



Union County Educational Services Commission

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

WESTLAKE:

Enrollment as of June 24, 2019 Actual: 69 Changes: Entered: 0 Exited: 0	Referrals: 10 Intakes Scheduled: 7 Accepted: 5
Fire Drills: June 6, 2019	Emergency Drills: Evacuation (on site)
Suspensions: 0	June 13, 2019

Westlake has been busy with many tours/intakes and three-day screenings. We just accepted five new students to begin during the extended school year program. We continue to do intakes and tours and families like that we are a smaller school than their home district programs and that our focus is to teach to each child's individual needs.

Language Arts: We are well into reading this semester's novel Maniac Magee. This week the students discussed major problems, themes and events that took place. We will be wrapping it up before the end of the school year where the conclusion will be studied. We are also going to sample some of the treats that the characters enjoyed.

Math: In math the students have been working on their individual programs. Concepts include matching color/shape/size, identifying coins/values, counting mixed coins/bills, simple addition and subtraction. In reading students have been working on their individual skills using Edmark 1 and Edmark functional words. Students are familiar with nine functional signs.

Science: The students have completed their solar system projects. Each student created a booklet of facts about the sun and each of the planets. The students finished painting the individual planets and have assembled them into a model of the solar system to take home and display.

Social Studies: In social studies we have been working on holidays and map skills (identifying places/symbols found in the community. We also have been reading Time for Kids Magazine. Topics have included Drones, (how people use drones) Behind TFK (how a magazine is published, different jobs.).

PE: With the addition of all our newly added equipment, my students displayed tremendous growth and development and tons of enjoyment with our units. In every unit, my students were pre-assessed, given formative assessments during different stations and games, and often given a summative assessment to

bring an end to the unit. My students each displayed growth by learning new sport specific terminologies, displayed growth in developing their motor skills, developed new sport specific skills, and enhanced their socialization skills by assisting their peers when they were willing and able. Of all the units during this school year, my students really enjoyed basketball and climbing the new rock wall with their friends. Some students progressed to climbing our new rock wall without verbal prompting from spotters.

Pre-Voc – Students are working on work readiness skills including safety, independence, problem solving, organization, self-management, communication, and assorted tasks (assembly, sorting, and packaging). Students focus on accuracy, logging in their progress, and reflecting on their work. A total of 12 Good News awards were sent home sharing some of the progress students made this year. This is a great opportunity to communicate and share with parents and guardians their child's accomplishments. In conjunction with Mrs. Roble's class the students used the Elison machine to cut out and assemble boxes. Mr. Carten's class made labels for the boxes and students participating in occupational therapy counted and packaged candy. The students in the vocational classes then closed the boxes for the display. Through this team approach the students were able to provide Mazers and Goldman Sachs volunteers with homemade thank you favors made by our students.

Graphic Arts/ Embroidery – Silk Screen- Since a paraprofessional is now assisting in the afternoon, we are able to clear up existing screens with the proper removal techniques, setting up new jobs and organizing materials. We have been working on thank you gifts for the BMW Car Club of America which will be presented to them on the speedway trip. Mrs. Casey's classes made a personalized thank you banner and all students and teachers signed it. This was displayed for a warm welcome to the members of the BMW Car Club of America during their tour at Westlake. GA is making a thank you/ good luck shirt from the PETS classes for Mr. Boes. Some embroidery items that we have been setting up using the Stitch Era program include baby blankets, beach towels, bags, and a hat. Westlake graduates received a personalized class of 2019 shirt designed and embroidered from students in the Graphic Arts class.

Individual students worked with Mazers volunteers to set up the hallway creating an under the sea scene for the prom. Classes created artwork such as flowers, sea creatures, and schools of fish and coral scenes that were used to transform the hallway into an under the sea adventure. Props from the prom were added for finishing touches. The students worked very hard and it looked amazing. Working with a Mazur volunteer the students even figured out how to make a yellow submarine in the water. A student designed and printed a sign saying welcome to Carnival.

The "Under the Sea Carnival" was a big success this year. Students, staff, and volunteers all enjoyed the festive day. Through a school wide effort, our staff demonstrated ways to work as a team providing many supports for a wonderful day. Classes contributed to the success by making lists of prizes and materials needed, shopping for supplies, ordering and separating bags for classes, creating favors, designing and making decorations, typing game lists, making banners, organizing games, and typing checklists, schedules and maps. Students were given bags to design and use for their prizes. Teachers were given embroidered personalized bags with their name on it.

Horticulture: The students planted our garden with the help of our volunteers. They are growing vegetables, herbs and flowers. Our vegetable garden consists of cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, zucchini and eggplant. The students are also growing herbs including basil, parsley and mint. The students have

been going out to water the plants and check on the plant growth. They can't wait to taste our produce when it is ready to be harvested.

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: In the Sweet Shoppe Café the students made candy favors, bought and ordered food, and prepared potato salad, macaroni salad, and tossed salad for the graduation luncheon. The students also helped decorate the gym on the morning of the luncheon. Parents of the graduates came and had a great time. The students in Mrs. Palmer's class also prepared favors for the Hillcrest Academy South end of the year dinner. We have also made pops for the girl scouts end of the year activity. The students are now learning how to clean the kitchen for an end of the year activity.

Jewelry: In the jewelry making shop the students are organizing work materials and completing unfinished projects. Students had a successful year in the bead shop and learned new skills, thus profiting from the various sales throughout the year.

Décor Dream Shop: The students made soap for the Father's Day sale. They made two different scents which were Romance and Happy Men. It was very successful. The students were happy to make extra soap for the volunteers. For the wooden signs, the students made more signs for the UCESC retirees as well as personalized orders.

Life Skills: In Life Skills class, the students started learning about how to use an ATM machine. First, the students learned what an ATM is, and then learned to operate a simple ATM, including how to deposit and withdraw cash. The students enjoyed the step by step instruction through the ATM simulation instructions. They are also getting familiar with modern banking methods.

Recycled Pads: Vocationally, Mrs. Roble's class is making graduation hat pads for their annual order from Hillcrest South. They just completed an order for the Westfield Day Care. Students were very happy to get Statue of Liberty shapes as they were going on a class trip to Liberty State Park this week. Students continue to recycle paper to save trees and keep our recycling program going.

Retail: Students ran a functional school store with regular daily business hours. The store provided valuable opportunities for students to practice a variety of skills across the curriculum. It also provided opportunities in school jobs and vocational training.

In the Retail Center we had several special orders:

- chocolate bars and napkins for a 100th birthday party
- chocolate bars and napkins for a Bar Mitzvah
- chocolate bars for a graduation ceremony at Hillcrest North
- chocolate bars for a 40th birthday party
- chocolate bars and napkins for a high school graduation
- napkins and balloon arrangements for the awards ceremony at Hillcrest South

Therapies: Speech: In individual and group speech sessions, students worked on vocabulary development, learning to create grammatically correct sentences, making requests, taking turns, and social interaction skills. Older students worked on inferencing and problem-solving skills. Therapists are helping to prepare students to participate in the upcoming talent show by working on telling jokes, singing songs, and various other acts.

Occupational Therapy: This month we continued to assess student's self-care skills, household skills, fine motor skills, computer skills and sensory needs in order to increase their independence in the school and home setting. We measured the student's performance and progress using task analyses that are aligned with AFLS.

We also continued to collaborate with speech regarding activities for the ADL support groups. Activities this month included following simple picture/written recipes to make smoothies, s'mores as well as completing scavenger hunts and activities to improve apartment skills and hygiene skills.

The life skills groups continue to be very successful and enjoyable for our students. The activities completed are the same as those for the ADL support groups. We also made sure to continue integrating technology into these sessions through the use of OT Ipad's that have been programmed to go along with the activities. This strategy allows the students to make choices, label items used/actions completed, and to communicate with their peers.

Yoga group continued weekly. The students follow the Musical Yoga Adventures CD allowing them to work on social skills, ADL skills (removing shoes, pouring water, rolling up yoga mats) and motor skills (flexibility, balance and motor planning). This activity is highly motivating for the students that participate; they remain engaged with the teacher and their peers for the hour.

Lastly, students have also contributed to the graduate luncheon and graduation by typing, printing, and folding invitations and programs, as well as making decorations

Social Work: Individual and group counseling sessions have been very useful for many students who are exhibiting difficulty with the year-end of school, especially those students facing this rite of passage transitioning to this next step of an over 21 program. The social worker has been active in assisting and supporting the parents of the graduates by fielding requests of last-minute assistance for Performcare and DDD services.

The popular ASL group will continue to flourish over the ESY program as students meet to socialize and communicate through American Sign Language. Improving sign language skills helps the students increase their social interactions throughout the school day.

The shared social group with Westlake and Hillcrest Academy South met and worked on Vision Boards which will help students to reflect and work on their own individual goals. A mutual respect and kinship developed between the students over the course of this school year. All students have expressed an interest in continuing the social group next year.

Behaviorist: During June Westlake School continued with a two-day trial period for potential new students. There were four intakes in which this behaviorist was a participant, as well as numerous intake packets for which this behaviorist reviewed and provided input.

Crisis calls that are unscheduled continued to occur this month, along with the last team meeting of the school year with consulting psychiatrist Amy Borg-Glickman. This behaviorist has continued to meet with both administrators as well as social workers during scheduled times. Parent calls and written correspondence have continued this month from this behaviorist on an as-needed basis. This is particularly the case with students who have had behavioral crises this month. Several holds have occurred this month, including for students MF and BB. Due to inconsistency with behavior as well as aggression and elopement levels for student MF, this behaviorist has worked with him outside of the classroom almost daily. When able, he is transitioned to the classroom environment to complete his day.

Safety-Care annual recertification training was attended by this behaviorist on June 3 and June 4, which included High Severity specialized training. Safety-care records were reviewed of Westlake staff, LMA staff, HAS, HAN and non-public staff who have received initial Safety-Care training. This is in preparation for recertification training which needs to begin in September. This behaviorist has consulted with Crossroads behaviorists as well as Westlake administrators and Carrie Dattilo in order to report the number of staff in need of recertification and possible dates for training.

Finally, consultations, student observations, strategy revisions and training has been ongoing in the classrooms for students having difficulty with behaviors, academics or both. This behaviorist has observed, met with teachers and therapists and trained paraprofessionals in various procedures for these 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 June 2019</p> <p>LMA Actual: 44 LMA District - Non-New Point: 41 New Point Specialty at LMA: 3</p> <p>Changes: <u>11</u> Entered: <u>7</u> (Non-NP) <u>0</u> NP Pending: <u> </u> Exited: <u>2</u> (non-NP) <u>2</u> (NP)</p> <p>Trinitas Hospital : Bedside Instruction: 26 (inpatient) Day Program: 57 Approved-Agreement Signed: 67 Classified: 36 Regular Ed: 31</p>	<p>Fire Alarms: 0 Fire Drills: 1 June Fire Drill on 6/6/19. Security Drills: 1 June 13, 2019 - Evacuation drill</p> <p>Referrals in June: 8 Intakes Scheduled: 8 Completed: 8 Acceptance Letter Sent: 7 Sending District Accepted LMA placement: <u>6</u> Placement Pending : N/A</p> <p>Suspension out of school: 2 In School Suspension: 0 HIB: 0</p>
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Administration

Although some may equate the month of June as bittersweet, as our graduates prepare to move on from LMA, the administrators must say that June was one of our most fruitful months this year!

For the month of June, we mainly focused on the graduating senior and eighth grade classes of 2019. Lamberts Mill Academy graduated three eighth graders and 12 twelfth graders in two separate ceremonies. We spent the entire month planning, prepping, and building upon transitional processes for the students. We understood that the transition from middle school to high school would not be as difficult as transitioning for life after Lamberts Mill Academy. Students worked on team-building skills, incorporated coping skills into their MOSAIC classrooms, and left messages of fond memories from 2019. Students were allotted opportunities to create slide shows picturing their favorite moments of 2019 and their fondest memories with the graduating seniors. These messages were filmed using the iPads and iMovie software, directed and edited by all the classes. Once yearbooks were distributed, students shared special messages with one another by writing personalized, significant memories of 2019 and previous years.

The two ceremonies were truly spectacular, showcasing the accomplishments of our students as well as the many talents of our entire school. Along with the help of Mr. Cerria, music teacher, and Ms. Tamaro, paraprofessional, students learned how to enhance their voices while singing acapella accompanied with live music, as well as play full melodies using the guitars. LMA was able to have five different musical performances by various students at our school. We are very proud of the students. We would also like to congratulate our seniors who have been accepted and enrolled in college this upcoming fall semester. We have two seniors attending Union County Community College, one enrolled at Lincoln Tech, and one student beginning at Raritan Valley Community College in September.

During June, LMA hosted a 2019 Graduates Luncheon for both the 8th graders and the senior class. On this day, students and staff were given Class of 2019 LMA T-shirts to have signed, as well as enjoyed a special lunch with their fellow graduates. The graduates loved their personalized school T-shirts highlighting their great accomplishments.

LMA also hosted our annual Field Day. Students were grouped by homerooms and traveled with their homeroom teacher, paraprofessional, and therapist to four different stations. The four stations included a grilled food station, volleyball tournament, board games, and group competitive games. It was yet another chance to create memories with our senior graduates.

We are happy to announce that the Zen Room is now fully furnished. Previously, the Zen Room had the floor replaced and has been painted with soothing colors and chalkboard paint. But now, LMA's Zen Room has been fully furnished with modular furniture for the purpose of free movement. These interchangeable pieces are the perfect addition to the room, as couches and chairs can be customized to suit the needs of the individuals receiving Zen.

Our annual Science Expo was a huge success this year. We had over 15 scientific stations, where students could explore projects which were hands-on and interactive. This was an opportunity for LMA to collaborate with Westlake School, building student relationships coupled with community service between schools. LMA students designed the experiments, created tri-fold boards of background knowledge, and hosted demonstrations for our guests. LMA students paired with the Westlake students steered their guests

through the experiments and assisted with live demonstrations. Together the students also watched a huge hand-made and hand-painted volcano erupt.

FAYLA, Inc. a non-profit organization, whose mission is to break the stigma of mental health disorders within local communities, selected Lamberts Mill Academy as their designated recipient to acknowledge Mental Health Awareness Month 2019. During May 2019, FAYLA teamed up with Usborne books (who sells Mental Health books), and for every book sold, a book was donated to Lamberts Mill Academy. In June, FAYLA presented each LMA student with a therapeutic coloring book and donated to the school a variety of age appropriate books about mental health and ways to live successfully with mental health disorders.

Academics

CTE

Students have been working diligently to complete their end of year projects in CTE. We revisited and practiced many exercises on budgeting. One senior brought in his paystub so that we could analyze it together. He wanted to make sure he knew how to correctly read his paystubs while understanding it at the same time.

The students re-visited entrepreneurial skills and discussed how learning to work with drones could provide an avenue for full time employment.

The students ended their year with coding and styling. Cascading Style Sheets is a language which is used to describe how HTML elements should be styled on a website.

Bidding goodbye to the residents of Clark Nursing Home goodbye came with mixed emotions. Some of the seniors shed a tear and a few walked away without looking back. Thanks to all who participated in the program and we look forward to continuing the partnership in the 2019-2020 school year.

English Language Arts & Literacy

Students completed the year strong with a great degree of involvement in our Analytic Writing Unit. Designed with varied modalities and modern-day integration, students were vested in the project and developing their skills.

Much time and effort were given to our annual LMA literary magazine, “The Mind’s Eye” with an additional section this year on photography. Students developed a variety of skills by completing interviews, creating puzzles, writing articles, collecting recipes and much more. The students were proud of the magazine and worked diligently to create an impressive body of work.

In addition to participating in various Project Based Learning activities the students completed their final collection for the year of Pop Tabs for supporting the Ronald McDonald House and Boxtops which are used to fund student directed programs here at LMA.

Social Studies

June saw the students of World History move away from the development of the Middle East and Europe and explore the New World. We reviewed the major explorers, learned about the lands they found, and saw many of the European nations attempt to develop footholds in the New World. We also saw a very common interest - they all sought to enrich their country by finding gold.

US History I moved beyond construction and saw the implementation of the Jim Crow Laws, the Great Migration, the many struggles and often unfulfilled goals of the Civil Rights movement, and the ongoing frustrations that many African Americans often confronted.

In US History II the students continued to explore towards modern day America. We saw the founding of the United Nations built on the early version of the League of Nations. We learned about the growth of nuclear power - both for energy and as weapons. The Cold War was reviewed and we saw how so many peoples of the world lived in fear. We also looked at the modern forms of terrorism; why those events happened and the power that seems to be in the hands of the terrorists until it is somehow diffused.

20th Century Civil Liberties looked at current events including the measles outbreak and what it meant for individual freedom - to vaccinate or not. We learned about the Gay Pride Movement, the early beginnings in Greenwich Village to the Lavender Scare and finally changes relating to gender identity and how this has affected service in the military.

In all our classes, there were strong debates and discussions as students used their new found knowledge to enhance their own personal options. As history continues to be made we carefully look back to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

Science

June brought the Science Expo to LMA. We had several new projects this year, including a magnetic duck obstacle course, a DIY incubator and a microscope station. And of course, the elephant toothpaste that exploded all over the gym.

As a backdrop to the Expo, we watched a documentary called Fed Up. It explores the obesity crisis and highlights connections to the food industry, advertising, government regulations and even school lunches. We read a lot of labels and started recognizing how much sugar is in everything we eat, even things we don't recognize as sweet.

Mathematics

Students in all Mathematics have been involved with project-based learning and contributing to the second phase of the Westlake ADL room renovation grant. Students are receiving hands on experience with accurately measuring new counter tops for both the kitchen cabinets and the new movable kitchen island. They are using different tools to correctly measure and looking at imperfections in the room that would account for inaccurate measurements. In addition to working on the countertop, students have been

working on ‘test’ runs of the tile backsplash including measuring materials and seeing how much extra tile will be needed to fill any voids. Lastly, students have been measuring 2x4 wood studs to begin the construction of the partition walls. Students have been following basic construction code, ensuring each stud is exactly 16” on center from one another, and measuring to calculate how much panel will be used to completely cover the partition wall.

Spanish

This month students finished the unit “*La Comida*” in Spanish class. The students described different types of healthy foods and discussed healthy eating habits. The teacher asked different questions about healthy habits such as, “how does your culture influence what you eat” and “what factors influence a healthy lifestyle?” The teacher checks students’ comprehension daily by asking questions about the story “*La Comida Chatarra*”. The students also had the opportunity to ask a native Spaniard the same set of questions in order to compare the types of hobbies and caloric intakes of a typical Spanish student with those of American students. Finally, the students helped organize the middle and high school graduation ceremonies. The students were able to learn how to organize a party, how to create decorations and how to order food.

Physical Education and Health

For the past month students at LMA have all been participating in the Cooperative Games Unit. We have been learning and partaking in games such as Ladderball, Cornhole, Foosball, Ultimate Frisbee, Giant Jenga, Nok Hockey, Can Jam, Spikeball, Table Tennis, Pool, and Washer Toss. All these sports are great for teams/partners and teaches students not just a great life-long activity, but the importance of working together to achieve a common goal.

Students have also been treated to a wonderful event that takes part every 4 years: The 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup. Students had the opportunity to learn about all the countries involved in the Cup and experience the excitement that comes only once every 4 years.

For Health we have been covering everything students need to know to have a fun and safe summer. We reviewed the importance of protecting your skin from sunburn, covered the different species of poisonous plants such as poison ivy and poison oak, and learned about different insects like ticks and mosquitoes that can spread infections or disease.

LMA Clinical Department

Students have worked hard this year in Lifeskills to enhance their social-emotional goals while also increasing healthy interactions and social skills among their peers. During Lifeskills students have been working on concluding the school year, summer planning, obtaining a job and the skills necessary to maintain their jobs. We continue to engage in discussion and assist students with post graduate plans such as college placement and job placement. Students processed their emotions as it pertains to ending the school year and anticipation of not seeing some of their peers. Together we identified healthy ways to maintain these friendships throughout the summer. Lastly if students are not attending ESY they were

encouraged to develop anticipated goals and plans that best support their social/emotional needs until the start of school in September.

Currently we have a handful of new students entering LMA. Our existing students at LMA have been quite welcoming to our new students and have been helpful in assisting with a smooth transition for the new students.

New Point Specialty

Our students practiced and completed a beautiful “moving up” ceremony. Hosted and performed by the New Point Unit students. The students practiced together their routines, speeches, and musical performances. We all congratulate our teacher, Mr. Convery, on his retirement and wish him well in his new adventures.

Trinitas

The students have transplanted their lima bean plants, to larger pots, and some have tiny white flowers. The plants will go home with the students so they can observe the rest of the life cycle. The students also observed the complete metamorphosis of caterpillars to butterflies. The tiny caterpillars arrived on June 6th. They quickly grew, attached themselves to a lid in “J” shapes, and shed their exoskeletons, forming chrysalides. After the beautiful painted butterflies emerged eight days later the students released them on the patio. The students thoroughly enjoyed these end of the year activities.

CROSSROADS:

Enrollment as of Actual: 48 Changes:0 Entered: Exited: 0	Referrals: 1 Intakes Scheduled: 1 Accepted: 1
Fire Drills: 6/15/19	Emergency Drills: 6/18/19

Second Annual Crossroads School Carnival

The second annual Crossroads School Carnival took place on Friday, June 14th, at our Commission Offices. The primary sponsor of the event was the Crossroads Parental Teacher Organization. The administrative team, Crossroads Staff, and parental leaders met for months planning and preparing for this event. Together, we were able to completely transform the parking lot into fun filled event. All Crossroads students, staff and over thirty parents and families, enjoyed an incredible, amazing school carnival experience. The weather was absolutely perfect and all participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

A special thank you to the Vedder Family, of Westfield, New Jersey and the Colbourne Family, of Union, New Jersey. They represented our PTO and attended multiple meetings with the administrative team and Crossroads Staff. School Social Worker, Ms. Elaine Liggeri and Classroom Teacher, Mrs. Briana Gallo, assisted in the organization, planning and overall success of the annual event.

Crossroads School Middle School Graduation

The Crossroads Middle School Graduation occurred on June 20th, 2019. Our school community was proud to have three graduates participating in our ceremony for the 2018-2019 school year.

Jefferson C. of Plainfield, Diana E. of Union and Kaithlyn A. of Elizabeth, were the 2018-2019 Crossroads Middle School Graduates. Each one of the three students received their certificate from Crossroads School Principal, Mr. Reed Leibfried and Crossroads School Supervisor of Instruction, Ms. Melissa McLaughlin. The commencement began with welcoming speeches from the Union County Educational Services Commission, Superintendent, Mrs. Terry Foppert and Union County Educational Services Commission, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Michael Kowalski. Family and friends listened to passionate speeches from Crossroads Staff while our teachers/therapists articulated their love and pride for our three graduates. It was truly a wonderful celebration of the achievements of our students and staff.

Natalia Amador's Classroom student achievements:

For the month of June we explored many interesting topics. We spoke about the important role our fathers play in our lives by reading books, watching educational videos, and making crafts. We surprised our parents with delicious BBQ rubs, cards, and hand-made picture frames. Students were able to use their higher thinking skills to write dad a personalized poem pertaining to familiar events and experiences.

For Flag Day, we explored the history behind this day by reading books, making crafts and talking about traditional activities we all do during this important day. We extended this lesson by incorporating STEM activities. We broke out into groups and students got to choose their favorite activity including building a flag out of legos, making beautiful shades of red, white, and blue slim mixed with star shaped confetti, or baking a fruit cake using the colors of our flag.

In prevocational classes, students have worked on completing Ellison orders, sorting magazines, doing laundry, collecting recyclables, taking utensil orders and kitchen inventory, and this month, they are working on office supply orders and restocking the soda machine. At this point, all students complete their required prevocational tasks with minimum assistance.

For science and social studies, the middle school teachers continue to rotate classes using thematic units. This month focused on the life cycle of butterflies, ladybugs, and chicks.

All students continue to work on their direct instruction and VB-MAPP goals. Josh has shown progress with his WH questions, subtraction with regrouping, addition with regrouping and utilizing his ipad to build meaningful sentences. 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. He is also working on transitioning from one place to another independently. DJ is learning how to use flashcards as a study method for multiplication and definitions. He is also working on reading comprehension and fluency. I am proud to say that DJ has also shown tremendous improvement with his

coping skills. Luis is working on his communication skills outside of the classroom, following directions that require him to interact with others, and typing. He has mastered typing ten functional words by copying from a template.

Christina Witte's Classroom Student Achievements:

The middle school completed their big life cycle lessons this month. We released our butterflies, lady bugs and watched our baby chicks hatch. This month we are working on several different thematic units. We started the month by focusing on the lifecycle of the butterfly. Students explored and interacted with our adapted book and then engaged in different crafts. The students used balloons to stamp circles to create the head and body of a caterpillar. We then used dot markers to decorate the wings of their beautiful butterflies. Next we explored everything about watermelons. During this fun unit we learned all about the life cycle of a watermelon. We then cut a watermelon in half and scooped out the insides. The students got to explore the feel and taste of watermelon and look at the seeds. Once our watermelon was scooped out, we took them outside and created watermelon volcanoes. The students got to mix ingredients and watch as their watermelon half started to bubble over.

All our middle school students were thrilled to celebrate the end of the year and all our achievements throughout the school year with a very special and exciting field trip to Medieval Times. This was an amazing trip. The knight taught our students about chivalry and demonstrated actions of being kind, respectful, forgiving and honorable through dramatic role plays. Many of our students have sensitivity to sensory stimulation, such as loud noises, crowds and different light plays. This field trip was an incredible experience for our students to practice tolerating and processing these sensory inputs. The environment at Medieval Times is a perfect place to practice tolerating different sensory experiences in a real and supportive environment. There were large crowds of students, loud noises, big horses and lots of different changes in lighting. The Medieval Times staff welcomed us graciously and offered us different supports for our students. Everybody in our middle school did a great job and we did not have any behavioral problems throughout the entire trip. This is a big testament to our efforts to desensitize our students all year long. I am especially proud of Jillian and her ability to manage her fear of big animals and loud, crowded places.

We were also very busy preparing for our middle school students, Jefferson, Kaithlyn and Diana to graduate. This year our graduation theme was "Around the World". In alignment with this theme, we learned about the globe and worked on map skills in social studies. We looked at the continents and found different countries on the globe, according to the heritage of the students and staff in our classroom. Some of the countries we looked at were China, Germany, Russia, Jamaica and Pakistan. We wish our graduates continued success in high school.

Lindsay DeNigris Classroom Achievements:

In June students learned all about Father's Day. We read an adapted book and discussed the different ways we can show our appreciation for the paternal figures in our lives. Students decorated a mug, card, and created a picture to bring home.

As the year wrapped up, we explored ocean animals and did many fun science experiments. We made lemon volcanoes and watermelon play dough

Our student of the month is Seamus, who worked very hard at communicating effectively using his iPad. He's been listening to one step directions with fewer prompts and has been diligently completing his independent activity schedule.

Anna Garrison’s Classroom Student Achievements:

This month we completed our plant unit and then introduced a unit about chickens. The first thing the students did was label the parts of a chicken using a large chicken model. Then the students made their own chickens and labeled the parts. Next we discussed the chick life cycle and made life cycle wheels to reinforce chick development. During this unit of study, the students were able to watch chicks hatch in room 109. The students were thrilled to see the chicks hatch and enjoyed peeking at them at other times during the week.

The students learned about Father’s Day by reading an adaptive book and discussing that Father’s Day also celebrates uncles, grandfathers, godfathers, etc. The students made Father’s Day “King of the Grill” cards using a fork to paint a lion. They also made a BBQ rub to send home as a gift to their Dads.

The students read, “The Last Day Blues” to end the year. This unit gave them a chance to reflect on their accomplishments and then made sunglasses to highlight the theme, “My future is looking bright.”

The student of the month for June is Manny of the Linden Public School District. He has shown such excellent progress. He works very hard and has been making excellent strides in the classroom. Manny can independently request an item for his break and successfully communicate his preference for sensory input. We are all very proud of Manny for his achievements.

HILLCREST SOUTH:

<p>Enrollment as of 6/25/19 Actual: 95 Changes: 1 Entered: 0 Exited: 1 for attendance Suspensions: 4; 1 for assault, 1 for weapons possession, and 2 for CDS</p>	<p>Intakes Pending General Ed.: tbd Intakes Pending Sp. Ed.: tbd Interviews will be scheduled in Elizabeth during July</p>
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Ms. Gronert, shared guidance counselor, worked with the potential graduates to ensure they had fulfilled all of their Elizabeth graduation requirements. The guidance counselor worked alongside the social worker, Ms. Gilchrist, at Hillcrest Academy South Campus (HAS) and the Elizabeth guidance counselors to verify each student’s June/ August graduation. Ms. Gronert and Ms. Gilchrist also took the seniors to Union County Community College to register the students for their fall courses and attended an orientation. Additionally, the guidance counselor and social worker took the senior students on their senior trip to celebrate all of their success. Ms. Gronert also worked with Ms. Sandrock to facilitate the closing shared social skills group with HAS and Westlake students. The students created vision boards and shared their goals with one another. Most importantly, the Elizabeth graduation on 6/24/19 was an excellent experience for the attendees and all June HAS students graduated! Ms. Gronert is excited to return in September and work with the best staff and students.

Select students from HAS attended the 2019 Junior Achievement Women’s STEM Career Conference held at the corporate headquarters of Johnson & Johnson. During the program, students participated in interactive group sessions led by corporate executives. These sessions were designed to not only teach students the skills they need in order to embark upon their careers after HAS, but to also illustrate how they

might fit into a STEM career. We were extremely grateful to both Junior Achievement and Johnson & Johnson for the grant they provided to make this outstanding opportunity possible.

One of the highlights for the Hillcrest Academy South Campus Community Service Program (HASCSP) in the 2018-2019 school year was when three HAS students were presented with a Presidential Volunteer Service Award at this year's annual Senior Recognition and Awards Night held on 6/13/19. In order to earn this prestigious award, students needed to volunteer a minimum of 100 hours in their community over the course of the school year. Students receiving this award also received a pin, certificate, and a letter signed by President Donald Trump. We were very proud of these students and how richly they have served their community over the course of this school year.

Tuesday School Spirit Days wrapped up with noticeable attendance improvement. Thematic events were in the planning stage for the upcoming school year. A new idea was to incorporate the National Theme days into the Tuesday incentive. Ms. Gilchrist attended the last monthly DCP&P/ HIB meeting and has completed all reports and treatment plans. The Social Worker diligently worked in conjunction with the guidance counselor in determining eligibility for either June or August graduation. Credit retrieval after school tutoring on Monday and Wednesdays was successful and has assisted students in achieving their graduation dreams. Additionally, the after school math project provided select students with intensive math tutoring and guaranteed them a place on the June graduation roster. Otherwise they would have had to complete their 4th year math requirement in summer school.

Mr. Grez's students continued their in-depth studies of multiple scientific concepts. Environmental Science students completed studies of the water cycle and its importance in making the Earth a viable habitat for all life. Biology students finished their studies of ecosystems and capped their year of studies with a trip to the Turtle Back Zoo. Computer Science students finished their foray into the coding world with a tour of JavaScript and its amazing capabilities for creating games. All students completed a field studies guide and had a blast exploring the diverse ecosystem of the grounds around the Lamberts Mill complex.

Ms. Ferrari's students in Algebra worked diligently on a unit on Quadratic Functions and the Quadratic Formula. They completed on average three assignments daily. The first worksheet was a Do Now with two real-life applications of quadratic functions. The second assignment was a lesson packet which allowed the students to follow along as the teacher modeled the problems on the Smartboard. The lessons included solving quadratic functions by finding the square root, vertex form, finding the vertex, complex numbers, and the quadratic formula. Lastly, the students completed practice problems about the day's lesson. The students completed a project about the quadratic formula as their assessment for the unit. The students wrote their own song, spoken word piece, or monolog that helped them memorize the quadratic formula. The project was appropriate for those who enjoyed using their talents to express a mathematical principal. The students in Geometry worked on classifying quadrilaterals. They created venn diagrams to include squares, rectangles, rhombii, parallelograms, and trapezoids. The students used the venn diagrams they created to answer several worksheets that applied logic to quadrilaterals. As a culminating assessment for Geometry, each student created their own unique tessellation. The students followed directions to create a tile that would tessellate. This applied the concepts of transformations. A rubric was used to assess their tessellation based on completion, color, and handing it in on time. It seemed the students thoroughly enjoyed this creative outlet in math class.

Mr. Sobieniak's students in Algebra II classes focused on learning more properties of polynomials. They also learned how to solve polynomial equations. Students in Probability and Statistics classes learned some properties of normal distribution. They investigated many real life applications problems. The students of Success Seminar/ Math Strategy class utilized Khan Academy to improve their algebraic skills. During the last two weeks of school students also reviewed many of the concepts which they learned this school year. They also had a few fun revision lessons with Math activities and puzzles.

Ms. Cioffi's students worked on the Unit Three English Project Based Assessment that they began at the end of May. Every student was assigned a poem that matched their reading and Lexile level and analyzed the poem by reflecting on reading skills that were reviewed in May such as, Characterization, Point of View, Tone, Theme, Figurative Language, and Connotation. Students then researched a song that matched the theme of the poem they were assigned and reflected on the same skills and compared both the poem and song. Classes then wrote their own song or poem with a similar theme and completed peer editing tasks with a classmate. Students finally compiled all information into a Google Slides presentation and presented their findings to the class. This project was the first English Department created project and was a success. Students practiced time management and self-reliance skills by keeping track of all assignments and due dates by using a Student Tracker. The project was also a culminating assessment of all skills that were practiced throughout the school year and served as an excellent way for students to showcase their learning.

Ms. Duarte's students began to wrap up the school year as they completed end of the year assignments. In USII this included a culminating research project where students were assigned a topic, conducted extensive research, developed a research question, put together a PowerPoint presentation, and informed their peers of their work through classroom presentations. This end of the year project was a great tool in helping students exchange information as well as keeping students accountable for their work. Likewise, in Economics students worked on their final position papers as they took a stand on whether or not professional athletes are overpaid. Students were able to understand how taxes work in professional sports and the breakdown of sports contracts as they prepared their arguments. All in all, students were able to demonstrate their learning throughout the academic year with these culminating assignments. HAS will miss Ms. Duarte as she will be on maternity leave until 2/27/20, however we gladly welcome back Mr. Hill as the long term substitute.

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, and 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 of the Civil War and Reconstruction. This included important battles and the life of soldiers, including the role of minorities. Students for the fourth quarter in US I completed a research project. They were allowed to choose from the following topics: the debates of WEB duBois and Booker T Washington, Great Migration, the Harlem Renaissance, Jim Crow Era, Roles of Minorities during the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students then found multiple credible sources, completed two graphic organizers that included a question and thesis statement, created a PowerPoint, which included a works cited page, and then finally presenting their finished work. U.S. History II students completed a research project for the month of June and the fourth quarter for events that occurred after WWII. They

were allowed to choose from the following topics: the Cold War, Nuclearization, the United Nations, 9-11, Modern US Wars, Women's Rights Movement, LGBTQ Rights Movement, and the Civil Rights movements of the 1950s-1970s. Students then found multiple credible sources, completed two graphic organizers that included a question and thesis statement, created a PowerPoint that included a works cited page, and then finally presenting their finished work. Modern World History continued to examine genocides in our world and discussed and analyzed the Declaration of Human Rights. Students researched and learned about the Cambodian Genocide, Armenian Genocide, and Stalin's Forced Famine (Holodomor). Students also wrote a final paper in this class. They were able to write about the term "never again" when dealing with genocides and discuss exactly what that term means, how we can put true meaning behind it. Students were also able to write about how to get rid of hate in our world or re-work the Declaration of Human Rights to make it more suited for their neighborhood or world they live in.

The students in Mr. Barone's Physical Education classes continued with their unit on wiffleball to end the school year. The students have shown significant improvement in both batting and fielding. In addition, many of the students showed off their "baseball IQ" by making smart fielding plays such as getting the lead base runner out. In Health, all students completed their demonstrations of hands-only CPR and completed their unit on first aid. Mr. Barone was very pleased that all students took this vital unit seriously and were eager to learn and practice this life saving skill.

Ms. Rubin, school nurse and Health teacher, assisted with daily entry procedures that included bag searches. The school nurse made calls to all of the absent students' parents each day. She compiled attendance letters for students with excessive absences as per the NJDOE. When the secretary was absent, the nurse input the absentees into PowerSchool. The nurse saw an average of 12-15 students for health concerns each day. The nurse had to send one student to the hospital for an allergic reaction to a food, a staff member accompanied the student until the parents arrived, and the student returned to school with discharge paperwork from the hospital. Ms. Rubin assisted the staff at Westlake School for health concerns on several occasions when needed. Ms. Rubin accompanied Mr. Grez on a trip to the Turtle Back Zoo. The trip was educational and fun. The students stated that they enjoyed the day. Ms. Rubin also accompanied the seniors on their annual luncheon. Everyone enjoyed the trip. In Health class, the students completed their CPR training and learned basic first aid procedures.

Ms. Scheetz's students dedicated the month of June to sewing. Students designed a creature or an object to be translated into a stuffed felt object. In this lesson, they utilized their needlepoint knowledge and had to learn new things regarding hand sewing and pattern design. They began with an instructional video which was an overview of how to design a simple "creature" and create a pattern by tracing the components onto tracing paper. They reviewed how to cut using relief cutting and were taught how to conserve fabric by placing their patterns on edges of fabric. Later, they practiced simple hand stitches on a "sampler" and learned the running stitch, back stitch and whip stitch. During this lesson, they also learned how to use a threader, knot their thread and begin sewing from the wrong side of the fabric so not to see the end of the thread. They learned how to cut from a pattern and assemble their creations using straight pins before sewing. Students began creating their objects and many designed objects that represented characters in pop culture while some made projects to give to others.

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

HILLCREST/NORTH:

Enrollment as of: 6/25/19

Actual: 92

Changes: Entered: 2 Exited: 0

Referrals : 35 referral appointments

Drills: Fire Drill: 6/24/19

Lockdown: 6/19/19

During the month of June, Ms. Gronert worked with the potential graduates to ensure they had fulfilled all of their Elizabeth graduation requirements. The guidance counselor worked alongside the social worker at HAN and the EPS guidance counselors to verify each student's June/August graduation. Ms. Gronert also met with each of the underclassmen to go over their current credits and summer school registration. The guidance counselor worked with Ms. Dattilo to create the master schedule for HAN and begin to look at creating schedules for the 2019-2020 school year. On June 3, teachers took the second group of seniors to Union County College to attend orientation and schedule classes for the fall.

The end of the year brings celebrations for accomplishments for the year and for many preparations for new beginnings as high school graduates. Many students are enrolled in UCC while others are exploring different paths. Some may have summer school or summer jobs.

Awards Night was well attended by students and their families. Students were anxious to see who received the year-end awards, while everyone had already received some recognition throughout the year. The Senior Dinner was another jubilant gathering for our seniors and their significant other. Speeches and warm wishes were given to each senior by a member of the staff.

In English, students continued with the Unit 3 project based assessment on poetry. Students analyzed a poem, chose a song with a matching theme, analyzed the song and compared/contrasted the two pieces. Then students had to write their own original song/poem. Students completed the unit project by presenting their original work to the class. Also in English, students completed their poetry project identifying elements and analyzing poetry. They were given a poem, picked a song with a similar theme and created their own poem with a similar theme.

Students at HAN finished the school year strong in the Social Studies Department. Each student chose a topic from recent US history and did research for a class presentation. Students were exposed to a variety of topics, gaining new knowledge from their peers. The students also gained public speaking and presentation skills through this experience. They will carry this knowledge and skills with them into the summer. Also in Social Studies, students completed a final thesis and three page research paper which they presented to the class.

Students in Mr. Reichman's chemistry classes finished off the school year at HAN learning about electron configurations, periodic trends, and chemical bonding. Earlier in the semester, they learned how to use the periodic table of elements as a tool to understand the structure of atoms, including the arrangement of electrons around the nucleus. This month, they investigated how those structures result in periodic changes to the physical and chemical properties of elements on the periodic table. They also began learning how to use the results of those changes to predict the type of bonding two elements will undergo, and what the macroscopic properties of the resulting molecules and compounds will be. While working in groups on class work or engaging in peer-to-peer tutoring, students practiced their Collaborative SELCD skills.

In Math, the Probability & Statistics classes finished the unit on networks and matrices. They could easily see the connection with computer networks and coding. The Geometry class completed the unit on transformations with original designs created by tessellations. Students also used repeated designs by connecting the midpoints of squares and regular hexagons.

In Health, students learned about basic first aid which included topics such as asthma attacks, scrapes/bruises, dehydration, fainting, seizures, broken bones, insect stings and heat stroke. The students watched a PBS series called “Baby Mama High” which portrays a young woman attending high school in Los Angeles and how she balances attending school, homework and taking care of two children. She comes close to dropping out but because of the support she receives from teachers and counselors, she decides she really wants her high school diploma and finally graduates as her daughters look on. In Physical Education classes, students continued to work on their fitness goals and completed the football and soccer units.

Mrs. Machado’s classes began the month of June finalizing Algebra assessments. Students finished the year together with a fun way to continue practicing logic and reasoning, important skills of successful mathematicians. Mrs. Machado prepared students for the 2019 Hillcrest Academy North Chess Tournament. Experienced students helped teach the beginners for the first week and became their coach. Twenty students entered the tournament and Jesse Balbuena, a senior, became HAN 2019 Chess Tournament champion.

In Spanish, students worked on a variety of activities in all areas of the language. The beginners learned how to use a set of questions to write reports about a person. They interviewed peers and members of the staff. They used the information to write long reports about them. With this activity, the students acquired knowledge and confidence to be able to use the language in their everyday lives. They reviewed all learned vocabulary and language structure which included having fun making smoothies by naming and selecting fruit in the target language. The experience and knowledge acquired in this semester provided the students with the necessary skills to be able to communicate in Spanish at a basic level.

NONPUBLIC

All the Nonpublic programs listed below ended successfully as of June 4, 2019 and met the educational needs for Nonpublic students.

- Nursing
- Textbooks
- Technology
- Security
- Compensatory Education Services: Language Arts and Mathematics
- Child Study Team

The Nonpublic Department continues to update and upload 407-1 forms to the Nonpublic data management system, IEP Direct. This system assists in organizing and streamlining the documentation and has brought greater efficiency to the department.

During the summer the Nonpublic Department will be reviewing requests for services and establishing instructional assignments that best meet the needs of the students in the 2019-2020 school year.

TRANSITION:

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)

On June 20th, the **Work Readiness Academy** graduated a record 8 students. We are pleased to share that all 8 students were able to secure competitive employment or have a plan to move on to a post-secondary education or vocational training program. Since its inception in 2016, the Work Readiness Academy has now placed 95% of its graduates in employment or continued education/training environments.

During the month of June, students participated in a project that required them to create their own personal website using Google Sites. The sites featured pictures and videos of the students along with a copy of their resumes. Students will use these websites in the future to help market themselves for employment.

Additionally, students spent time this month applying for jobs, preparing for interviews, and exploring possible options for transportation to and from potential jobs.

This month the program took field trips to Lenape Park and VIP Honda.

Students also 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. With the proceeds from their car wash, the students enjoyed an end of the year luncheon at Manny's Diner in Clark, NJ.

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

On June 19th, the Project SEARCH program held its end of year graduation ceremony at Overlook Medical Center. This year the program graduated 8 interns. Four of the 8 interns have secured competitive employment, including one who was hired by the Materials Management department at the hospital. The other four 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 to secure a competitive job in the community for at least 16 hours per week at minimum wage or higher.

During the month of June, students participated in a project requiring them to create their own personal website using Google Sites. The sites featured pictures and videos of the students along with a copy of their resumes. Students will use these websites in the future to help secure competitive employment.

Project SEARCH interns also spent time applying for jobs, preparing for interviews, and exploring possible options for transportation to and from potential jobs.

This month the program took field trips to TD Bank and Summit Medical Group's Urgent Care Center. The interns enjoyed an end of year graduation luncheon at The Committed Pig in downtown Summit. The interns also participated in a bowling trip with their peers and program staff.

The Project SEARCH program received a record number of applications this year. The program has accepted 9 new interns for next school year including students from the following districts:

Westfield, Elizabeth, Union, Edison and Parsippany. The newly accepted students and their parents will attend a one-day orientation session on Monday, July 8th and then enjoy a "Meet and Greet" reception hosted by Overlook Medical Center on the evening of July 22nd.

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.

TRANSPORTATION:

The Transportation Department is starting off the extended school year with 385 routes, which represents a 5 route increase over last summer. Competition among participating vendors is competitive but waning due to the driver shortage. The coordinator anticipates the usual influx of additional students once the summer program begins, so another record-breaking year in the Transportation Department has already begun.

For the extended school year, the Commission will be only operating 2 routes on its' own vehicles transporting 10 students from 5 districts to 2 schools. In addition, the Commission's fleet will be providing assistance on the inter-office mail run, Crossroads lunch delivery, field trips and Transition Department Programs.

TECHNOLOGY:

We have worked with central office staff and building administration to populate PowerSchool with as much data as possible. Sourcing from internal reports and prior database systems, PowerSchool is primed to become our central Student Information System. In July we will rollover to the new school year and prep reports to best serve our district's needs.

The DFS project is completed yet some small areas continue to face issues. We are working with the affected staff to resolve as rapidly as possible.

Atlantic has scheduled the delivery of our new multifunction printers for the end of July. We are working with their deployment staff to preconfigure the devices and achieve the smoothest transition possible.

With the approval and purchase of PaperCut software the IT Department will have unprecedented observation of district printer usage. This will help us determine which printers get the most use and

therefore assist us with the consolidation of the entire environment thus shrinking our technology/carbon footprint.

All backup equipment has been delivered and is currently being configured. Several servers are already being backed up and we plan to run a Disaster Recovery trial in early fall.

The Russian spam attacks continue to plague our FreshDesk environment even after configuring dozens of safeguards with the assistance of the FreshDesk mitigation department. During this last outbreak we configured a multitude of improved protections to hopefully thwart future attacks. Whatever the outcome we will continue to defend our network expediently and skillfully.

Wireless network issues have been occurring throughout two locations and we have been working with the vendor to get quick resolution. The issues are mainly due to hardware failure so we are using their return merchandise authorization protocol to obtain replacements. Overall we are not pleased with the performance of their equipment and will look to replace the infrastructure at end of the warranty in 2021. This summer we will upgrade all PCs from Windows 7 to Windows 10 as Microsoft is sunsetting support for the prior operating system.

cc: Eric Larson, Business Administrator/Board Secretary