



Union County Educational Services Commission
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(Att. 2)

**Report of the Superintendent to the Board of Directors
 June 5, 2019**

WESTLAKE:

Enrollment as of May 23, 2019	Referrals: 12
Actual: 68	Intakes Scheduled: 5
Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 0	Accepted: 0
Fire Drills: May 6, 2019	Emergency Drills: External Threat
Suspensions: 0	May 1, 2019

Westlake has been receiving many intake packets during April and May, four of which are from Jersey City which is a new district to Westlake School. After providing a tour for a group of case managers from Jersey City, they were interested in sending us many potential students. So far, the intakes have been successful with one student currently participating in a three day screening this week.

The Under the Sea prom was a big hit with both staff and students. Everyone enjoyed the new theme this year. The addition of a treasure chest, sunken ship and sea life backdrops added to the atmosphere. A record number of staff volunteered or just dropped in for a glimpse of the students enjoying the food and dancing. This dance proved to be the best yet! The continued generosity of Goldman Sachs was greatly appreciated as the volunteered their time and money to help decorate the event.

Mrs. Palmer, classroom teacher and Mrs. Goodson, SLE teacher took students on a travel training experience with NJTIP where students rode a bus, a train and ate lunch at Kean University. This experience provided students with an opportunity to navigate transportation in the community and become familiar with ways to travel and get around in the future.

The Girl Scouts earned a fun patch sponsored by Goya, the largest Hispanic owned company in the US housed in Jersey City, NJ. Mrs. Palmer's Food science students shopped and purchased all products in the local ShopRite. Utilizing Goya brand products for our rice and beans recipe allowed the troop to cook together and celebrate our diverse customs while finding similarities through food. The students learned interesting cultural facts from paraprofessional, Ms. Jacquie Carter and Girl Scout, Mariah R. who volunteered to lead the exciting workshop.

Students are looking forward to our upcoming Carnival which will be held next week on Thursday, May 30th. Many volunteers from Goldman Sachs will again volunteer to assist with games, face painting and other activities for students.

The Westlake SCIP committee has been working on our PLC presentation for the June board meeting. Ms. Forgione and Ms. Porchetta have both volunteered to present our presentation on June 5th. We are excited to show the board members evidence based data that will bring greater structure to the program in an effort to be consistent and produce academic success for all students.

Language Arts: Mr. Carten's students have been exploring the writing process working on sentence structure. The students also are in a co-op learning experience with Mrs. Flores' class from LMA each Thursday. The LMA students visit our class and read a story and the class then discusses what events happened in the story. It is a wonderful opportunity for social interaction between the students. Feedback has been very positive from both schools with students enjoying their time together.

Math: Mrs. Porchetta's students have counted the contents of each student's wallet and were paid for April's vocational work. This gave up the opportunity to discuss budgeting earnings. Some student's chose to spend some of their money on sales while others are saving it all for our trip to the mall.

Science: In Science, the students continue to work on their long-term solar system projects in Mrs. Convery's class. They have been busy studying facts about each of the planets. The students also are painting each planet as it is studied. The majority of the planets have been completed and the models of the solar system will be assembled and sent home in the near future.

Social Studies: Mrs. Capizzi's class is learning about different communities, places in the community and discussing community helpers. Other students are discussing current events. After watching CNN student news, details were recalled and discussed. All classes worked cooperatively to complete an art activity for our multicultural bulletin board "Many Cultures, One World".

PE: In Physical Education classes, we completed our baseball/softball/whiffle ball unit. Students built their baseball skills and knowledge over the past four (3) weeks by practicing the sport specific skills for baseball/softball/whiffle ball; skills such as throwing both overhand and underhand, hitting, and catching and running the bases. Mr. Moss assesses students in throwing and catching when they practiced with their peers.

Currently in Physical Education, students are participating during whiffle ball games with their peers to allow students to piece together all their sport specific motor skills. At the beginning of the class they run the bases as their warm-up. Students are assessed on pointing to the base and telling me what that base is called. They run out a single, than a double, than a triple, and lastly a home run.

Health Office: At the health office, students' families were consistently contacted through phones calls, notes/letters sent home and emails, as needed, for updated medical information whenever there was change in medication(s), new medication(s) added, and change in the treatment regimen for the students. Also, students' families were contacted for documents and information on students' doctors'/specialists' appointments and/or updated medical/health status. Nurse IJ provided staff training on Narcan/Naloxone administration for Opiod overdose and use in schools.

Pre Voc - Work Readiness - Students have been self-assessing and working in peer groups. They are showing improvement and they are willing to learn and improve on their skills. So far this month 12 Good News awards have been sent home. Four students have showed improvement increasing skill level and staying focused on their task. Awards were given out to those students for showing good work ethics and positive peer interactions.

Graphic Arts: Mrs. Pajewski's class is in graphic arts this marking period. Mrs. Casey has reviewed all the safety concerns, equipment, materials and what is expected in the class. Students will be exposed to sorting colors, sizes, content, counting, checking inventory, organizing the clothes closet, cutting rags and boxing orders. Students will learn the proper way to clean and use a screen and regulate water in the hose and faucet. A paraprofessional has assisted in the inking process of the yearly job for Kawameeh/ Burnett Middle School, Union. Students are also updating orders for any Westlake student and staff shirts needed for School Spirit day. Incoming jobs are Westlake Carnival bags. Embroidery students learned how to put a towel on a

hoop. They made a sample Monogrammed hand towel. Incoming embroidery samples for store include: WL shirts, personalized towels, blankets and hats.

Individual student instruction focuses on students working on Carnival tasks. All classes will contribute to the carnival day by creating a game, lending a game or making decorations for the Carnival. Some of the classes have been purchasing items needed for the day when they go on their CBI trips. Other classes are focusing on Goldman Sachs thank you favors. Banners made by Mr. Carten's class and laminated by Pajewski's will be used for decorations. Mrs. Convery's class will be cutting up ribbons for balloons and sorting out game content labeling bags. Students are taking inventory of damaged carnival games from the leaks in the shed.

Horticulture: Mrs. Capizzi's class has started to go outside to clean up the garden from the winter months. They are getting the garden ready for planting next week when our volunteers will come from Mazar's Accounting Firm to help student's plant vegetables and flowers. So far students have baby plants growing in our classroom that will be planted outside and herbs that we have grown from seed that we will sell.

Post Office/Print Shop: The Print Shop has completed a few smaller projects (copies) this month. Students also continue to, work on our office kits and various jobs received from the main office (copies, shredding, and mail sorting/delivery).

Sweet Shoppe: The students have made chocolates for two orders, one for a communion and a very large graduation order. Students are now finishing a 90 birthday pop order. The students have just started working on the graduation pops for Hillcrest South and Westlake School. During this month we also had the Mother's Day sale and we are now getting ready for Father's Day. Mrs. Palmer buys the candy supplies at Candy Land Crafts in Raritan and has been asked by the owner to display the student's candy products. Everyone who has seen our candy is very impressed. The students have also made the favors and punch and dip for the prom. This week the students went to Shoprite to purchase food for the carnival.

Jewelry: Our jewelry shop continues with students making earrings, bracelets and other items that they design themselves. Some of the products they made were sold at the Mother's Day Sale and other items are on display in the school store which can be purchased from our students.

Décor Dream Shop: In vocational class, DécorDream Shop, the students made soap for the Mother's Day sale. The students made 3 different scents which were lavender, honey, and coffee. The students are currently working on making more soap for the volunteers from the accounting firm. For the wooden signs, the students completed signs for the UCESC retirees and Hyatt employee orders. The students continue working on personalized orders as well as signs for the Jersey City Board of Education.

Life Skills: In Life Skills class, the group A classes learned how to balance a check register book. The students discussed why they need to record in the check register book and how to fill out the 8 parts of a check register accurately. The students had a chance to practice and complete the 8 parts of a check register book and a test followed. For the group B classes, the students learned how to fill out a job application form.

Retail: The students held a Mother's Day sale of inexpensive items for students to buy for their mothers or grandmothers. The students prepared two special napkin orders-one for a First Holy Communion and another for a bridal shower. They also made 24 bags of dog biscuits that were donated to an animal rescue fundraiser. It was reported that they were a big hit and raised a lot of money for the organization.

Therapies: Speech: This month, we have collaborated with colleagues to plan and implement OT/Speech and ADL support groups. Students worked on apartment tasks, participated in an obstacle course to focus on prepositional concepts, and prepared various snack foods. Students also participated in group activities where they sorted recyclables, and a scavenger hunt to find butterfly puzzle pieces.

In individual and group speech sessions, students worked on following directions, vocabulary development, association and classification, making requests, taking turns, and social interaction skills. Students worked on using their communication devices to engage in class activities, interact with their peers, and answer and ask questions.

Occupational Therapy: The occupational therapists continue to collaborate with teachers and classroom staff regarding the sensory needs of their students and provide necessary equipment and training. Groups this year have been extremely beneficial for students to work on hygiene, yoga and life skills.

Social Work: Parents of graduating seniors have been contacted throughout this month to encourage their efforts to secure over 21 placements for their adolescents upon graduation from Westlake. Separating from Westlake is difficult for the graduate as well as for their family members and requires added emotional support from staff. We have been in regular contact with Child Study Teams, Transition Coordinators, and DDD and DVRS members to finalize exit IEP plans.

A School safety team meeting was held with parent representative, Ms. E. A number of safety precautions to avert crisis were put into place this school year to ensure student and staff safety. With the addition of the School Safety Monitor position, Westlake is now better equipped to address internal and external issues that can arise throughout the school day.

Clinical meetings with Dr. Amy, Nurse IJ, Behaviorists and Social Workers have greatly assisted the team when discussing the emotional and behavioral concerns of select students who are prescribed psychotropic medication. Dr. Amy has been in contact with several prescribing doctors to discuss the need for medication adjustments based upon parent report and school behavioral data. The Social worker utilizes a google doc log to update key team members on pertinent case management due to meeting time constraints.

Behaviorist: May has continued with two students, having a three-day trial period in Westlake classrooms. The intake visit as well as packets revealed possible behavioral issues for both students, so Mrs. Salvatore was involved in one intake and will consult during the 3-day trials.

Behavior intervention plans have continued to be written and updated this month, for four students. Behaviorists were both involved in writing, updating and modifying behavior plans, and participated in all of their IEP meetings. These students were observed, written assessments completed with teacher input, and data collected, inputted and graphed for all. All four BIPs displayed some progress in the behavioral domain. Mrs. Salvatore met with the teachers of these students to suggest at least one behavioral goal/objective for each IEP.

Biweekly consultation meetings have continued with teachers and therapists as needed (at times more frequently). The meetings provide an instructional review to offer feedback on the level of difficulty of work, amount of work, amount of engagement time, or other factors related to the behavior and/or student success in school. Crisis calls that are unscheduled continued to occur this month, along with team meetings with consulting psychiatrist Amy Borg-Glickman.

Crisis calls, consulting and training review has continued for students having difficulty behaviorally. Mrs. Salvatore has observed, met with teachers and therapists and trained paraprofessionals in various procedures for students.

Westlake Mission Statement

Westlake School is dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing, positive environment by emphasizing high expectations for all students, fostering independence, encouraging confidence and a collaborative commitment to functional academic excellence.

LAMBERTS MILL ACADEMY:

<p>As of May 2019</p> <p>LMA Actual: 43 LMA District - Non-New Point: 38 New Point Specialty at LMA: 5 Changes: <u>5</u> Entered: <u>4</u> Non-NP & <u>1</u> NP Pending: <u>7</u> Exited: <u>0</u> Non-NP & <u>0</u> NP</p> <p><u>Trinitas Hospital :</u> Bedside Instruction: 30 (inpatient) Day Program: 58 Approved-Agreement signed: 65 Classified: 29 Regular Ed: 36</p>	<p>Fire Alarms: 0 Fire Drills: 1 May Fire Drill on Fri, 5/3/19, at 1:30. Security Drills: 1 (Bomb Threat Drill) Wednesday, 5/1/19, at 1:45</p> <p>Suspension out of school: 4 In School Suspension: 0 HIB: 0</p> <p><u>Referrals in May: 20</u> Intakes Scheduled: 20 Completed: 20 Acceptance Letter Sent: 20 Sending District Accepted LMA placement: <u>7</u> Placement Pending : 3</p>
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Administration

Due to the nature of Lamberts Mill Academy’s students’ demographics, it was necessary to initiate and implement a month-wide celebration for Mental Health Awareness Month (May). The entire month was focused on mental health, disorders, bringing awareness, and breaking the stigma. LMA incorporated activities, lessons, and teachable moments into every aspect of our routines including Lifeskills group therapy, electives, art, the academic curriculum, and school-wide games.

Each Lifeskills group brought awareness to their set of students by providing information concerning mental health disorders and creating an interactive, informative presentation to showcase their knowledge to the entire school. The first presentation was a general overview of the facts versus fiction regarding mental health disorders. During the question and answer segment, students were brave enough to share their personal experiences with mental health and provide suggestions on how each one of the students could help by making little changes that would elicit powerful impacts. The discussion and outpourings from the students was so fruitful, motivating, and enlightening that the students all left feeling empowered that they could #breakthestigma.

The following presentation focused on LGBTQX awareness and acceptance and how mental health is often affected by one’s perception of acceptance or judgment from others. The students decorated the cafeteria and pinned one another with the LGBTQX symbols. The next group’s presentation focused on celebrities who also suffered from mental health disorders, inclusive of those who may have expressed and/or acted upon suicidal ideations. LMA students led a school-wide discussion about how wealth and material things affected or were ineffective in treating mental health disorders and what things do actually help to treat their mental health. The final group presentation was a school-wide Jeopardy game where the students answered difficult questions regarding the facts and knowledge they have learned all month. The winning team won ice cream.

In addition to the group therapy presentations, the staff were presented with a handout and small discussion regarding trauma nuggets. The specific focus was to bring further awareness to the staff that students with long-term trauma often are coupled with frontal lobe damage to their brains. This brain damage affects students with trauma abilities to control their impulses, behaviors, and decision-making skills. The staff felt that this new information truly helped build an understanding of the kinds of challenges our students are struggling with in terms of behavioral with their disorders.

The NJSLA state-testing officially began on May 14th, 2019 at LMA. The testing weeks were truly successful as the testing students really showed true effort and diligence during their participation with the exams. The non-testing students showed great patience and compassion for those who were testing. We are extremely proud of the cooperation and self-regulation demonstrated by all of our LMA students during the testing window.

As we approached Memorial Day, a presentation by a United States Army Sergeant was given to the students. Sergeant Walsh met with our LMA students to explain the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day and answer any questions regarding the military. The students especially like the physical fitness challenge where they tried on actual Army equipment and performed push-ups. Winners and volunteers were awarded authentic patches from veterans who served abroad.

CROSSROADS:

Enrollment as of May 24, 2019 Actual: 48 Changes:0 Entered: Exited: 0	Referrals: 0 Intakes Scheduled: 0 Accepted: 0
Fire Drills: 5/19/19	Emergency Drills: 5/10/19

Allison Gebler’s Classroom 102

In Allison Gebler’s class, Room 102, the thematic unit continued to focus on spring, including life cycles, plants, weather and appropriate clothing. Students learned about the life cycle of plants through gardening lessons. As a gift for Mother’s Day, each student planted flowers for their moms and grandmothers. Students completed a variety of activities during Circle Time related to the different weather seen during spring and discussed the clothing and accessories necessary for the rain, heat and sun.

To develop math skills, students completed activities to improve visual perceptual skills. The students matched colors to develop a garden of paper flowers, followed measurements on a visual recipe to create cups of dirt snacks, and sequenced the numbers of the month on the calendar during Circle Time.

Room 102’s Star Student, Karan, is adjusting to his new school by participating in parallel play with peers, demonstrating knowledge of the location of his classroom, and practicing manding using a PECS communication book.

The best part of this month was preparing for the PineWood Derby. The students are also really looking forward to the carnival next month!

Consuelo Alzate’s Pre-School Disabled Classroom 103

Spring has sprung in our Preschool classroom this month, with the thematic unit being “Spring fever and Mother’s Day”. The class went on an exciting adventure to the Turtle Back Zoo. The students identified and

interacted with zoo animals in their habitat. They practiced social skills such as waiting in line, taking turns and tolerating crowds of age level peers from the community. Not only did the students do well with the changes to their daily routine, they also walked for long stretches of pathways between animals and dealt with crowds of children without overreacting.

Individually, Jose was able to adjust to loud noises and tolerate people all around him. Ezequiel was able to look around and explore his environment going through tunnels and up and down steps. Dilan was able use single words to label animals. Lyla was able to wait her turn while standing on a long line for the train the ride. Sebastian was able to identify some of the zoo animals. Rasheed was able to stay awake and walked all the way around the zoo without requesting to be picked up and carried.

Briana Gallo's Classroom 104

In the area of English Language Arts students participated in interactive books about Memorial Day, Mother's Day, and the Zoo. The students took turns reading the books while cutting and pasting PECs that go along with the story.

Students are gaining math skills by practicing counting money and adding with the new Star Fall app. Students enjoyed using TouchMath to solve problems on the app and all the fun rewards that the app gives.

Social skill development is important and students worked on sharing and turn taking. The students practiced taking turns while playing with musical instruments and their favorite toys, such as Break the Ice and Wiggle Giggle.

This month Ms Gallo's class went on a field trip to the Zoo. Students had a great time seeing the different animals! Their favorite part was taking a train ride around the entire Zoo.

Room 104's Star Student is, George. This month George has really improved his ability to follow directions and interact with his peers. His conversational language with his classmates has grown and he's been doing a great job following visual schedules.

Anna Garrison's Classroom 105

The class discussed Cinco de May and read an adaptive book that allowed students to interact by matching the icons with the correct pages. The students really enjoyed learning about the holiday, especially when they participated in the Salsa/Dip cooking contest. For Mother's Day, student's discussed the different ways they can show appreciation for their Mom's and/or the special women in their lives. They worked hard on making cards and gifts to bring home!

Stephen Goham's Classroom 106

The students continued to strengthen their knowledge of a plant's life cycle. They are now able to name, locate, and describe various parts of the system such as soil, seed, roots, stem, leaves, bud, bloom, and flower. Each student planted several different types of seeds in their own individual pots and will observe and record the phases. They also have been tracking the growth and development of their "chia pets."

Room 106 has two star students this month. Samuel and Angel have been initiating appropriate social interactions with peers, staff, and unfamiliar people. When coming face to face with others, or in passing throughout various situations, both students will offer a nice "hello," "have a nice day," "see you later," etc.

They have been working on greeting others by first name, making eye contact, maintaining appropriate space & proximity, and tone of voice.

Lindsay DeNigris' Classroom 108

Several thematic units were discussed this month. The students completed a writing sample about what they did over the break. While some students wrote their responses, others selected pictures to help communicate what they did, who they saw, and what they ate. The class started off the new month by talking about and celebrating Cinco de Mayo. The students engaged in reading and matching a Cinco de Mayo interactive story. They used their fine motor skills to rip up red, white, and green paper to make the Mexican flag.

The next area of focus was all about flowers. Students learned about the parts of a flower and what flowers need to grow. They read an interactive story about the lifecycle of a flower and created their own flowers using the parts they learned about. For Mother's Day, they discussed all the different ways they show their mom's how much they appreciate them. Each student decorated a flower pot with their hand prints. After they were dry, the students put soil and seeds into their pots, placed the pots in a sunny spot by the window and the students were able to water their flowers and watch them grow. As they wrap up the flower unit, students will begin to focus on the lifecycle of a butterfly and Memorial Day. They will read adaptive books for both units, explore what they mean, and have fun engaging in several arts and crafts activities.

Room 108 student of the month is Danyael! He has made significant progress using his Picture Exchange Communication System. Danyael does an amazing job using his PECS to communicate when he would like to eat or drink during meal times. He has also been doing extremely well with life skills, such as using a spoon and fork, washing his hands, and using the bathroom.

Christine Witte's Middle School Classroom 109

May was a very exciting month for room 109. Students started learning about life cycles. During a field trip to the Great Swamp at Lord Stirling Park, students observed pond life and different animals in preparation for the life cycle unit. They found caterpillars, tadpoles, frogs, many insects, aquatic birds and songbirds.

In the classroom, students started incubating chicken eggs. In preparation for this exciting event, they learned all about eggs and chickens. In math, they learned about the appropriate temperature settings in the incubator and monitored and compared the temperature each day. They also checked for the humidity level. They counted, compared and did some general math with different eggs. The class read about the chicken development, wrote about the life cycle of a chick and made their own silly chicken stories. Some students wrote paragraphs, while others created a story using picture symbols. In science they examined eggs and looked at all the parts of an egg through magnifying glass. They tested different eggs to see which one was hard boiled or raw, fresh or old. They also tested physics laws and used a water bottle filled with water to suck out the inside of an egg, and finally they made "naked eggs", dissolving the calcium in the eggshell with vinegar.

Susan Parenti's Middle School Classroom 110

The Cinco de Mayo holiday provides the perfect opportunity to teach children about Mexican history, culture and traditions in a fun way. The class discussed how the holiday is celebrated with parades, dancing and special foods. Students listened to an informational story about Mexico, located the country on the map and answered Wh questions. They also followed a recipe to make sombrero cookies.

The students also learned about Memorial Day and how we honor and remember all those brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our country. They listened to a story and watched a short video,

followed by reading comprehension questions and participating in a Memorial Day flag activity. Each child made a flag which is displayed in the classroom.

Natalia Amador's Middle School Classroom 111

For the month of May room 111 explored many interesting topics. The students discussed the important role their mothers play in their lives by reading books, watching educational videos, and making crafts including beautiful bath salts, cards, and edibles. Students were able to use their higher thinking skills to write mom a personalized poem pertaining to familiar events and experiences.

For Memorial Day, students explored the history behind this day by reading books, making crafts and talking about traditional activities we all do during this important day. They extended this lesson in science by making poppy flowers and windsocks.

So far in PreVoc, students have worked on completing Ellison orders, sorting magazines, doing laundry, collecting recyclables, taking utensil orders and kitchen inventory. This month, the students are working on office supply orders and restocking the soda machine. At this point, all students are able to complete their required prevocational task with minimum assistance.

For science and social studies, the middle school teachers continue to rotate classes to teach thematic units about the life cycle of butterflies, ladybugs, and frogs. We were able to extend the life cycle lessons by taking a trip to the Great Swamp Visitor Center. The students visited a pond and fish to see different animal life, while also learning about plants and their role in the ecosystem.

All students continue to work on their direct instruction and VB-MAPP goals, and in addition, began DLM testing. Josh has shown progress with his WH questions, subtraction with regrouping, and place value. Jefferson is working on the structure of a sentence, asking people questions, and answering questions using a complete sentence. Uthmaan is working on his money skills and sight word reading. DJ is learning how to use flashcards as a study method for multiplication and definitions. He is also working on reading comprehension and fluency. Luis is working on his communication skills outside of the classroom, following directions that require him to interact with others, and also practicing typing.

Speech Therapy Department

Two new students, Robert and Karan, have joined the Crossroads family this past month, and have transitioned nicely to the therapy environment. Elaina is working hard to improve her auditory comprehension skills by repeating directions before following them. Angel is able to answer a variety of questions accurately regarding his personal information.

Themes we have been focusing on this month include flowers, Mother's Day and good listening. May is Better Speech and Hearing Month, and an emphasis on listening to others makes for better communication for all.

Occupational Therapy Department

During May our OT department created games using Easter Eggs, including movement games involving bilateral integration and following directions. It was challenging for some of our students to use both of their hands together grasping pom poms between two egg halves attached to the end of 12" dowels. One of our students participated in creating written directions for movement activities which were hidden inside eggs and used in an "egg hunt" motor activity.

Our therapists continue to meet with our classroom teachers to improve collaboration, as well as monthly departmental collaboration with the Westlake OT department. Increasing student to student social interaction during OT group sessions continues as well, as part of our ongoing effort to incorporate learning gained during our two day visit and professional development day with Dr Paul Callahan.

We are anxiously awaiting installation of our Sensory Path which was recently awarded in a grant to Dina Almeida. Donations were made to the Westlake Clothing Drive as well as the Foundation Dinner Baskets of Fun by Kim VanLiew.

HILLCREST ACADEMY SOUTH:

<p>Enrollment as of 5/23/19 Actual: 96 Changes: 6 Entered: 3 Exited: 3; 2 GED and 1 peer assault Suspensions: 2; 1 aggression towards staff, 1 disruption and left school.</p>	<p>Intakes Pending General Ed.: tbd Intakes Pending Sp. Ed.: tbd Interviews are scheduled in Elizabeth on 5/30 and 6/10.</p>
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Ms. Gronert, the shared Guidance Counselor, prepared the students and staff to take the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA). Ms. Gronert trained the staff at Hillcrest Academy South Campus (HAS) on the state’s testing rules and regulations. The Guidance Counselor worked alongside the English teachers and Ms. Dattilo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, to ensure the testing procedures were followed carefully. Ms. Gronert also reviewed the testing tools and practice tests with each student. The Guidance Counselor collaborated with administration to create a conducive testing schedule for the students and staff. In addition, Ms. Gronert met with each potential graduate to ensure they are on track to graduate and are completing their credit retrieval courses.

The Tuesday School Spirit Day continued to be a success and the thematic events were planned by students. Due to multi-week state testing, comfortable clothes/pajamas day was the most voted theme day.

Ms. Gilchrist, the Social Worker, continued to attend the monthly DCP&P/ HIB meetings. She completed reports and monitored students as well as identified new students for specialized services. Ms. Gilchrist has met with Dr. Glickman, District Psychiatrist, and completed treatment plans for the 20018-2019 school year. The Social Worker discussed June/ August graduation with all aspiring seniors. Credit retrieval continued on Mondays and Wednesdays for all students who should be focused on their last subject. Additionally, the after school pilot advanced math course continued to assist students in their fourth year math class in order to help them graduate this year.

May was an exciting month for the HAS Community Service Program (HASCSP). Select students from HAS attended the 2019 Junior Achievement Career Readiness Workshop held at the corporate headquarters of Allstate. During the program, students participated in interactive group sessions led by corporate executives. These sessions were designed to teach students the skills they need in order to embark upon their careers after HAS. We were extremely grateful to both Junior Achievement and Allstate of New Jersey for the grant they provided to make this outstanding opportunity possible.

HAS seniors were busy wrapping up their required community service hours for graduation. In honor of Memorial Day, students visited the Veteran’s Memorial Home in Edison. During the visit, students mingled with the veterans and their families. Additionally, the HASCSP supported the Commission-wide “Jeans for Troops Day” by hosting a fundraiser to benefit the GI Go Fund organization. This nationwide event was designed to raise awareness of the needs of veterans returning home from their service to our country. All

proceeds from this event will be used by this nonprofit organization to help returning veterans find employment, housing, health care and educational opportunities.

Ms. Cioffi's English classes continued with Unit 3 of the English curriculum. Classes started the unit by reviewing the skills that overlap in Unit 1 and 3. Students reviewed skills such as characterization, point of view, and theme. Lessons also focused more deeply on tone, mood, figurative language, symbolism, and connotation of word choices. Lessons concentrated heavily on students reading passages from plays and poems then practicing the skills with these texts. Students had a review of figurative language and began working on the tasks for the Unit 3 English Project Based Assessment during the last week of May.

Ms. Holden's English students prepared for and took the state required NJSLA. In addition, students read and analyzed several poems by Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, and Shakespeare. Students studied characterization, point of view, theme, and tone in these famous authors' poems in preparation for the English Unit 3 Assessment in which students will create a slide presentation on poetry. In commemoration of Memorial Day, students read and analyzed *In Flanders Field* by John McCrae and completed a Webquest on Memorial Day.

Ms. Wrzesinski's U.S. History I, U.S. History II, and World History classes demonstrated critical thinking and analytical skills through the evaluation of primary and secondary sources. Sources included artwork, primary and secondary texts, as well as audio/video elements. Students were able to evaluate various events from the past and compare them with events in the present by reading and analyzing standard aligned current event informational texts as a means of better preparing them to develop and implement thoughtful solutions to personal, community, and societal issues of the present and future. U.S. History I students analyzed topics related to the events that led up to the Civil War such as Slavery. This included slave ships, the slave trade, slave auctions, treatment of slaves, abolitionists, the Underground railroad, the differences between the North and South fighting the Civil War, and the specific battles involved. U.S. History II students analyzed the main battles of WWII such as D-day. Students also looked at the differences between the Allied and Axis powers and their motivations. Also, the atomic bomb, concentration camps, Hitler's final solution, and finally the outcome of the war. Modern World History students analyzed primary and secondary documents related to their Genocide unit. Specifically, students looked at the Rwandan and Darfur genocides, read survivor stories, looked at firsthand accounts, read primary sources about the Declaration of Human Rights, and compared and contrasted these genocides to the Holocaust.

Ms. Duarte's students continued to study WWII and the idea of hatred as they delved into a study of The Holocaust. Students concluded the viewing of the film *The Pianist* and reflected on the lasting implications this momentous event has had on the world. Most importantly, students came to an understanding of the need to be up standers in moments of injustice. In Economics students looked at the increasing instability of the US economy and engaged in an article analysis where they studied the debate with regard to the minimum wage. Students used the articles to write position papers and create political cartoons expressing one of the positions.

Ms. Scheetz's Art students began their "special projects" unit in sewing which was possible through a UCESC grant awarded last year. Students began learning the basics of hand sewing. They learned to thread a needle, change colors, knot thread, and practiced a variety of stitches. They created a sampler with running stitch, back stitch, whipstitch, Xs, slashes, and quilting edging. Students were also introduced to cross stitching and taught how to follow a pattern to create tiny objects on cross stitch fabric. Students applied their knowledge of stitches to design a mini embroidery project where they used the thread like lines in drawing, a mini cross stitch pattern or a combination of both. Students drew with thread to create the outlines of such things as words, flowers and cartoon characters using either solid or dashed lines. Many students designed mini embroidery in the theme of Mother's Day which included both words and images.

Ms. Ferrari's math students worked diligently on preparing for the NJSLA. They completed a Do Now daily that included an application of the NJSLA mathematics reference. In addition, they received practice using the school's TI-84 to solve the multi-step problems. The geometry students completed the Geometry Computer-Based Practice Test Unit 1. The class covered many difficult concepts which include changing degrees to radians, equations of circles, similarity, transformations, and two column proofs. The constant reinforcements about the importance of reading and comprehending each question will hopefully yield positive results. The algebra students worked on a number of concepts that were on the NJSLA Computer-Based Practice Test. The concepts include adding and subtracting polynomials, multiplying polynomials including using the F.O.I.L method, solving polynomials in factored form, and factoring quadratic equations. It seemed imperative to cover these concepts before giving the students class-time to complete the Algebra Computer-Based Practice Test Unit 1. Geometry students started a unit on Quadrilaterals after testing. They used venn diagrams to sort all of the special quadrilaterals. They completed various worksheets using logic to compare the different quadrilaterals. They also discussed the variations parallelograms formed by a scissor lift and the correlation the parallelograms have with the height of the scissor lift. A scissor lift often found on movie sets is used to film scenes from different heights. Algebra students started a unit on quadratic equations and formulas. They studied the concept solving a quadratic formula using square roots. The students also enjoyed learning about complex numbers.

Mr. Sobieniak's students in Algebra II focused on learning properties of logarithmic functions. They also learned how to simplify logarithmic expressions and to solve logarithmic equations. Students in Probability and Statistics classes learned properties of discrete random variables. They also learned to calculate the expected value and variance of random variables and properties of cumulative distribution functions. Students investigated many real life applications problems. The students of Success Seminar/Math Strategy class utilized Khan Academy to improve their algebraic skills. Students of all mathematics classes used Khan Academy to improve their algebraic skills on Fridays. The after school advanced math course has been successful thus far.

Mr. Grez's science classes continued their in-depth studies of multiple scientific concepts. Environmental Science students completed studies of the formation of the Earth and its layers. Moving on from genetics, Biology students completed a project that had them designing travel brochures on specific ecosystems of their choosing. Computer Science students finished coding their own personal websites using HTML and associated tags. Next month, Biology students will continue their studies of ecosystems and how specific animals share adaptations based on their geographic locations. Environmental Science students will be studying the water cycle and its specific interactions with weather formation. Computer Science students will begin studying Java and associated sprites.

In Forensics students learned about toxicology and pharmacology. Students reviewed the basics of pharmacokinetics and how physiology affect drug dosage. They also learned how different dosages and duration of the same drug can have different impacts as well as treat different diseases. An example was used with aspirin to explain how a low dose for a long duration for heart health versus a high dose over a short term for headaches. They learned about the difference between an effective dose, toxic dose, and lethal dose (LD50). The class discussed how to calculate drug dosages in kg.

The student's in Mr. Barone's Physical Education classes completed their unit on volleyball. Students were then introduced to a unit on wiffleball. Many of the students were looking forward to this unit because it coincides with the major league baseball season which started a little over a month ago. The students practiced batting for both right-handed and left-handed batters, fielding, and overall rules of the game. The students were then involved in modified game play. During Health, students continued with their unit on CPR and First-Aid. Not only did this unit complete a graduation requirement but it gave all students at Hillcrest the opportunity to gain and practice this life-saving skill.

Ms. Rubin, School Nurse and Health education teacher, assisted with daily and exit/entry procedures. The School Nurse made calls to all of the absent students' parents each day as well as compiled attendance letters for students with excessive absences. When the secretary was absent, the Nurse input the absentees into PowerSchool. The Nurse saw an average of 15-18 students for health concerns each day. The HAS Nurse took a CPR class at the Commission and received her recertification. An audit of the health records was completed by the township of Westfield on 5/9/19. Ms. Rubin and Ms. Ferrari ran the School Store three times this month during the student lunch periods. The students earn community service credit for helping with the school store and receive credit to purchase items for each full week they attend school. Ms. Rubin donated many gifts to the UCESF event and attended the reception on 5/16/19. In Health classes, the students learned hands-only CPR and practiced on the CPR mannequins received from a UCESF grant.

Please visit the HAS Instagram (http://Instagram.com/ucesc_has) page to learn more about our school.

HILLCREST ACADEMY NORTH:

<p>Enrollment as of: 5/29/19 Actual: 90 Changes: Entered: 2 Exited: 1 Assault on school bus</p>	<p>Referrals : 2 referral appointments Drills: Fire Drill: 5/21/19 Lockdown: 5/29/19</p>
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May has been a busy month in the social work office. Ms. Goldenberg has spent a large portion of her time working with seniors on credit retrieval, community services hours, and ensuring that they will meet graduation requirements. Mr. Marquet and Ms. Goldenberg have met with all 33 seniors regarding their graduation status and will continue to do so. As an advocate team, staff continues to update the student advocate document and has restarted the morning meetings in order to provide surround sound report to students, particularly seniors.

A group of students, with Ms. Goldenberg and Ms. Depetris accompanying them, visited the Hillside Community Center for The Prom Boutique Program where they selected dresses to wear to their proms. It was a very special day! The students were very thankful to Hawaiian Epps, a UCESC board member who facilitated the trip.

Students at Hillcrest Academy North spent two weeks taking the NJSLA assessments. Our exam proctors have commented on the professionalism and resilience our students showed. Prior to coming to Hillcrest North, many of our students suffered from low self-esteem in testing situations, stemming from a variety of different causes. Their success on this test is a testament to how far our students have come since enrolling at our school. Above all, we believe our students have proved to themselves that they CAN do well in testing situations. While some students were testing NJSLA, others were working to make progress on their credit retrievals or accumulating Community Service hours.

In Social Studies, students focused on 'realpolitik'. Students did this by focusing on why governments do what they do. This was done by examining Lincoln's reasoning on slavery. As a class, they broke down various articles on the topic. Students then analyzed how the "North" and "South" came to war and why that happened. Students also continued to improve their writing and researching skills and completed a final assessment using the Google classroom.

Students in Mr. Reichman's chemistry classes have recently been working with the current model of the atom. This is a quantum mechanical model that treats electrons as waves spread out over space instead of particles orbiting the nucleus like the Moon around the Earth. This model requires a certain amount of

metaphysical and philosophical thinking, and in discussions on this topic the students practiced our monthly Social Emotional Learning and Character Development topic and listening skills. Students learned about quantum numbers and how they specify energies and locations of electrons around atomic nuclei, and learned three different systems for tracking these electron configurations. Students in chemistry will be using electron configurations to learn and predict patterns in the periodicity of properties of elements. The students also learned how these properties lead to the spectrum of different types of bonding that result in the multitude of chemical compounds that exist or can be synthesized.

In Health class this month, students learned about road safety, distracted driving and how to obtain a driver's license in NJ. The nurse attended the 2019 NJ Immunization Conference at Rutgers University on May 29th. The focus of the conference was the fundamentals of immunization.

In Physical Education students finished the Soccer Unit and are now working in the Baseball Unit. Students have shown an interest in both of these sports and activities. The Physical Education teacher has also incorporated fitness stations during the "Do Now" of every lesson.

After NJSLA testing was complete, students in Algebra 1 & 2 reviewed previous curricula with cumulative jeopardy games in class during make-up testing days. Mrs. Machado began her last units of her courses to help build up to end-of-year project based curriculum assessments. Mrs. Machado's classes enjoyed weekly scholastics current event articles to discuss fun topics like *Avenger's: Endgame* box offices prices and *Air Conditioning Btus Usage Worldwide* to continuously connect math in their day-to-day life.

Probability & Statistics classes are distinguishing the number of arrangements that can be made using any number of items. The key is recognizing where order matters or doesn't, if there are any repeats or not and using all the choices or just some. Students are amazed to see how many ways a student can be chosen from a class to be brought on a trip.

In Spanish, after testing, students have been reviewing learned structure and vocabulary to prepare for the two remaining units to complete the curriculum. The review includes formal and informal assessments.

In English, students continued with Unit 3: Poetry by analyzing poems, comparing and contrasting multiple poems, and comparing poems to artwork. In Creative Writing, students started learning about Socratic Seminars and Literature Circles. They learned what they are and how to conduct one. They reviewed annotation, questioning, dialoguing, and reflecting. Students then picked a book, created a Group Tracker to determine how many pages they will read and who will be the leader of the group.

For the remainder of the school year we look forward to working with seniors to ensure that they meet graduation requirements and are prepared for life after high school. We will also continue to oversee the advocate program to give support to our underclassmen. Last, we will use our extended day meeting time for the month of June to prepare and goal set for the 2019-2020 school year with a strong focus on Social Emotional Learning. We plan on finishing strong!

TRANSITION SERVICES:

Work Readiness Academy Individual Student Enrollments: 12

Project SEARCH-Overlook Medical Center Enrollment: 9

Westlake School (Job Academy): 12

Lamberts Mill Academy (Job Academy): 5

Sub-Contracted SLE Programs with UC School Districts: 3 (Plainfield, Elizabeth, and Summit)

Students in the **Work Readiness Academy** continue to participate in the second rotation internship experiences. Students are placed in one experience two days per week and a second experience one day per week.

Highlights from the classroom this month included:

Google Sites- Students gained an understanding of how websites are used to share information, how to be creative and organized, and how to insert pictures and videos.

Each class was responsible for collaborating on a “team” Google Site. Each group decided on the subject matter of their Google Site (i.e. Amazon group chose musical bands and Samsung chose actors). Each student was responsible for a page of the site which needed to include a background picture, 3 pictures of the subject matter, and 2-3 videos from Youtube.

Person Centered Planning Student Brochures- Students are in the beginning stages of identifying various strengths, values, characteristics, needs, and goals they have. Identifying these traits will help the students gain a better understanding of themselves, which they can then share with a potential employer. These identified descriptions will then be transferred into a brochure that can be shared when the students go on job interviews.

Taking Criticism, Doing Grunt Work, How to Be Seen As Someone With Potential, and Making the Boss Look Good- Through the use of the James Stanfield curriculum videos and class discussions, the students learned various reasons why an employee needs to be able to accept direction and feedback from a supervisor, how to be a strong team player that demonstrates flexibility, and the benefits of “going the extra mile” at work.

Staying Within A Budget When Food Shopping- Students gained an understanding of the importance of staying within a budget and the consequences of going over a budget.

Students were tasked with creating and sticking to a budget during a trip to shop at the grocery store. They identified items to buy and their prices by looking through a ShopRite Circular, and added them up to see if they stayed within their budget. If they were over the budget, they had to decide what items they would return.

Other Highlights:

This month students have been planning and practicing for the Dare to Dream Leadership Conference which will be held on May 30th at Montclair University. They have been completing and organizing their Vision Boards to align with their Post-Secondary Goals. Their objective at the conference is to teach others via a 'break out session' how to make their own Vision Boards, and to walk them through this process. Hence student Leadership.

We attended the Union County Vocational and Technical School on Friday, May 17th, where our students learned about four Post-Secondary Programs available in the Adult Program. They received a tour of the Cosmetology program, the HVACC, Electrical and the Automotive Adult programs, available after graduation.

We had a successful day in Downtown Westfield on May 10th, where students practiced job cold calling. They not only did well with this task, but also had the opportunity to problem solve, work together and socialize with peers.

In Skills Group the students continue to work on weekly goals that are specific and timely. We have also been addressing the topic of termination for our graduating students as well as social skill development.

In Friday electives, we have begun working on a Safety Brochure that is developed by students. Each student researches a specific area of safety, i.e. walking, mass transit, Uber-Lyft, Bicycle, parking and it is discussed,

revised and put into a final brochure. We also learned about healthy eating via MYPlate, and the topic of Gluten Free.

Students visited the Cranford Strength and Fitness Club where they identified the muscles being used and logged their workouts which consist of completing 4 different exercises (12 reps, 2 sets each) then participating in a cardio workout on treadmills, ellipticals, stair steppers, and stationary bikes.

Students held two car washes this month where they were able to experience the impact of how hard work and paying attention to detail leads to good customer service and success for the business.

The Work Readiness Academy targets students with disabilities (ages 17-to-21) who are in need to a comprehensive transition program with a significant focus on community-based work-learning. Students are referred from sending school districts across Union County.

The **Project SEARCH** program at Overlook Medical Center is in its third year of operation. The interns are in the final weeks of their third and final internship rotation.

For the 3rd rotation, students are participating in experiences with the following departments:

Environmental Services
Overlook Foundation
Engineering
Food Services-Overlook Cafeteria
Patient Transport
Dietary & Nutrition
Nursing Education
Information Technology

The job search and development phase of the program is continuing in full force. During the month of May the interns continued applying for various positions in the community and going on interviews.

We are excited to report that 3 of the 9 interns have successfully secured competitive employment. One student from Elizabeth Public Schools secured a job at Overlook with the Materials Management department. Another student from Plainfield Public Schools landed a job with Restaurant Depot. And finally, a student from Cranford Public Schools has accepted a full-time job with FLIK Hospitality Group, the Food Services entity at Merck's location in Rahway. The other interns will continue to work with the program job developer from Project HIRE (Arc of New Jersey) to identify potential job opportunities. The goal for each intern is a competitive job in the community, at least 16 hours per week, at minimum wage or higher.

This month interns completed an email mentoring program with liaisons from Union County-area businesses. The students and mentors spend 9 weeks exchanging emails to help the students develop e-communication etiquette and literacy. The program culminated with a successful "Reverse Job Fair and Mock Interview Day" on May 17th, where the students presented personal poster boards featuring:

- Their employment goals
- Their strengths
- Their hobbies
- Detail about each of their three internship experiences
- Photos of their work at the internships

During the event, the interns also sat with their assigned email mentors for a fifteen minute mock interview. Afterwards, the mentors provide feedback on their performance.

The Project SEARCH program received a record number of applications this year. Applicants and their families attended an Interview and Skills Assessment Day on Wednesday, May 22nd and Thursday, May 23rd. The program anticipates accepting 9-10 new interns for next year's cohort.

Graduation for the 2019-2020 class of Project SEARCH interns will be held on Thursday, June 20th from 10-11:30 a.m. at Overlook Medical Center.

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

TECHNOLOGY:

The Distributed File System project is completed and in production. We are working to tailor synchronization schedules to reduce latency since we've found that users temporarily lose access to some file shares at peak times. This is being addressed by maximizing synchronization during off hours and locating maintenance windows throughout the day to keep data identical across all file servers.

The IT Department has chosen the final backup solution for our network and it has been approved. It is on order and we are awaiting its arrival to begin building out the infrastructure. We expect this to be completed this summer.

We are working with Atlantic to replace all outdated multifunction printers over the summer. We own all of the current multifunction printers after their lease is done so the best ones will be redistributed to the departments who need them most.

We have been working with multiple departments to centralize our UCESC website management. Our staff has formulated a webmaster role and is currently structuring responsibilities to improve our online presence.

NONPUBLIC SERVICES:

Nonpublic School Services Department has completed all district consultations with nonpublic schools regarding state and federal programs for the upcoming school year 2019 – 2020. UCESC Nonpublic Department is partnering with Summit and Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Districts to bring on new nonpublic schools in each of the districts.

The Child Study Team is finalizing annual evaluations with all our Nonpublic School students. They are also partnering with the Public Schools in Union County to assist with the end of the school year evaluations. Nonpublic School teachers are finalizing classes, monthly reports and completing 407-1 forms: 192/193 for the upcoming school year for compensatory education services, supplemental instruction and child student team evaluations. The Nonpublic Department teachers end their school year on June 4, 2019.

A special thank you to all the Nonpublic teachers, administrative assistants, child study team members, nurses, Title 1 teachers, and paraprofessionals for their dedication to UCESC and the Nonpublic schools and their students. Have a wonderful Summer.

TRANSPORTATION:

A set of updated estimate of yearly transportation costs is being mailed to the Business Administrators and Transportation Coordinators of all participating districts on June 3, 2019. The printouts must be checked for accuracy and any needed corrections made in preparation for the final billing, which will be distributed on June 28, 2019.

Bid preparation for the extended school year transportation has begun in earnest. Bid openings are scheduled throughout June with some extended school year programs beginning as early as the last full week of June. If this past school year is any indication, which was the Department's busiest on record, it will be a very busy summer indeed.

Due to continued difficulty in obtaining and keeping bus personnel, both drivers and aides, the Transportation Department, in concert with the Superintendent and Business Administrator, is conducting a thorough review of the Commission's fleet operations. Emphasis will be placed on the most cost effective and efficient options available to continue to provide the necessary daily transportation needs of our students.

cc: Eric Larson, Business Administrator/Board Secretary