work with Desmos graphing website in order to graph both linear equations, and systems of linear equations. Students get the unique opportunity to modify equations, and immediately see the impact on the graphs. Finally, all mathematical courses are continuing to work on IXL.com one period a week in order to refine both content skills, and skills in which they have been identified as targeted areas for growth.

**Science:**

Students are continuing to work on consistently following the routine of the classroom to meet the expectations of their assigned subject. Commencing the period with students logging into Google classroom, to check for a DoNow and an assignment. Lessons are conducted in a variety of ways,

specifically, a research based assignment - Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER). Students are provided with a list of debatable topics related to science, technology, environment, and our planet. Once the student selected the topic and their stance, research is instructed to collect quantitative data to support their opinion. Final slide to complete is their reasoning to reinforce their evidence. Students are also completing reading comprehension activities for the purpose of the SGOs for this academic year. Strategies are reviewed, so students can improve their success rate.

### **Science:**

In science students continue to learn about science in a variety of ways - videos, note taking, research-based assignments/projects, and writing tasks. For the purpose of learning about a Filipina scientist and national war hero, students created a timeline to display Maria Orosa's achievements and contributions. Every class read the narrative as a group and each student then identified 4-5 events of their choice to complete the assignment. Students also had the opportunity to taste the banana ketchup, accompanied with eggs and turkey sausage. The feedback was positive and was an enjoyable experience for the students to share. Departmental SGOs were also executed this month; students reading science related text and answering questions multiple choice and short answer questions to evaluate their reading comprehension. Data collection is also practiced tracking and monitor the progress of each student. Google classroom continues to be a reliable educational tool used to post assignments.

### **English:**

Students continue to work individually through our online skills development program, IXL. Students have also been writing summaries with textual evidence based on videos to increase their digital literacy comprehension. In conjunction with Native American heritage month and Veterans day, we viewed a PBS story in length to honor Native American Indians who were in the military. Students used the strategies we have been practicing gathering important data from the video clip and Write a summary with supporting evidence. We have been completing our argumentative essays with grand discussions as students begin to present their arguments developing their public speaking skills. We have had several entries for our Thankful essay contest. Lastly, we have been using writing prompts to develop our writing skills and students have used the acronym RACER to remember how to format their writing pieces.

### **Spanish:**

Students in Spanish 1 have been working on reading, writing and speaking Spanish. We have been using the program Duolingo in the classroom to help us learn at a faster rate. Students stated that it is helping them learn and to stay focused.

### **Physical Education/Health:**

For the month of November, students are working hard in the Health and Physical Education classes. 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, pickleball, and even cardiovascular exercises such as walking and running. For Health we are working in Unit 1: Health and Wellness and are discussing topics such as social and emotional health, mental health, and physical health. Students are learning how to improve themselves in all 3 areas and maintain it for their lives. Students were also treated to 2 special field trips during the month. First trip was to Top Golf in

Edison to experience the newest top of the line golf driving range. On the second trip, students had a blast climbing walls at the Gravity Vault in Chatham.



**Career Exploration:**

Our seniors and post grad students continue a look at the world of work that will impact them after they complete their education. Several of our students have held jobs and we used their experiences to support our conversations about interviews, interview skills, and the general questions that they might ask at an interview. As we look at career clusters, we focused on the jobs offered by the military including their range of benefits. The students were surprised at the large amount of job training that is included in these - and many skills that would be transferable to civilian jobs.

**Pathways/Career Preparation (Post Graduate Program):**

We continued to review resource options for seeking support as independent young adults. We next moved to a discussion about fitness and the importance it plays in regulating our workdays and supporting a healthy mindset. We talked about a range of activities that could easily be inserted into our lives without disrupting our day-to-day activities but still support our fitness needs. The skills necessary to correctly use a checking account were also discussed. These included roles playing activities as they each managed their own register and checkbook.

**Clinical Department:**

During the month of November, the SEL theme of the month was gratitude. Throughout the month in lifeskills the students engaged in different activities where they were able to demonstrate gratitude toward staff and students. Students were extremely engaged and interested in the month's activities such as viewing a short video focusing on the power of gratitude, writing gratitude letters to a special person in their life and identifying specific things they were thankful for. We wrapped up the month by researching the importance of Native American Heritage month and tied the month's theme of gratitude into Thanksgiving. The students shared how they were going to spend them. Thanksgiving holiday weekend and shared what they were most thankful for.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

Westfield Department of Public Works Post Graduate Trip  
Mr. Peter's Turkey Trot

**Professional Development:**



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department: Nonpublic Services</b>	<b>Report Date: 12/2/2022</b>
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**Enrollment:**

**Current Enrollment as of November 30, 2022:**

Total Comp Ed Services: 1,238	<b>Acceptances:</b> N/A
Total Supplemental Instruction Services: 487	<b>Intakes:</b> N/A
Total Speech Services: 172	<b>Disenrollments:</b> N/A

<b>Fire Drill: N/A</b>	<b>Other: N/A</b>
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**Curriculum and Instruction:**

- 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.
- The Nonpublic Nurses continue to assist in maintaining student health records (A-45) and completing specific screens for students' grades k-12.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

**Professional Development**

Each month a nonpublic teacher or group of teachers present an instructional tool or strategy they have had success with. This month, Tracy Monari gave a comprehensive presentation on IXL online learning.





**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Technology	<b>Report Date:</b> 12/7/2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
N/A	
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> N/A	<b>Other:</b> N/A
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Website creation</li> <li>- Internet improvements at Holy Spirit</li> <li>- Multiple projects work at 1571 to prep for 1/2/23 open</li> <li>- Create Staff training on 1571 systems</li> <li>- New VoIP system configuration</li> <li>- Prep for iPad/app deployment</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>	
<b>Professional Development:</b>	



## Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

<b>School/Department:</b> Transportation	<b>Report Date:</b> 12/2/2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
N/A	
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> N/A	<b>Other:</b> N/A
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<p>The Commission's own data submission for the DRTRS was transmitted over the internet to the Department of Education on November 17, 2022.</p> <p>Due to the high volume of late applications and changes in out of district placements still being received by the transportation department, we had a bid opening on December 6, 2022. 23 routes went to bid.</p> <p>The department continues to receive a high number of applications to place students. Due to the school bus driver shortage many students are still waiting for rides. The coordinator is actively soliciting quotes on a daily basis to secure transportation.</p>	
<b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>	
<b>Professional Development</b>	



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Westlake School	<b>Report Date:</b> 11/2/2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 58	<b>Intakes:</b> 0
<b>Acceptances:</b> 0	<b>Disenrollments:</b> 5 Students on wait list who require 1:1 Paras
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> October 28, 2022	<b>Other Lockdown Internal Threat:</b> 10/25/2022

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

**Mr. Carten’s Class:**

This month students have been exposed to traditions, culture and ways of life in the Hispanic community. Jennifer Lopez, Rita Moreno, Cesar Chaves, Sonia Sotomayor, George Lopez, Roberto Clemente is just a few of the famous Latin people studied. Language arts we are working on fact and opinions, capitalizations. In math, students are working on money skills identifying coins, adding various coins and bills which are functional skills needed for independence. Currently, in science we are studying the solar system and the Sun, Mercury, Venus. The students are structuring a model of the finger. Social studies we are learning about the 50 states. California, Colorado have been covered so far this month. During October for bullying and anti-violence month. The students have read about bullying, name calling, respect, and Timmy the tattler. We also had a storyteller relate a story about respect via zoom. In food prep we have made an egg burrito, zombie lips for Halloween. It is made out of apples for the lips, peanut butter or Nutella and put goldfish as the teeth. Other options that were used were almonds or marshmallows. The students enjoyed making the healthy treat.

**Mrs. Convery’s Class:**

Our class was assigned the important task this month of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance through the loudspeaker to the whole school. The students took turns each day (The student who uses a communication device to speak was also able to participate. We programmed four steps into his device, and he seamlessly went from step to step to complete the task.) They did a great job! In the area of academics, the class has been engaged in the topics of money, multiplication and graphing during our math classes. Language Arts classes have been covering reading for comprehension and answering “wh” questions on the material read. We completed a unit on pumpkins. They were the topic of an issue of Scholastic magazine this month. We supplemented the magazine by studying how pumpkins grow, the different parts of the pumpkin and the different colors and sizes of pumpkins. We also learned how giant pumpkins are grown and watched a video of a giant pumpkin boat race. During the Week of Respect, we watched and discussed several videos including one from Sesame Street entitled “Word on the Street” in which all kinds of people, young and old, were asked to define respect. I have used this particular video for several years now, and it remains a timeless classic that we all can relate to from our childhood. The students also studied the Indian holiday of Diwali. We listened to a video, read a book and created our own rangoli using markers and coffee filters.

**Mrs. Fernandez’s Class:**

This month we have been continuing to explore many new concepts and skills in our class. In math, students are practicing identifying numbers, writing numbers, and counting out a specific number from a larger group. Students have used mazes and scavenger hunts to identify the numbers they are learning in their environments. Individually,

students have continued working on their specific programs. These include 1:1 correspondence, touch math, money skills, matching, sorting, etc. In Language arts we have been working on reading comprehension questions and underlining key ideas after listening to a story. Students have been working on increasing their sight word knowledge using the Dolch sight word list. Individually students continue to work on their specific programs which include identifying community safety signs, Edmark reading program, sight word recognition, identifying emotions and actions, etc. We continue to meet daily for our reading group where students read together as a group. In this group they review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing. Students with beginner reading skills are practicing identifying known sight words and/or phrases in the texts we are reading. In Social Studies we are continuing to study different cultures and visit a new country each month. This month we visited Paris, France and we are learning about the Eiffel tower.

#### **Mrs. Gewirtzman's Class:**

This month was filled with Social Emotional Learning for the students in the classroom. During morning meeting time, we worked on various means to greet each other including waving, shaking hands, high fives, using our devices and verbally greeting one another. In Social Studies, we did two different activities, one about personal space where students had to sort examples and non-examples and another about ways to calm our bodies when we are over stimulated. We also learned about fall themes in science and throughout our activities across subject areas, fall and Halloween themes were embedded. Students continued to be assessed using the AFLS assessment this month. Students were assessed in the School Skills portion of the assessment which covers Applied Academics, Social Skills, Common Knowledge, and Core Academics. Using this assessment, Mrs. Gewirtzman has begun to select skills to target to address any gaps or splintered skills each student may have. Students have also continued to practice their independent activity schedules daily. These aim to reduce prompt dependency for students and serve as a pre-requisite for vocational skills they will need to be successful in the future. It also helps students follow multiple step directions and works on sequencing tasks for completion. Mrs. Gewirtzman also attended training this month to be recertified as a Safety Care Trainer as well as lead two Safety Care Recertification training courses.

#### **Mrs. Pajewski's Class:**

During our morning meeting, we reviewed the calendar, reading/language, writing and math skills. In math the students are separated into small groups according to ability. JM and JA are currently working on higher level skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication). The other students are working on basic skills (counting, sorting, classifying and number identification). Together we have focused on geometry. Students have reviewed symmetry, segments and shapes (including spheres, cubes, cones). In reading we have been working on comprehension and sequencing events. JA and JM are focusing on comprehension skills (Reading for Comprehension series). Together we have read stories about Apples and Leaves. Social Studies topics have focused on HiB/Respect and Scholastic magazine. Our magazine topics have included Who is Awake (Owls at night) and Pick a Pumpkin (pumpkin facts). HIB/Respect. We listened to the story Follow Rules and created a list of respectful rules we follow and a video about being kind/respectful to others. We also enjoyed our assembly with the Storyteller. For science we continue to use Mystery Science. We have been studying the topic Animal Biodiversity. The current topic has been frogs (different species), their calls and life cycle. Students have participated through videos, experiments, worksheets and projects. In work readiness students have enjoyed using the laminator to complete jobs for staff, sorting/counting and packaging. This month we welcomed DW to our class. The students seem to enjoy his company

#### **Mrs. Palmer's Class:**

The students have made Halloween candy for the Commission Board meeting, for the Church of the Holy Cross vendor sale, for the North Plainfield Rotary Club and for Ms. Sandroch. Mrs. Palmer went to the board meeting and sold the candy. Ms. Palmer and Ms. Robles went to the church and sold the candy. Ms. Sandroch will pick up her candy on Wednesday. Mr. Emmer has also ordered 100 pops for his business. During this past month the students have been learning about Hispanic cultures and countries. They have read about Peru, Brazil, and Jamaica. Several of the students have come from those countries and enjoyed sharing their heritage. We have colored flags and answer questions about the countries. In the science unit students are learning about the solar system. They have read about Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. We watched videos and color pictures of the planets. In reading we are learning about vocational words. The students have filled out applications and asked people for

references. They have also been reading want ads answering the questions.

#### **Ms. Porchetta's Class:**

In reading we listened to the story Carla's Sandwich written by Debbie Hermen. This gave us an opportunity to discuss tolerance and accepting differences. We also graphed our favorite sandwiches as a math activity. In science we learned about patterns in weather. Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall written by Kenard Park was a perfect follow up story. The students also enjoyed hearing about each other's favorite fall activities. In social studies we focused on this month's SEL theme anti bullying and respect. Classroom rules and the importance of following them were reinforced. Different scenarios were presented, and students determined whether they were respectful or not. They also added their own ideas to the discussion. In vocational students are working on skills in the bead shop tailored to meet their individual learning goals. These include sorting/stringing beads by pattern, bagging items, cutting cards, assembling key chains just to name a few.

#### **Mrs. Robles's Class:**

In October, for SEL, our class watched two read aloud stories entitled, "Take Care of Things" by Cheri J. Meiers any and "Kind Katie" by Lauren D. Cardoso. The class decorated their hands and shared ways they are respectful or kind to their classmates. They also each chose a letter from the word respect and decorated their letter. In Social Group with Mrs. Sandrock, the students identified actions that were kind or ot kind and categorized them on a chart. In Science the students watched two videos - "A Virtual Tour of a Pumpkin Farm" and "A Pumpkin Grows". The students each made a book in which they sequenced the stages of a pumpkin's growth. In Social Studies the students watched a video about supermarket foods and read the chapter about grocery stores in the Attainment Life Skills book. Using pictures, the students identified grocery store foods. In math the students continue to work on sorting by attribute and identifying colors and shapes. They also work on sorting and identifying coins. In language arts the students continue to work on identifying their names and stating their addresses. They also continue to work on categorizing food and clothing items.

#### **Mrs. Shaw's Class:**

In Reading / Language Art: the students worked on WH questions using various RESPECT/Anti-bullying themed story books such as A little respectful spot, and I can follow the rules. In Math, the students focused on solving word problems. The students learned how to identify the actual question and to find keywords. The students also completed Halloween themed math worksheets related to their goals. In Social Studies: the students read and listened to the articles about "We are good citizens" The students had a discussion about how to identify and describe the character traits of a good citizen, as well as understand what makes a good citizen. The students also learned about how Indian and Indian heritage all around the world celebrate Diwali. AL's parents kindly sent traditional Diwali sweets and the students and staff enjoyed tasting them a lot. In Science, the students worked on Halloween themes. The students learned about the facts and life cycle of a bat, and spiders as well as learning about the structure and function of their skulls and skeletons. In Vocational / Life Skills, the students worked on various restaurant skills this month. The students learned how to roll utensils using real napkins and utensils. The students worked on how to order at the restaurant as well as assembling burgers and pizza by customers' specific orders.

#### **Vocational Class:**

This month our students have started participating in their external Work Based Learning experiences. We have 7 students participating at the moment. Our students are going to Olive Garden where they are preparing the restaurant to open for customers. The students are assembling the sugar bowls, cleaning and setting the tables in 2 sections of the restaurant and vacuuming the carpets. We are also going to Walgreens to work on a variety of skills such as checking expiration dates, stocking products, and blocking shelves. One of our students is working with one of our custodians in the school building to vacuum the carpets, change the garbage, and clean the mirrors in the restrooms. Toward the end of the month, we will be completing ShopRite from Home customer orders. Our students have been very excited to begin their Work Based Learning experiences. While they are out in the community students work on problem solving, professionalism, and self-advocacy. They are addressing any initial concerns with their job coach and checking in with me a minimum of 1 time per week. Upon completion of their week students are also submitting job reflection sheets.

#### **Ms. Barnum- Art:**

This month in the art room students have been working on several different fine motor skills, following step by

step directions and creative choice. We started the month with the physical skill of ripping paper. This is a fine motor skill that is both challenging but fun for many of our students. The added challenge is ripping the paper into smaller pieces. This encourages students to persist in making many small pieces to be used for the feathers on our owls. In addition to ripping the paper we incorporated the vocabulary term “texture” to describe the way feathers feel and look.

Students also talked about color theory concepts such as mixing paint colors red and yellow. Students filled out a chart to reinforce their understanding that red and yellow make orange. Then students followed up by mixing paint colors to see it happen in real time. Students progressed in their use of the paint brush since they had prior knowledge and experience painting in the previous month. I observed students holding the brush

Students also worked on their first sculpture project. Students were challenged to build a sculpture that was freestanding by creating and gluing tabs. The process of building a three-dimensional sculpture encourages students to work on precision and patience especially with gluing many parts to make them structurally able to stand. Students painted their sculptures and added small details to personalize it. Students are progressing in learning the classroom procedures during art. I have observed many students complete a task and wait for the next directions.

### **Mr. Shanfield – Physical Education & Health:**

October is here, and it already feels like fall and the holidays are around the corner. This month the students are engaged in so many activities including dance and movement, scooter relay races, track relay races, agility ladder (incorporates the five fitness components). From the first weeks of school until now the students are showing amazing progress in all the activities, we are engaging in. School Spirit, we had a dance and reintroduced student of the month, which all the classes participated in and it was so much fun watching everyone dancing and engaged.

### **Health:**

Health class has been an exciting month where the students worked on the five food groups and healthy eating habits. October is the month of respect and the students worked on a school wide project where they all made banners that could be hung in their classrooms to remind all of us about how to be respectful and kind to one another. During ALL my lessons I promote and encourage Social Emotional Learning to ensure that it’s important to know that everyone is important and is cared about.

### **Behavior Department:**

New students to Westlake have required assessment, observation, data collection materials created and trained on, visuals and other strategies created, trained on and implemented for from the BCBA and RBT. These students include LT, JK, JC, AS and AG. In addition, continuing students who have changed class placements have required some consult from BCBA & RBT from their new teachers or (e.g., AJ M, RM and MM). In addition, new staff has required training by BCBA & RBT—both paraprofessionals and therapists who have changed classroom or student assignments, as well as staff who are new to Westlake (this has included 8 staff members thus far). As of the writing of this report, four Behavior Plans have had to be developed and written. In addition, behavior strategies are being developed for three new students. The behaviorist has participated in these IEP meetings Safety-Care trainer training was completed for all Westlake trainers and several Crossroads trainers. Westlake trainers include both BCBA’s, the RBT and the School Safety & Security Officer. This was a 3-day training (8:30-4:30 two days, and 8:30-12:30 the third day). Trainers are now certified for the next year to teach both High Severity, School-Age and regular training for staff.

### **Social Work:**

Thirteen annual IEPs are due this month, ten of which meetings have already been held. Three of these scheduled meetings have been conducted in-person at the request of parents as we work toward pre-pandemic routines as much as possible. Districts and parents who have been requesting trips into the local community and where indicated, Work Based Learning for their children are happy to know that we have restarted these external programs. Students are excited to be working off site with designated staff. During the “Week of Respect” there has been an all-school effort to have students focus on preventing bullying, harassment and intimidation. A staff meeting was held by ABS to review school efforts to maintain a safe learning environment. Storyteller of thirty

years, Michelle Washington Wilson, entertained and educated staff and students with her stories and songs of multicultural characters offering lessons of respect and non-violence. Social worker has been working with parents to assist in the application process of PerformCare and DDD for their children. This paperwork is a hurdle for many parents but necessary in order to gain access to adult services in the near future. During IEP meetings “Transition” at age 14 is discussed and an overview presented to parents to gain more insight into this unfolding process. Many Districts do not have Transition Coordinators and rely on the social worker to educate parents and assist them. Counseling sessions are held in accordance with the IEP. Several students struggle with increased expectations as demands increase. SEL groups are being conducted utilizing monthly themes to teach skills necessary for success.

### **Occupational Therapy:**

October has been a fun month in occupational therapy. We have been busy incorporating activities for respect and anti-bullying, such as how to be a good friend and having manners, into sessions that also include fine motor, activities of daily living, sensory activities, and life skills. Fall themed activities have been a big part of OT this month. We have been incorporating cooking skills with making caramel apples and toast with jelly. We have been working on fine motor skills with making colorful leaves with tissue paper and making ghosts out of lollipops to “Say Boo to Bullying”. We will finish the month with some schoolwide fun Halloween activities and gatherings for our students. Happy Halloween to All!

### **Speech Therapy:**

Happy October! This month was filled with lots of fall themed fun activities targeting functional communication both inside and outside the classroom setting! The speech department also welcomed a third member into our crew: Kaitlyn Acosta!! Kaitlyn has been a wonderful addition into the department and has helped immensely with facilitating pragmatic language skills within our group sessions. Many initial and annual IEP meetings were held this month (including Victoria’s first in person IEP meeting at Westlake!!). This was a great opportunity to discuss progress made and establish rapport with numerous parents and case managers.

In terms of content, this month the speech department has centered many sessions around anti-bullying, respect, as well as differences between good friends/bad friends. We dedicated many sessions discussing what it means to be a good friend and how we can be respectful both at home and in school. Lessons were differentiated to accommodate the various needs/strengths of the students. Activities include sorting pictures into good friend/bad friend, sorting pictures into respectful/not respectful categories, and having the children create a dialogue of kind and respectful words that they have said to others or that others have said to them. In addition to this theme, the speech department has also been introducing fall/Halloween books to facilitate literacy activities in our sessions (e.g., creepy carrots/there was an old lady who swallowed a bat). These books target skills such as problem solving, discussing solutions to problems, sequencing, auditory recall, and picture ID. The speech department is looking forward to another successful month coming up! We are ready to discuss gratitude, Native American heritage and eating yummy thanksgiving food!

### **PT:**

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 are tracked weekly. Our students have been demonstrating nice progress in PT this month. C.V. increased his balancing on one foot time from 10 seconds to 18 seconds! (This data is tracked regularly for my SGO). I.S. is doing a great job going up and down the stairs. He is now alternating his feet and requires less cues to only hold one rail and stay to one side of the staircase. This month’s theme is respect and anti-bullying. We tried to incorporate these themes into our group PT sessions by working on cheering on our peers, taking turns and helping each other.

### **Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

Students are going out to work at various community settings. Olive Garden, Walgreens, Shoprite and soon students will be opening a food cart at Children’s Specialized and visiting a CBI trip to the Cranford movie Theater

### **Professional Development:**



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Work Readiness Academy	<b>Report Date:</b> 12/6/2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 27 (includes WRA & Project SEARCH) <b>Acceptances:</b> 0	<b>Intakes:</b> 1 (SY 2023-24) <b>Disenrollments:</b> 0
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> 10/28/22 (Level 1)	<b>Other (Specify Type):</b> 10/26/22 (Lockdown/Active Shooter)
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>	
<b>Professional Development:</b>	