



Union County Educational Services Commission
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(Att. 2)

**Report of the Superintendent to the Board of Directors
 September 5, 2018**

WESTLAKE:

Enrollment as of August 24, 2018 Actual: 69 Changes: Entered: 1 Exited: 0	Referrals: 2 Intakes Scheduled: 1 Accepted: 1
Fire Drills: August 6, 2018	Emergency Drills: Lockdown –External Threat
Suspensions: 0	August 3, 2018

Westlake’s 2018 Extended School Year program was filled with many activities, field trips and exciting assemblies. Students participated on maintaining skills in academic areas such as Functional Math and Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education. Additionally, students participated in activities including arts and crafts, fitness, social groups and music, along with three in school assemblies.

During Language Arts, all students continued to work on reading skills including identifying sight words, fluency and comprehension through individualized reading programs such as; the Edmark Reading Program. Students mastered a variety of levels in their programs gaining additional sight words. Reading comprehension skills were also targeted, through the use of simple short stories. When provided with visual and verbal cues, students were able to answer simple “WH” questions about each story. Some students worked on sequencing different picture scenes, with the focus being on describing each picture. Students worked on following multistep step oral/written directions and identifying simple rhyming words were also target during morning worksheets and activities.

During Math, students worked on solving varied mathematical problems including; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Touch math visual points were used in assisting some students to master these skills. Many students have difficulty telling time and worked on telling time to the hour and the ½ hour. Students worked on constructing and interpreting data from a variety of graphs, such as a line graph, bar graph and picture graph. They created different tasting lemonade and surveyed staff, graphing their favorite flavored lemonade. Students work to identify all coins and their values and use these skills as they sold their homemade products.

During Science, students performed various experiments. They made ice cream and mixed food coloring and water to observe different color changes. Students also learned about reptiles and their characteristics, as well as created a dinosaur habitat using various natural elements.

In Social Studies, students worked on identifying the different continents of the world. They created a balloon globe, a painted paper plate map, played pin the plane on the continent and created a puzzle map. By the end of the summer, most students were able to identify/name approximately 5 out of the 7 continents.

In Art class, students worked on fine motor skills by stringing beads together to create a colorful ice cream cone and reptile frog key chain. They painted an American flag for the 4th of July and made a fireworks picture. While learning about reptiles, students made salt dough dinosaurs/snakes/turtles with cookie cutters and then hand painted them.

There is currently a classroom reward system set in place to encourage good behavior. After each period, the students are rewarded for working hard and behaving appropriately with a raffle ticket. At the end of the day, if they have earned 80% of their tickets, they receive a dollar. At the end of the week, the goal is to have obtained 5 dollars so they can shop at the school store. Students like following the rewards system and earning Westlake Bucks.

To keep school spirit ongoing throughout the summer, students enjoyed themed Fun Days such as Crazy Hat Day, Superhero Day, Favorite Sports Team Day, Wacky Sock Day and Pajama Day. Some students attended a class trip to Field Station: Dinosaurs, while other students attended a field trip to the Yogi Berra Museum. The first in-school assembly was Rizzo's Reptiles which provided a fun and educational look into the world of reptiles, while inspiring students to think "green," prevent litter, and conserve our natural world. Jack Ryan Basketball Entertainer, the second assembly, showed off an array of basketball tricks and physical talents, and The Wonderful World of the Zonda Dance Group, the third assembly, encouraged students to stay active, positive and kind, while performing hip hop dance, comedic and musical skills. The field trip and assemblies were coordinated with themed Art, Science and Language Arts lessons, as well as classroom activities.

Students participated in Physical Education three times a week and engaged in various "summer" physical activities such as golf, corn hole/ladder ball, tag games (hula hoop tag/freeze tag), and mini-golf. They also had the opportunity to participate and lead the classes in our karate enrichment program with Master Dell. Karate offers the opportunity for students to reinforce listening skills, respond appropriately to directions, and take turns when in a large group setting.

All students greatly benefited from attending the Westlake School Extended School Year program by participating in scheduled related therapies and focusing on academic, social/behavioral and communication goals that are necessary for student success.

We are currently preparing for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. Staff and class assignments have been mailed out. We will begin with 69 students and expect to enroll a few more by the end of September. Many staff are returning for the new school year and we have only hired a small handful of new staff. Back to school night will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2018 for parents. We are looking forward to an exciting new year!

LAMBERTS MILL ACADEMY:

<p>As of August, 2018</p> <p>LMA Actual: 26 LMA District - Non-New Point: N/A for ESY New Point Specialty at LMA: N/A for ESY Changes: <u> 3 </u> Entered: 0 Pending: <u> 7 </u> Exited: 3</p> <p>Trinitas Hospital : Bedside Instruction: N/A for ESY (inpatient) Day Program: N/A for ESY Approved-Agreement signed: N/A for ESY Classified: N/A for ESY</p> <p>Regular Ed: N/A for ESY</p>	<p>Fire Alarms: 0</p> <p>Fire Drills: 1</p> <p>Security Drills (1): 1</p>
<p>Referrals in July-August: 9</p> <p>Intakes Scheduled: 9 Completed: 9 Acceptance Letter Sent: 9 Sending District Accepted LMA placement: 4 Placement Pending : 4</p>	<p>Suspension out of school: 2 In School Suspension: 0 HIB: 1</p>

We have been working hard to prepare for the start of the 2018-2019 school year and anticipate expanding and improving the initiatives started last year. We are very proud of our students for designing and building our new Dialectical Behavior Therapy room, the “Zen Therapy Room” where students and staff will decompress, channel, and restore their mental energies. The theory is for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes academic engagement. It will be Lamberts Mill Academy’s natural and safe method of behavioral healing and self-improvement that promote mental health recovery and academic success. The Drone program will also continue into its second year.

Academics

English Language Arts & Literacy: Students spent time in ELA discussing different musical songs and the lyrics for each song. They described their feelings, and why the song has an impact on them. Students also printed out the lyrics from the same songs and discussed them with their peers and therapists. In addition, all students have been reading the novel, *That was Then, This is Now*, by S.E. Hinton. Students have been reading out loud, while everyone reads along silently. Students discussed what they like/dislike about the novel, learned new vocabulary, and worked on improving their reading out loud capability.

Science and Social Studies: During ESY, students utilized the Science and Social Studies curriculum as it related to key themes (i.e. space, amusement park rides and entertainment, weather etc..). Throughout this summer, students in science class focused on developing their knowledge of engineering via project based labs and engineering challenges. The social studies class analyzed the historical context of these events and themes. Throughout the summer, students were given engineering challenges that asked them to assess problems faced by developing nations, or that emphasized the 5 theme concepts of movement and human-environment interaction. These challenges asked students to work as a group to solve the posed problem and reflect on their success or failure.

Mathematics: Students working in Math class spent time with Project Based Learning using learned skills in the classroom to everyday applications. Students re-modelled the DBT room at LMA by repainting the walls, measuring and installing vinyl laminate flooring and measuring the perimeter of the room to install baseboard trim. We also spent time taking apart small engines, and seeing the mathematical connection with small engines and measurements.

Finally, students spent time working in the LMA garden making improvements to their garden. By recognizing the need to keep wildlife animals out of the students' harvest, students brainstormed and developed a way to keep animals out of the garden beds without constricting sunlight that the plants needed. We created removable, covers made out of PVC pipe and deer resistant mesh. Students took measurements to create 3-dimensional shapes using rectangles and different arcs to enclose garden beds.

Physical Education and Health: Students have been working hard in Physical Education this summer during ESY. Every week we have been participating in multiple sports and team building activities. We started the summer with a week of badminton. Students participated in lead-up activities as well as more advanced games. We were also lucky to have the opportunity to follow the World Cup Soccer tournament. The next week we worked on mastering our skills and took part in softball/baseball/wiffle ball activities. The students had a blast participating in the wiffle ball home run derby as well. The following week students practiced all their volleyball skills and took part in different types of volleyball activities. For Health students have been reading and discussing different current event articles related to health. Such topics have included drug use and abuse, staying safe and healthy during summer months, and any hot topics that are going on in the local communities/state.

LMA Clinical Department

During ESY students continue to be actively engaged in all therapeutic services. Students meet with their therapist for individual therapy on a weekly basis and participate in their verbal process group. Each morning the students begin the day by attending lifeskills group with the goal of maintaining and increasing healthy social interaction, while practicing healthy boundaries and maintaining respect for all group members. All students have been participating in classroom discussion and social skills activities. These activities vary each day, which include interactive games, discussions, and healthy debates among the group. ESY lifeskills will conclude with preparation and planning for a safe and healthy summer break.

CROSSROADS:

Enrollment as of August 13, 2018	Referrals: 2
Actual: 43	Intakes Scheduled: 2
Changes- Entered: 0 Exited: 0	Accepted: 2
Fire Drills: August 7, 2018	Emergency Drills: August 3, 2018

Crossroads School Extended School Year was in session from July 2 through August 13, 2018. This has been the third consecutive year that the school embarked on a six week extended school year program. Forty-three students actively participated during classroom instruction, social opportunities as well as community based field trips throughout the Summer. Four new students began their Crossroads careers on July 2, and the Crossroads Family welcomed them with open arms and hearts.

Full time Crossroads Staff collaborated the ESY staff to create weekly themes for our extended school year that would consistently promote problem solving, project based learning and good old fashioned fun. Our first weekly theme focused on our National Holiday, the fourth of July. Students were guided by our staff to participate in three different stations. Supplies were purchased and activities such as creating patriotic slime,

the engineering of a red, white and blue straw building and a firework salt painting occurred throughout the week.

The “STEAM Themes,” encompassed the remaining five weeks of our summer program. Students focused on project learning based activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Countless activities took place aligning to these themes and school initiatives. A waterbead sensory ball was created during Science, a light-up thaumatrope was designed during technology, marshmallow buildings constructed during engineering, newspaper sharks made during small group art lessons, and math skills practiced during our math lessons.

A special thank you to Speech Therapist, Hope Weinstein and Classroom Teacher, Allison Gebler for assisting the Main Office with the overall implementation of these thematic lessons into our classroom instruction and therapeutic sessions on a weekly basis.

The Westfield United Fund led by Executive Director, Mrs. Deirdre M. Gelinne once again allowed our school community to participate in our annual “Rain Gutter Regatta,” on July 30, 2018. The Westfield United Fund partnered with the Cub Scouts of America to host this event at Crossroads School and provided our students with boats to decorate, assemble and race with their friends. This event has become an extended school year tradition that our students and staff love and look forward to throughout our regular school year.

To ensure the continuation of our students being exposed to real life experiences throughout the Summer, community based field trips were scheduled for the months of July and August. Our middle school students purchased supplies at Shop Rite the supplies that were needed by our school to conduct our weekly thematic projects. Classroom Teacher, Mr. Richard Horn spearheaded these efforts and ensured that authentic learning opportunities for our middle school students took place while preparing for the trip and shopping at the store. Students also enjoyed trips to Screamin Parties, Kidz Village as well as Ponderosa Park.

Our culminating event of the extended school year program was held on Monday, August 13, 2018. Crossroads School Principal, Reed Leibfried and Union County Educational Services Commission Director of Special Projects, Josh Bornstein cooked a wonderful lunch for our staff and students as a small token of our gratitude for the outstanding and meaningful 2018 extended school year!

HILLCREST SOUTH:

Hillcrest Academy South Campus (HAS) will start the 2018-2019 school year with some program updates and modifications as well as new staff. HAS will begin in September with 75 students as of 8/23/18. Dr. Balsamello, Mr. Marquet, and Elizabeth staff organized interviews at Dwyer Academy in July when Summer School was in session in order to fill as many seats as possible left vacant due to the 2018 graduates.

A new student and parent orientation was held at HAS and families were provided a tour of the school, met with staff who volunteered to assist, had an overview of the program, and completed paperwork necessary to begin on Thursday, 9/6/18.

Ms. Gronert, shared school guidance counselor, joined the HAS family and will begin in September. Interviews are still being held for a full time science teacher, a shared time science teacher, and a maternity leave social studies teacher. We are hopeful that these positions will be filled soon.

Program modifications and updates include the continuation of Google Classroom courses that will be utilized for credit retrieval and accrual as well as a Google Form referral process. All staff will be

incorporating a social emotional and character development initiative school wide to promote student ownership of our school and increase a positive learning environment.

HILLCREST/NORTH:

Enrollment as of: 8/24/18 Actual: 61 Changes: Entered: 13 Exited: 38 graduated	Referrals : work in progress Drills: NA
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HAN is pleased to report that thirty-one out of thirty-eight 2018 graduates will be attending college or post-secondary education programs in the fall. Our 2018 end of the year celebrations and activities such as the Senior Recognition Dinner, Awards' Night, Field Day and BBQ, were extremely rewarding, appreciated, and successful.

Both principals, Mr. Marquet and Dr. Balsamello, have interviewed and accepted 26 students from Elizabeth Public Schools to replace students from last year's graduating class. Intake appointments are ongoing and will continue until the school is at capacity. Both Hillcrests have been working off of student lists sent by Elizabeth Public Schools and will continue to communicate and be diligent in scheduling intake appointments.

A New Student Orientation took place on August 22nd with 13 students and their families. Mr. Marquet made a 30 minute presentation outlining the expectations and opening a dialogue to ensure clarity and comfort. Students and families then toured the building and filled out necessary paperwork.

A newly designed success seminar course has been developed this summer with the help of Ms. Datillo and some full-time teachers. We have integrated these course initiatives into our 2018-2019 master schedule.

Maintenance to the building has been a priority during the summer hours. The building has been painted, floors have been sanded and finished, rooms have been organized, and small projects have been completed. The building looks and feels ready to open. HAN is looking forward to another great year!

NONPUBLIC:

The Nonpublic Services Department is implementing Docuware, a new cloud-based program. Docuware will assist in streamlining and simplifying data collection for the state required 407-1 forms necessary to provide educational and child study team nonpublic services. Union County. Directors of Special Services will be provided digital copies of the state required 407-1 (192/193) forms for Compensatory Educations: Math, Language Art, ESL, home instruction, supplemental instruction, speech evaluations and services, initial, annual, re-evaluations for each of the nonpublic schools within their district at the end of each school year.

The Nonpublic Services Department has been collaborating with districts within Union County to finalize IDEA-B proportionate share allocations associated with educational services for nonpublic school students who qualify for supplemental instruction and speech therapy for the 2018 – 2019 school year. The nonpublic schools have also been contacted to review allocations and services.

The nonpublic schools have received their state allocations for Nursing, Technology, Textbooks, Security. The schools are successfully moving forward with completing spending plans for technology and security.

The plans will be submitted for board approval and purchasing. All the nonpublic schools' nurses have been assigned to their respective school and will begin to provide health services on September 4, 2018. Paul Palozzola, the new Director of Nonpublic Services will officially join our team on September 4th. We are grateful to the support he has given us in August and look forward to working with him next year

TRANSITION SERVICES:

Work Readiness Academy Individual Student Enrollments: 13
Project SEARCH-Overlook Medical Center Enrollment: 9
Westlake School (Job Academy): TBD
Lamberts Mill Academy (Job Academy): TBD
District Direct Programs: 3 (Plainfield, Elizabeth, and Summit)

The **Work Readiness Academy** operated a successful Extended School Year Program for ten students this summer. The students participated in internships at various local businesses with support from our program staff. The classroom portion of the program was focused on teaching the students critical skills for employment through the operation of a school-based business. The students operated a coffee delivery service for staff on-site at our Cardinal Drive central offices. The students were responsible for marketing the service, collecting orders, fulfilling orders at a local Dunkin Donuts store -- and then delivering the orders. Students were also given the opportunity to practice handling funds and monitoring quality and accounting controls. The program took several community trips during the summer including visits to Scoops Ice Cream in Scotch Plains, the Short Hills Hilton Hotel, AMC Movie Theater, the Somerset Patriots and Echo Lake Park. The trips provided the students with the chance to learn about the operation of each business while also enjoying some recreation time with peers.

The Work Readiness Academy expects to begin the 2018-19 school year with 11 full-time students and 2 shared-time students.

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 begins its third year this September. The program is excited to welcome nine new interns representing the following school districts in Union County: Elizabeth, Plainfield, Cranford, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, and Kenilworth. We are also pleased to welcome one student from Morris School District (who attended the Newmark School in Scotch Plains last year). Two of the new Project SEARCH interns graduated from UCESC's Work Readiness Academy, while another comes to us from the Commission's Westlake School.

The new interns and their families were busy this summer preparing to begin the program. On Wednesday, July 25th, the interns and their families attended a welcome reception at Overlook hosted by the hospital liaisons to the program. On Monday, July 30th the interns kicked off their travel training with an all-day classroom learning session at Cardinal Drive including a private tour of an actual NJ Transit Bus and the various accessibility features available to riders. During the month of August, the interns participated in intensive travel training under the direction of our partners at NJTIP at Rutgers. The students completed their final "practice run" on August 23rd. All students who participate in Project SEARCH have agreed to train and use public transportation to get to and from the program each day in lieu of using school transportation. The goal of Project SEARCH is to place student's in a competitive job after the program -- and this includes ensuring that they have developed a plan for independently traveling to and from work. The program covers the cost of the intensive training, as well as the daily roundtrip fare throughout the school year.

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 IT Department has purchased and installed a remotely configurable air conditioning unit in the main data closet of 1571 Lamberts Mill Road. This will extend the life of the networking and server equipment in the rack by regulating internal temperatures as well as controlling humidity.

We have implemented a document management and workflow automation software called Docuware that enables our staff to digitize and optimize the processes that power the core of your business. Taking advantage of our virtual environment and NAS storage, we have built out and house all of the infrastructure saving money on a hosted solution and saving time on troubleshooting issues.

Our PowerSchool environment is fully constructed and prepared for the coming school year. We are working to create customization that will tailor the student information system to our particular needs. We are now working to migrate all of our student data from MCS and fully retire that system.

PaySchools, an online payment processing system that provides schools with an efficient method to collect fees and receive electronic payments for school lunches and other school-related fees, has been fully configured and integrated with our PowerSchool environment.

A project to improve the power infrastructure in all data closets has been approved. We have implemented new electrical outlets in the 1571 main data closet and purchased APC UPS battery backup units to deploy throughout our network. This will reduce downtime due to power outages and better protect our critical IT hardware from power surges.

TRANSPORTATION:

Bidding for fall routes has been completed and the department is ready for another year of filling the transportation needs of the students of Union County. Two hundred thirty six (236) routes have been bid and 245 have been renewed. These routes travel to more than 150 different schools. In addition, late requests are arriving every day which will be run on an emergency basis and bid at a later date. Seventeen (17) routes were established to Nonpublic schools transporting 595 students.

The extended school year was just completed. Four hundred sixteen (416) routes were established which transported more than 1,100 students to 125 different schools. Twenty-five (25) districts were serviced. This volume of work marks the busiest summer season yet in the transportation department.

The Commission provided transportation services to the Union County Summer Camp held at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. The Commission provided transportation to and from the two week program for 21 students residing in 9 Union County school districts.

cc: Robert A. Behot, Business Administrator/Board Secretary