



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Crossroads School	Report Date: 8/27/21
---	-----------------------------

Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 38	Intake:
Acceptances:	Disenrollments: 0

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: 7/22/21	Other (Specify Type): Shelter in Place 8/6/21
----------------------------	--

Curriculum and Instruction:

The Crossroads Extended School Year was in session from July 1st through August 12th, 2021. The students, staff and families participated in a six-week extended school year program for the sixth consecutive year. Although we had a small number of students participate virtually, an overwhelming majority of our students made the decision to actively participate in-person, with live classroom instruction and therapeutic sessions taking place at Crossroads School.

A majority of our extended school year staff were internal staff members, but we had a small amount of external staff members from surrounding local communities as well. The Crossroads administration would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff members for creating instructional lessons, providing students with one-one individual instruction, and ensuring that the program was successful while providing our students with the quality programming that they have become accustomed to. Staff provided students with weekly enrichment activities as well as all “special classes,” such as music, art, social skills, karate and physical education. All UCESC approved policies and procedures were adhered to on a daily basis, ensuring that all students and staff remained as safe as possible. ESY individual student progress reports were sent to the families and sending districts of each student.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Due to staffing issues and safety protocol concerns, Crossroads School staff and students did not participate in community-based instruction field trips.

Due to Crossroads School unfortunately being forced to shift to remote instruction in June, the Crossroads middle school commencement ceremony was postponed until July. Students, staff and families enjoyed an in-person (as well as virtual) commencement ceremony.

Professional Development:

Crossroad’s behavior team members [Marianny Amezquita](#) , Stacey Kodack, and Jennifer Bace continued to provide Crossroads Staff with individual and group professional development opportunities targeting specific individual student behaviors and instructional strategies that would proactively reduce aggressive and problematic behaviors.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Hillcrest Academy North	Report Date: 8/30/21
---	-----------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 73 Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 25 Disenrollments: 0
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: N/A	Other: Lockdown: N/A

Curriculum and Instruction:
<p>Hillcrest Academy North and South spent most of the summer hours recruiting students from Elizabeth Public Schools. We made contact with all Academy Principals, Guidance Counselors, and the Director of Guidance to design a system and schedule to follow in identifying Elizabeth High School students in need of our services. We physically met with over fifty students and their families at the ILEAP Center at Dwyer Academy to interview them as potential students. We continued to meet with the Director of Guidance to monitor student acceptances and communicate with district principals. I am pleased to announce that our enrollment numbers increased dramatically in both schools due to these efforts.</p> <p>Both schools also met with Sara Shulhafer, HA Guidance counselor, to create a master schedule and begin scheduling. We also met with Carrie Datillo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, to create an instructional plan for traditional (in-person learning) and for those that require a remote learning due to health and safety concerns. Lastly, new HIB forms were revised and will be implemented during the 2021-2022 school year after Anti-Bullying Specialists are trained in these new forms during the month of September.</p> <p>We look forward to a great opening of school and seeing ALL our students return to traditional learning.</p>
Community Based Instruction and Special Events:
Professional Development:



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Hillcrest Academy South	Report Date: 8/27/21
---	-----------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 84 Acceptances: tbd	Intakes: TBD-waiting for parental responses and additional students from Elizabeth Academies Disenrollments: 0
Emergency Drills:	
Relaxed Fire Drills: N/A	Other: N/A
Curriculum and Instruction:	
<p>Ms. Schulhafer, the shared guidance counselor with Hillcrest Academy North Campus (HAN), joined the summer staff and completed PowerSchool training, student audits, and all the student schedules. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) will be infused in each class throughout the day with specific reflections. Additionally, Success Seminar courses will be addressing academics as well as SEL each day with our social worker pushing into each class on a rotation schedule. HAS will offer Consumer Math this year as a full year course and the school will implement 2.5 credit courses during each semester such as Creative Writing, Economics, and Sociology.</p>	
Community Based Instruction and Special Events:	
<p>HAS is excited to see our students on 9/8/21. HAS would like to welcome new staff: Mr. Van Cleef as the new shared supervisor of instruction; Ms. Fernandez-Siejack the new math teacher; Mr. Mah-Essiet as the new science teacher starting 11/1/21; Mr. Williams filling in for Ms. Duarte’s maternity leave; Ms. Portadin filling in for Ms. Holden’s leave; and Mr. Petters from Lamberts Mill Academy will once again join HAS for the first two periods as the health/physical education teacher.</p> <p>Dr. Balsamello and Mr. Marquet, the principal at HAN, spent most of July and the first week of August in Elizabeth attempting to meet with new students and families with the assistance of the Elizabeth Academies administrators and guidance counselors. Hillcrest administrators and secretaries then made numerous attempts to contact the students and families. This resulted in HAS’s new student and family orientations on 8/26 and 8/27. A total of 32 new students with 40 family members attended over the two days as well as other days for those who were unable to make the specific scheduled dates. During the orientation, Dr. Balsamello and Mr. Van Cleef reviewed a brief introduction of HAS via PowerPoint then various staff met with each group to review the completed district forms and to answer any questions. The orientation ended with a tour of the school.</p>	
Professional Development:	
<p>Professional development is scheduled for staff on 9/1/21 and 9/2/21. Specific topics will be released at that time.</p>	



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Lamberts Mill Academy	Report Date: July/August 2021
---	--------------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 17 Total (ESY) LMA Campus: N/A New Point: N/A New Point at LMA: N/A	Intakes: 3 Acceptances: 0 Disenrollments: 2

Emergency Drills: 4

Fire Drill: 7/25/21 8/5/21	Other: 5/14/21 Lockdown 8/2/21 Shelter in Place
--------------------------------------	---

Curriculum and Instruction:

Social Studies:

We began our look at New Jersey’s role in the revolutionary war - and better understood why we are called the Crossroads of the Revolution. We were amazed that there are even local sites that are important to this time all around us. We looked at the wave of immigration - from the earlier times with Irish and Italian to the war year’s refugees to the growth of our Latino and Indian population.

We used booklets prepared by the NJ Office of Tourism to understand the attraction that our state has for visitors, and the importance of the economy that depends on this area. We looked at the many seashore towns and compared them to the stillness of the Pine Barrens and the excitement that lives in the cities along the Hudson across from New York City.

It was easy to talk about Thomas Edson and his labs in West Orange and Menlo Park and the battle he had with Tesla to supremacy in electrical service. Amusement parks in NJ hold a special interest for many of the students and created almost a competition between the old and new ones for thrills and attractions. I think everyone would have been pleased to travel and have a first-person study of these places.

Many of our trips were keyed into New Jersey as well. We visited Tourne Park in Morris County and followed beautiful nature trails. The Aviation Hall of Fame offered hands-on experience with flight, Liberty Science Museum immersed us in the scientific community, and we wound up visiting the NJ Central Train Station near Ellis Island and Liberty State Park. The station was the first American railroad terminal that most immigrants stood on as they waited for their transportation to the far-off new cities of America.

Mathematics:

This ESY 2021 focused on the major theme of the “Garden State”. Lessons in both mathematics and science were influenced by the Garden State, along with weekly themes inspired by New Jersey.

Our mathematics students spent a majority of time learning about how to use mathematical formulas to find missing information. The two formulas they spent a lot of time reviewing and using was: Distance/Time/Rate for travelling, and Watts/Volts/Amps for electrical power. Students spent time mapping various different locations in the state of NJ to find the distance, and to calculate how much money it would cost them to drive to their locations

based on a specific vehicle's MPG. Not only did they work with the formula correctly, but it gave them more exposure to all the different counties in NJ, and a 'sense of direction' when it came to travel and proximity of places. Learning about the electrical power gave a mathematical foundation to the famous NJ scientists including Thomas Edison.

Science:

Students in Science class learned about various different NJ scientists and inventors. Students were also able to apply Research and Development skills to use when they competed in the strongest bridge competition, utilizing just a set number of popsicle sticks, and glue. Students were able to design and build a bridge that would be durable enough to uphold a certain amount of weight. In addition to creating a bridge, students in Science class learned about why NJ is called the Garden State, different types of plants, vegetables and fruits that are native to NJ, and the essential needs of a plant. Students also maintained the LMA garden, and have begun harvesting different types of vegetables, primarily tomatoes and cucumbers. All students had the opportunity to visit Tourne Park to walk through different trails and examine and identify different types of plants native to NJ. In addition, students learned about the different seasons in NJ, and discussed the different weather cycles. Students also had an opportunity to articulate their favorite season and discuss reasons why they preferred it to other seasons. All students got the opportunity to visit the Liberty Science Center as a class trip. Students got to learn about various different types of science: animals, nature and energy at LSC, along with interactive models, and displays.

English:

Continuing with our New Jersey theme we linked language arts activities to a range of topics. We studied the thoughts and writings of many immigrants who fled their home countries to reach the freedoms available in the United States. We read firsthand accounts of these travels and even role played their lives in biographies they created. Assuming the lives of early colonists, they became those folks by reading their memories and discussing life in those times. As we looked at Tourism, we made fliers that advertised the seashores, the Pine barrens, and the northeastern mountains and skiing.

Reading about our famous inventors was important as the students explored their lives without those key inventions. We read and discussed excerpts from some of our state's best authors including Walt Whitman, Judy Blume, and Toni Morrison. The old song Palisades Park led us into our look at amusements in our state as we explored and re-wrote a brochure and advertisements for Great Adventure and Action Park. We will wind up with a look at how laws and agencies are protecting our natural resources.

Spanish:

N/A

Physical Education/Health:

First, I would like to say that the students at LMA were really nice to work with. Second, I would like to thank both Para's Ms. Sancia Clerizier and Mr. Tom McClay for their amazing help and contribution to the class, it was such a pleasure to work with the two of them.

Over the summer the students engaged in various activities in Health and Physical Education. The students were able to participate, engage and practice cardiovascular fitness that incorporated a lot of gross motor skills. Other activities we engaged in were whiffle ball, yoga/stretching, floor hockey, dance, badminton, basketball and football.

LMA Clinical Department

During ESY 2021 students continue to be actively engaged in all therapeutic services. We continue to emphasize the importance of self-care and social emotional wellbeing as we are still navigating this time of uncertainty. Students met with their individual therapist for their weekly session and attended appointments with the psychiatrist for medication monitoring.

The students attended daily life skills groups focusing on the goal of increasing social interactions, while practicing healthy boundaries and maintaining respect for all group members. Students participated in classroom discussions and social skills activities which include interactive games, open ended discussions and practicing mindfulness techniques. ESY life skills concluded with preparation and planning for a safe and healthy summer break.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development:



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Nonpublic Services	Report Date:
--	---------------------

Enrollment:

Current Enrollment as of _____:	Acceptances: N/A
Total Comp Ed Services: N/A	Acceptances: N/A
Total Supplemental Instruction Services: N/A	Intakes: N/A
Total Speech Services: N/A	Disenrollments: N/A

Emergency Drills:

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

Curriculum and Instruction:

Nonpublic Services Department continues to collaborate with Union County districts to finalize IDEA-B proportionate share allocations. Additionally, consultation meetings were scheduled with all districts and nonpublic schools in order to utilize the one-time, additional IDEA-B ARP funds the federal government made available to local districts in August.

Nonpublic schools were sent their state allocations for Textbooks, Security, Technology and Nursing. Orders are being processed and staffing is on-going. UCESC has been approved as a vendor in the EANS program. Once allocations are finalized, services and orders will be processed.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development

The Director and Supervisor were in daily contact with the nonpublic teachers and speech therapists. Google Hangout meetings were scheduled with staff to review COVID 19 updates, student programming and needs.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Technology	Report Date: 8/10/2021
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------

Enrollment:	
N/A	
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: N/A	Other: N/A
Curriculum and Instruction:	
<p>USAC PIA review completed. We are approved to move ahead with our network improvement project. Working with vendors to complete hardware orders and schedule labor. Continuing to work on VoIP system to eliminate issues. Working with Audio company to explore replacements for the bell/paging system. Computer OS audit in preparation of Windows 11. ECF administration. Printer usage reporting and administration. Account synchronization services.</p>	
Community Based Instruction and Special Events:	
Professional Development:	



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Transportation	Report Date: 8/25/2021
--	-------------------------------

Enrollment:

N/A

Emergency Drills:

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

Curriculum and Instruction:

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. Four hundred sixty-five (465) routes have been bid and 201 have been renewed. These routes travel to more than 152 different schools. In addition, late requests are arriving every day which will be run on an emergency basis and bid at a later date. Two (2) routes were established to Nonpublic schools transporting 78 students.

The turnout for Non-public bidders was extremely low this summer. Districts will have to pay aide in lieu for more students than anticipated.

The extended school year was just completed. Three hundred forty-seven (347) routes were established which transported more than 1,500 students to 115 different schools. Twenty-four (24) districts were serviced. This volume of work marks the busiest summer season yet in the transportation department.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:
--

--

Professional Development

--



Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

School/Department: Westlake School	Report Date: August 2021
---	---------------------------------

Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 56 Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 6 Disenrollments: 0
--	---

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: (Relaxed Fire Drill) 7/26/21 Relaxed Fire Drill 5/13/21 Relaxed Fire Drill	Other (Lockdown - Internal Threat): 7/16/21 Lockdown - Internal Threat 8/2/21 Shelter in Place
---	---

Curriculum and Instruction:

Students participated in Westlake School’s ESY program which focused 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 virtual assemblies.

Functional Language Arts Lessons included: Reading News2You.com articles about the Tokyo Olympics, Amtrak’s 50th Anniversary, Shark Week, Luca Movie, and Huge Dinosaur Fossil in Australia. Students answered comprehension questions about the articles during class discussions. Students also sequenced 4-5 events using pictures and completed daily recall sheets.

Mathematics Lessons focused on: Calendar skills and identifying coins and their values. Students also worked on identifying patterns using ABAB and ABBA patterns and created bar graphs by counting each item found in Patriotic ISpy and Wacky Socks ISpy pictures. Students completed addition and subtraction worksheets using touch points.

Science and Social Studies Lessons included: identifying the parts of a plant and stages of the plant life cycle and learned about animals in the desert and ocean habitats. In Social Studies, students also identified parts of a map and learned the directional compass rose as well as identifying safety and community signs. Tying in with themed Fun Days, students sorted various sports according to seasons as well as which Olympic sports are played in the water, on the track and field, or in the gym.

One of the ESY specials was music class. Students learned about different musical instruments, through the use of various percussion instruments such as a drum, tambourine, bells, chimes, and wood blocks to help understand rhythm, melody, harmony, lyrics, and the instrumentation that accompanies a song.

To keep school spirit ongoing throughout the summer, students enjoyed themed Fun Days such as Crazy Hat Day, Superhero Day, Favorite Sports Team Day, and Wacky Sock Day. Three virtual assemblies were provided for students, Matt Wilhelm’s Anti-Bullying BMX Biking stunt show showcasing Matt’s 2-time National championship cycling stunts while delivering a positive and empowering approach to bullying prevention and two virtual assemblies provided by the Wilderness Classroom Organization that invited students to embrace their natural world while heightening their excitement for science and exploration. The assemblies were coordinated with themed lessons and classroom activities such as taking turns playing a social skills game with classmates and

identifying the animals in the rainforest and arctic habitats.

Students participated in Physical Education three times a week and engaged in various “summer” physical activities such as gross and fine motor obstacle courses, badminton, fitness/yoga/stretching, whiffle ball, relay and scooter races, and parachute activities.

All of our students benefited from attending the Westlake School Extended School Year program by participating in scheduled related therapies, maintaining the academic, social/behavioral and communication skills necessary through the maintenance of IEP goals and objectives, instructional support and skill development.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development:



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Work Readiness Academy	Report Date: 8/30/21
--	-----------------------------

Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 21 (includes WRA & Project SEARCH) Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 0 Disenrollments: 0
--	---

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: 8/5/21 –Fire Drill	Other (Specify Type)
---------------------------------------	-----------------------------

Curriculum and Instruction:

The Work Readiness Academy was pleased to offer a full-time, in person” Extended School Year program during the summer of 2021. Twelve students participated in the 30-day program.

Highlights from the ESY program this summer included:

- The program partnered with the Cranford Swim and Tennis Club to provide students the opportunity to participate in a community-based Work-Based Learning Experience (WBLE). Students were involved in supporting the pool operations team with furniture setup and breakdown, cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces and the baby pool, watering the plants and flower beds, pulling and changing lanes for the lap pool, testing chemical levels in the pool, and supporting in the office with member check-in and purchases from the snack stand.
- Students also participated in two internal experiences; helping to clean and sanitize the UCESC bus and vehicle fleet and operating a summer “Can Do Cafe” satellite location inside the district’s central offices.
- Students also participated in a weekly yoga class (virtually), and a live Personal Fitness class led by a UCESC Physical Education teacher.
- During Functional Academics, students practiced reading instructions, directions, and short non-fiction texts. They also worked on handling money, making change, and personal banking skills.
- Additionally, students engaged in social skills practice by participating in outdoor and indoor group game activities and taking weekly field trips into the community.

Students in the Project SEARCH Class of 2022 kicked off their program this summer with orientation and intensive one-on-one travel training using New Jersey Transit. Of the 9 students accepted for the Fall, 6 will be taking NJ Transit buses to travel from their homes to Overlook Medical Center each day, and 3 will be using NJ Transit rail service.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

See Above.

Professional Development:

Mr. Bornstein, the Director of the Work Readiness Academy, worked closely this summer with Ms. Dattilo, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, to brainstorm possible ideas for this year’s School Professional Development Plan and Teacher PLC focus areas.

Additionally, Mr. Bornstein attended the Project SEARCH National Conference the week of July 19th (held virtually this year). The conference brings together coordinators and staff from the 700+ Project SEARCH programs from around the country and overseas to share best practices and support additional learning to help improve program success.