



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Crossroads School	<b>Report Date:</b> April 29, 2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 41	<b>Intake:</b>
<b>Acceptances:</b>	<b>Disenrollments:</b> 0
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> 4/15/22	<b>Other (Specify Type):</b> 4/26/22 Lockdown
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<b>In Christina Witte's middle school classroom:</b>	
<p>This month we are celebrating Earth Day through various cross-curricular activities. We have restarted our school-wide recycling efforts and are proud to announce that the Middle School recycled more than 50lbs of paper and more than 300 gallons of plastics and cans last month. As we are learning more about conservation, we have been re-purposing ordinary items for different crafts and lesson materials, including egg cartons to count with one-to-one correspondence, while discarded bottles have turned into lava lamps during our science experiments. We have also been repurposing all the discarded wipes containers and turning them into self-watering planters.</p> <p>We built two small green houses and put them into our garden outside. We started planting seeds outside and also transplanted some of our seedlings we grew earlier this year. We started our sensory garden in one of the boxes. We are hoping it will show different colors, textures and smells that are ready to be explored by our students. Finally, we turned our garden fence into a living wall. We planted our strawberry plants into the containers and hung them along the garden fence.</p>	
<b>In Natalia Amador's classroom:</b>	
<p>For the month of April, we continued to work on Read Across America by exploring all Dr. Seuss books. We also learned about Easter through a fun lesson that teaches everything from sorting to place value. We have been using egg cartons to make tens of frames, we estimate, count, tally, sort, classify by color and size (some eggs have smaller eggs inside), and calculate money (pennies, nickels, and dimes). I have also incorporated independent tasks by making stations for my class that allows them to sort, stuff, and organize eggs.</p> <p>For Earth Day, we have explored the history behind this important day by reading books, watching videos, and making crafts. We extended this lesson in science by planting seeds and learning the parts of a flower, as well as the life cycle of a plant.</p> <p>So far in PREVOC, we have worked on delivering breakfast, doing laundry, collecting recyclables, taking utensil orders, and cleaning the door windows. This month, they are working on office supply orders and cleaning the windows.</p> <p>For science and social studies, they have learned about the lifecycle of a frog, the life cycle of a plant, Easter, Earth Day, and we learned about volcanoes. Students had so much fun making their own volcano out of dough and seeing it erupt by using vinegar and baking soda.</p>	

All students continue to work on their IEP goals and VB-MAPP goals, and in addition, we have begun DLM testing.

**In Allison Gebler's class, Room 103:**

The thematic units focused on what happens in Spring, the life cycles and needs of different animals and plants. Students completed crafts related to their new tadpoles: Kermit and Princess Tiana. Our class also experimented with planting seeds and will hopefully have flowers soon. Holidays reviewed during Morning Meeting and thematic centers included Sebastian's birthday, Ramadan, and Easter.

**In the area of Language Arts:**

Students reviewed the alphabet and letter sounds daily during Morning Meeting and individual instruction activities. The core word of the week was also introduced each morning and reviewed throughout natural environment teaching. Our students are practicing core prepositional words during the month of April: in, out, up, down, and under.

**In the area of Math:**

Students continued learning a variety of mathematical skills during their individualized instruction and independent activity schedules: color identification, shape identification, skip counting, addition, subtraction, and telling time.

**In the areas of Science / Social Studies:**

Students completed lots of different activities related to life cycles and the needs of plants and animals:

- Feeding tadpoles and cleaning their tank
- Sequencing frog life cycle steps
- Flower crafts related to the parts and needs of plant life
- Planting seeds to hopefully grow flowers for Mother's Day

**In Individual Learning:**

- Ezequiel has begun occasionally manding for noise canceling headphones to meet his sensory needs.
- Harith has increased his tolerance of transitions to different classrooms for specials using his personal schedule.
- Josselin has quickly demonstrated an understanding of ProloQuo2Go using her AAC device and gets very excited to greet staff and peers.
- Lyla has mastered labeling a multitude of community helpers and will now be learning to answer various questions related to different people in the community.
- Sebastian has mastered over 20 different tasks using his independent activity schedule of 6 bins per session. He is making great progress in learning to complete unfamiliar tasks during individualized instruction.
- Sidney made great progress in her independent completion of an activity schedule this month. Now that she is adjusted to the routine, she is quickly mastering a variety of tasks.

Room 103's Star Student, Josselin, has blown us all away with her immediate acquisition of functional communication using her AAC device! She actively explores the folders within her ProloQuo2Go, and even seeks out Crossroads administrators to share her excitement over her increased communicative abilities!

Our classroom is looking forward to seeing what stage of life cycle our tadpoles will be in when we return from Spring Break!

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

**Special Events:**

Staff and students participated in a multitude of Easter and Spring Break activities! Parents joined us at our school facility as well and all stakeholders enjoyed the festivities!

Autism Awareness was celebrated throughout the month by students, staff, and parents.

In celebration of Earth Day, Crossroads Staff were awarded a planting tree from the County of Union.

Community Based Instruction is paused due to the COVID-19 national pandemic.

**Professional Development:**

Crossroads Staff participated in professional learning opportunities during extended learning time throughout the month of April.

Pre-IEP meetings consistently occur with all school stakeholders represented. These preliminary meetings allow our staff to collaborate prior to the scheduled IEP meeting.

Professional learning community meetings and Pre-IEP meetings have been held virtually as well as in-person throughout the month of April.

Crossroads behavior and administrative teams continue to provide staff with training specific to their individual needs and requests.

Parental training took place during the month of April as well.



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Hillcrest Academy North	<b>Report Date:</b> April 29, 2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 85 <b>Acceptances:</b> 3	<b>Intakes:</b> 3 <b>Disenrollments:</b> 0
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> 4/25/22	<b>Other: Lockdown:</b> 4/25/22

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

In English, the month of April has been used primarily for Social Emotional Learning assignments. In addition, teachers have spent time with seniors helping them finalize their English portfolios for graduation. Students also started a brief introduction on poetry by teaching a few terms and showing examples through hip hop and rap songs. Using music for poetry has also helped teachers with teaching beats and meters, as well as more complex terms, such as consonance and assonance.

In Health, students continued the First Aid/CPR. Chapter 2 consisted of four different slideshows where students were engaged by answering their do now slip, answering questions throughout the presentation, reading out loud, followed by an exit slip to check understanding. The topics for Chapter 2 included Heart Attacks, Cardiac Arrests, Adult CPR as well as Children/Infant CPR. Chapter 3 will resume after testing on May 3rd. It will further discuss the use and importance of an AED.

In Math, students in Ms. Rehwinkel’s classes used the skills they’ve learned this year to investigate income, taxes, and budgets. Students completed sample W-2 forms by creating equations to model gross income and deductions. The concept of Household Budgets was used to allow students to confront financial trade-offs and practice making informed spending decisions. The 50/30/20 Budget Rule was introduced, and the students practiced making and analyzing data in pie charts. In Geometry, the students used a hands-on approach to learning about right triangles and worked together to duplicate an ancient technique to create a right angle using only string and knots. The large triangle was used to measure right angles around the classroom, including the corners of the room and the windows.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

This month, the guidance counselor prepared for the administration of NJSLA testing at Hillcrest North. Ms. Schulhafer met with the District Testing Coordinator and building testing coordinators to ensure students were properly rostered for the correct NJSLA test and testing materials were organized and ready. Ms. Schulhafer met with staff and went over the testing schedule. The guidance counselor also helped prepare the students to complete their Portfolio Appeal to meet their state assessment graduation requirements if needed. The guidance counselor met with students to review any academic and social emotional concerns they may have. The social worker

continues to follow up with students to work on college applications and the financial aid process. The social worker has continued to have SEL groups weekly with all students. Additionally, the social worker checks the daily reflection forms and follows up with students as appropriate.

**Professional Development:**

HAN staff continues to train in integrating social-emotional learning activities into the classroom to help revitalize student commitment to math and ELA skills. Lessons in Success Seminar for this month continued to focus on the importance of self-reflection and how to effectively answer self-reflective questions. Our SCIP continues to facilitate our Advocate Program during PLC time.



## Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

<b>School/Department:</b> Hillcrest Academy South	<b>Report Date:</b> April 29, 2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 94	<b>Intakes:</b> TBA
<b>Acceptances:</b> 4	Disenrollments: 5 (1 moved out of state, 1 assault on staff, 3 threatening staff & disruption to educational process)
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Drills:</b> N/A 4/13/22	<b>Other:</b> Bomb Threat 4/25/22 & 4/25/22
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<p><b>Ms. Duarte's USII:</b>          April brought students studying human behavior for students as they researched Stanley Milgram, Jane Elliot, and Philip Zimbardo to better understand what motivates individuals to act or not act when given instructions. These experiments led to a discussion centering on the Holocaust and a culminating discussion on what we can do as individuals when presented with moments of injustice. In Economics students used the information they learned on various business models to create their own business presentations. Students then shared their presentations with their peers and classes voted on their favorite product/idea.</p>	
<p><b>Ms. Wrzesinski's U.S. History I and Modern World History:</b>          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. U.S. History I classes finished their Manifest Destiny unit with the Trail of Tears, the cultural, economic, and political issues/ differences of the North and the South. Students then applied those issues/ differences to the start of the Civil War via document-based questions. Students also started the topic of slavery, transatlantic slave trade and the idea of abolitionists. Students also completed map activities to signify America gaining all the land in North America. Modern World History students completed their Rise of Totalitarianism unit. They focused on Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, and Emperor Hirohito of Japan. Students then started their WWII unit and looked at the different sides of WWII and the causes of WWII. Students also completed map activities to ensure they knew the areas in which there was fighting. Criminal Justice students looked into significant court cases throughout history. This included Gibbons v. Ogden, Brown v. Board of Ed, Plessy v. Ferguson, etc. Students also looked at current court cases happening in their community and the surrounding areas as well as the most famous in the country currently.</p>	
<p><b>Ms. Cioffi's English Department:</b>          Reported that her students completed the English department's non-fiction unit common assessment. During this assessment students read a nonfiction article on screen addiction and answered multiple choice questions that gauged their comprehension of the central idea, author's purpose, analysis, and supporting evidence. Students then evaluated the author's argument and outlined an essay determining if the author wrote a strong argument with a clear claim, supporting evidence, counterclaim, and a conclusion. Students used these completed outlines and teacher feedback to write their final essay evaluating the author's argument. Future plans for English courses will be to review fiction skills from earlier in the school year and then apply these skills to poems. Students will read poems that will be on their appropriate reading level based on the data gathered from IXL diagnostics questions. This will prepare students for a final poem project that they will complete towards the end of the year.</p>	

**Ms. Holden's English classes:**

In commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Month, students read an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank. Students discussed evil and how people react to evil. April was also Poetry Appreciation Month. Students enjoyed reading and analyzing the poem *First They Came for the Jews* by Martin Niemoller. Students then created their own poems *First They Came for...* and shared their poems with the class. In addition, all English classes took the English Assessment test. Seniors who had not met the testing requirements for graduation worked on completing their portfolio packets to send to the state.

**Ms. Hernandez Class:**

Students have been working with the students on the "Do Now - Hacer Ahora" by speaking, writing, and reading the date, weather, and the question of the day, on any topic related to school, home, and community in every class. After the do now assignment, Ms. Hernandez spoke to the students about the lesson of Personality traits, including conjugation of the verb to be (Ser), how to convert the plural to the adjectives, and to build sentences applying two to three adjectives for every subject pronoun following PowerPoint grammar points on every assignment.

**Ms. Ferrari's Class:**

Students worked diligently on preparing for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments. They completed a Do Now daily which included an application of the NJSLA mathematics reference sheet. In addition, they received practice using the school's TI-84 to solve the multi-step problems. The geometry students completed the Geometry Computer-Based Practice Test Unit 1 found on the NJSLA Resource website. We covered many difficult concepts which include changing degrees to radians, equations of circles, similarity, transformations and two column proofs. The constant reinforcements about the importance of reading and comprehending each question will hopefully yield positive results. The Algebra students have worked on a number of concepts that are on the NSLA Practice Test. The concepts include linear equations, graphing linear equations, slope, and solving systems of equations. In addition, parents/ guardians were updated each week about all grades and important announcements. All communications with students, parents and emails have been documented.

**Ms. Fernandez-Siejack's Algebra 2:**

Students were able to start working with radicals. Students were first able to simplify radicals to their simplest form. From there, they were able to simplify radicals with coefficients. Next came adding and subtracting radicals that are either already like or that have to be simplified first. Finally, students were able to use multiplication and FOIL to combine radicals. Consumer Math students were able to finish out the lessons on savings accounts. They learned about the five different kinds of savings accounts as well as the pros and cons of each one. Then they worked on the idea of living paycheck to paycheck as well as why it is so hard to save money and some tips to save. Finally, students began work on what checking accounts are and the best way to keep away from hidden fees and overages.

**Ms. Arora's Forensic Science and Environmental Science:**

Students utilized the scientific methods. Apart from that, all the students viewed a live demonstration of a fetal pig and sheep brain dissections. It was quite helpful to understand the anatomy of the human body and created a lot of interest with the students. In Forensic science classes, they studied Nature, Manner, and mechanisms of death. They viewed a Forensic File based on the class topic to reinforce determining the time of death and steps to solving a mystery. In Environmental science, students studied about the solar system and unique features of all the planets that included information related to Earth Day.

**Mr. Mah Essiet's Biology:**

Students completed work on the different phases of mitosis. Students reviewed the different checkpoints in the cell cycle, their regulation by enzymes, and special proteins called cyclins. They explored the causes and consequences of a breakdown in the cell cycle control system. Students also studied how unregulated cells with mutations in their DNA proliferate mitotically to form tumors. Topics covered included types of tumors (benign and malignant), causes, and treatment. Students learned about how benign tumors can be safely removed by surgery, and the treatment of malignant (metastatic) tumors with a combination of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. Cancer-related-terminologies such as benign, malignant, carcinoma, carcinogens, oncogenes, metastasis, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and immunotherapy were defined. In Forensics classes, students reviewed different methods of packaging evidence in a crime-scene investigation,

and crime scene search patterns. In the latter they covered the grid, linear, quadrant or zone, and spiral search patterns. The remainder of the month will focus on the cause, manner, and mechanism of death in a crime scene.

**Mr. Barone's Health and Physical Education:**

The students in classes have been continuing with their unit on First Aid and CPR. Some of the topics that have been discussed include cardiac emergencies, using the AED, breathing emergencies, and sudden illness. Students now understand the severity of all these emergencies and know all are considered life threatening. During PE, students have been continuing with weekly Bean Bag Toss games and have been enjoying outdoor recreation activities on nice weather days.

**Mr. Peters Physical/ Health Education:**

Students were shown multiple avenues to participate in activities to increase strength, increase flexibility, and take part in cardiovascular exercises. Students participated in workouts that focused on yoga, Pilates, meditation, cardiovascular, strength, and flexibility. All workouts were between 5-15 minutes in length and students answered a self-assessment at the end to score their efforts. We have also been participating in cooperative games such as Kan Jam, Cornhole, and Ladder ball thanks to the enormous indoor space we are afforded here in Lord and Taylor. With the nicer weather we have also been able to take the students outside to take walks and participate in miscellaneous sport activities. In Health, we continued to concentrate on the coronavirus pandemic. Students kept up to date with current trends and events that have been affecting us all. The classes constantly review proper hand-washing techniques, proper face mask wearing, personal responsibility, how the virus is transmitted, and the social and emotional issues caused by the virus. Students have also been learning about CPR/AED/First Aid life skills through the American Red Cross Participants Manual. We have been covering how to properly administer CPR and use an AED in an emergency situation.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

Ms. Schulhafer, shared Guidance Counselor with Hillcrest North, prepared for the administration of NJSLA testing at Hillcrest South. Ms. Schulhafer met with the District Testing Coordinator and building testing coordinators to ensure students were properly rostered for the correct NJSLA test and testing materials were organized and ready. Ms. Schulhafer met with staff and went over the testing schedule. The Guidance Counselor also helped prepare the students to complete their Portfolio Appeal to meet their state assessment graduation requirements if needed. Hillcrest South continued to conduct intakes for new students and the Guidance Counselor met with students to review any academic and social emotional concerns they may have. Ms. Schulhafer will continue to monitor the senior's graduation progress and meet with them as needed.

Ms. Rubin, School Nurse and Health teacher, Ms. Rubin has been assisting with morning entry procedures, ensuring students are wearing masks correctly. Ms. Rubin has been contacting the absent students daily to keep track of any illness, including Covid-19 related symptoms and the need to be excluded from school. Ms. Rubin has been managing Covid-19 test kits for weekly staff testing as well as covering Westlake School when their nurse was absent on Friday, April 8. Ms. Rubin also helps with lunch duty and coverage of classes. Mrs. Rubin is continuing to provide annual screenings of the students as required by the State of New Jersey. Next month, the masks will be optional at our school, and Ms. Rubin will continue to monitor students to be sure they are wearing masks when needed, as per the new guidelines.

The HAS Community Service Program (HASCSP) took part in the Union County Freeholders/ Shade Tree Commission Arbor Day program. Williams Nursery in Westfield provided us with a flowering dogwood tree and instructions on how to properly plant and care for the young tree. We are grateful to Williams Nursery for helping beautify the HAS campus. The HASCSP held a fundraiser to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch, NJ. Icy treats were sold during student lunches with the proceeds going to the House's "Cook and Care" program. HAS students hope that their efforts will provide some comfort and support to the families staying in the House. We look forward to serving them in person next year!

The overall Student of the Month for April was Ms. Luna Herrera; Citizenship: Miguel Valencia; Community Service: Erika Jones; Respect: Erica Hayes; English, Ms. Cioffi: Heavenlii Romero; English, Ms. Holden: Kevin Amaya; Health, Mr. Barone: Erika Jones; Health, Mr. Peters: Indiah Montes; Math, Ms. Ferrari: Meleina Nieves;



Math, Ms. Fernandez-Siejack: Jahlil Valentine; Science, Ms. Arora: Nashalie Tineo; Science, Mr. Mah-Essiet: Jaydin Freeman; Social Studies, Ms. Duarte: David Barrera; Social Studies, Ms. Wrzesinski: Katelene Louis Spanish, Ms. Hernandez: Kamori Bray.

Perseverance: Crystal Blakney, Kevin Cruz, Saniyah Doss, Jonathan Funes, Erika Jones, Luis Pereira, Heavenlii Romero, Dante Santos, Nashalie Tineo, and Kahlil Valentine.

Perfect Attendance: Luna Herrera, Heavenii Romero, and Khalil Valentine.

Outstanding Attendance: Tahaj Bowers, Kenai Carandang, Kevin Cruz, QuaJanae Hunt, Damaris Kinney, Brandon Shipman, Miguel Valencia, Jahlil Valentine, and Dream Whitfield.

**Professional Development:**

Staff continue to meet in PLC or department meetings on Tuesdays as well as meet on Thursdays. HAS's main focus has been on SEL and engagement strategies. HAS administration will be working with the ScIP members as well as Hillcrest North administration and their ScIP to determine professional development needs for the 2022-23 school year.



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Lamberts Mill Academy	<b>Report Date:</b> April 29, 2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 42 <b>LMA Campus:</b> 31 <b>New Point:</b> 12 <b>New Point at LMA:</b> 1	<b>Intakes:</b> 1 <b>Acceptances:</b> 3 <b>Disenrollments:</b> 1
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b>	<b>Other:</b> Bomb Threat Drill (2) 4/25/22
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<p><b>English:</b>          We have completed our Unit II district assessments and have begun our final unit for the school year with Unit III Poetry. Students have been exploring the works of Walt Whitman and creating their own poems to depict his works. We continue to develop vocabulary to enhance our reading comprehension and writing depths. Students look forward to our weekly writing prompts as they have seen their skills developed through our portfolio samples. We have been engaged in the NJSLA testing as we anxiously await to get back to our poetry projects. Lastly, we have begun the editing process for our annual Literary Magazine publication.</p>	
<p><b>History:</b>          World History Students have studied the significant revolutions that took place in South America close in time to the American War for Independence. Comparisons were drawn about the reasons and aspirations of the colonists who were revolting. We also studied the revolution in West Africa and looked at the implications of religion in that movement. Architecture of the ancient Romans and Greeks were compared to the styles we find in modern day. Our students made comparisons with many of our key buildings and were surprised to see so many similarities.</p> <p>US History I evaluated the success and failures of post-Civil War Reconstruction. We looked at the efforts of the federal government and the change in course implemented by new President Johnson who reversed many of the Lincoln Plans. We looked at hate groups of the time that grew after the implementation of the Black Codes. We also looked at key elements of the Ku Klux Klan and evaluated elements that exist still today. US History II looked at the history of crimes committed against humanity - including the Amnion Genocide, The Rwandan Atrocities, and the Holocaust. Significant to these reviews was the identification of how and why they happened - what were the important elements of each event's early times. We moved on to a look at the United Nations - its history and relevance over the years, and then a study of the Cold War and what implications may still exist in our current times.</p> <p>In early May we will have another guest speaker. Our topic is Ukraine and will be presented by a local high school junior whose family has deep roots in Ukraine. She recently had an article in the Sunday Star Ledger talking about the situation. We speak weekly about the events in our current events class, so this should be a most interesting event.</p>	

**Mathematics:**

The month of April has been very fast. Students in Consumer Mathematics have been reinforcing their skills in using formulas with distance, time and rate. Students worked on solving word problem involving the three main components. Using basic Algebraic equations has allowed students to solve for a missing component according to the word problems. Students in Algebra courses have been working on different types of data analysis including stem-leaf plots, box-and-whisker plots, and line plots. Students have been creating and organizing data and using different graphical forms to display and interpret it. Finally, students in geometry have been continuing to find area and perimeter of regular and irregular polygons by using different types of formulas, and problem-solving strategies such as breaking shapes down into smaller, more manageable shapes.

**Science:**

Students are routinely completing the social, emotional, and learning forms and in every class a student is asked to distribute the forms. Students introduced to Quizziz, a learning platform with a game feel. It is multiple choice questions used to reinforce lessons which are scored with an interactive approach. This learning tool is linked to Google classroom across all sciences, so its a seamless transition for students to access and log in using their Google credentials. On the back end, the results of each student's performance is accessible. Biology students are learning about osmosis vs. diffusion and using graphic organizers to describe its differences and similarities. Environmental science continues to study a variety of energy sources and resources found on our planet and their uses. Students research the benefits and drawbacks of these resources. Chemistry students are learning about nuclear chemistry and with a graphic organizer research different events related to this topic. The final step of the research process is to identify if it was a positive or negative facet of nuclear chemistry. Marine biology students are learning about different aspects of plate tectonics - what it is and its effects. Students continue to use a variety of learning tools to grasp a deeper understanding of topics being exposed. Scientific method is a lesson that was revisited as a review across all science classes - presented with a Google slide presentation and group discussion. The mastery of this topic was measured with an assignment to sequentially number the steps and review vocabulary related to scientific method.

**Spanish:**

This month students are working on unit III "*La Comida y las Tradiciones*" in Spanish class. Students distinguished the similarities and differences between the patterns of celebrations and food of the target culture related to activities, food, and celebrations of the local culture in different Spanish countries. This unit fits precisely in the social studies component of high school standards, where students are exposed to different experiences, traditions, foods, and lifestyles of other people around the world with "*Las Comidas Típicas*". Students are able to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between practices of the culture studied. For instance, students have multiple opportunities to compare and contrast "*Las Comidas Típicas*", which is one of the foods in Spain and around the world, dating back since the rule of the Aztec Empire and "*Tortillas*". Students discuss "*Las Comidas Típicas*" and learn about it since it addresses multiculturalism, helping students develop a sense of diversity and respect for other cultures. Then, as an assessment students will write and illustrate their own version of the "*Las Comidas Típicas*". Students will be required to write and create a Power-point or poster, provide input and feedback, ask questions, and contribute to class presentations and discussions.

**Physical Education and Health:**

For Physical Education students are being shown multiple avenues to participate in activities to increase strength, increase flexibility, and take part in cardiovascular exercises. Students are participating in workouts that focus on yoga, pilates, meditation, cardiovascular, strength, and flexibility. All workouts are between 5-15 minutes in length and students answer a self-assessment at the end to score their efforts. We have also been participating in cooperative games such as Kan Jam, Cornhole, and Ladderball thanks to the enormous indoor space we are afforded here in Lord and Taylor. With the nicer weather we have also been able to take the students outside to take walks and participate in miscellaneous sport activities.

In Health, we continue to concentrate on the coronavirus pandemic. Students are being kept up to date with current trends and events that are affecting us all. We are constantly reviewing proper hand-washing techniques, proper face mask wearing, personal responsibility, how the virus is transmitted, and the social and emotional issues caused by the virus. Students have also been learning about CPR/AED/First Aid life skills through the American Red Cross Participants Manual. We have been covering how to properly administer CPR and use an AED in an emergency situation.

**Clinical:**

The month of April has gone by very quickly and the end of the year is soon approaching. Lifeskills groups have worked on the monthly theme of Responsibility and Self-care and acknowledged Autism Awareness during the month of April. Throughout the groups we identified and discussed responsibilities within different areas of their lives such as school, home, and community. Through discussion, students learned that individual responsibilities differ for each person, and it can change depending on certain stages in our lives. Students demonstrated insight into how individual self-care is an integral part of managing their day-to-day responsibilities and even participated in creating Vision Boards.

Upon planning for Spring Break students reviewed how they planned to take part in self-care and how they were going to engage in healthy activities. They were encouraged to plan positive self-care activities in order to focus on their social/emotional well-being. Students were very excited to spend much deserved time off.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

**Professional Development:**



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department: Nonpublic Services</b>	<b>Report Date: April 29, 2022</b>
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**Enrollment:**

**Current Enrollment as of April 29, 2022:**

Total Comp Ed Services: 1098	<b>Acceptances:</b> N/A
Total Supplemental Instruction Services: 529	<b>Intakes:</b> N/A
Total Speech Services: 211	<b>Disenrollments:</b> N/A

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

- End of the year procedures were reviewed with nonpublic teachers as Auxiliary teachers last day of school is June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Teacher resources were demonstrated on the shared drive for teachers.
- The Nonpublic Services Department continues to process orders for the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools program (EANS).
- The final Nonpublic School Textbook, Security and Technology orders for this school year are being reviewed and processed.

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

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

**Professional Development**

- Teachers continued presenting and completing activities based on the based on the PLC book, *Wish My Teacher Knew*, by Kyle Schwartz.



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Technology	<b>Report Date:</b> April 29, 2022
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
N/A	
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill:</b> N/A	<b>Other:</b> N/A
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install new L&amp;T network infrastructure</li> <li>- 3<sup>rd</sup> ECF window planning</li> <li>- 1571 IT reconstruction</li> <li>- Jamf/Apple audit complete</li> <li>- Magic cloud migration work</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>	
<b>Professional Development:</b>	



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department: Transportation</b>	<b>Report Date: April 2022</b>
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
N/A	
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill: N/A</b>	<b>Other: N/A</b>
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>	
<p>An updated estimate of total yearly transportation costs was mailed to all participating districts on April 19, 2022.</p> <p>The cut-off date for the submission of summer school transportation applications was April 22, 2022. The cut-off date for the submission of transportation applications for the 2022-2023 school year is May 27, 2022. Strict adherence to these deadline dates is required. Packets containing all necessary information for the submission of fall applications were emailed to participating districts on April 25, 2022</p> <p>The transportation is in receipt of most of the participating districts ESY transportation applications but are missing some participating districts applications. The transportation department has already started the preparation process in setting up 2022 ESY routes. Routing will begin the week of May 9, 2022. The coordinator will assess the routes to determine if it can be renewed or if it must go to bid. Bidding is to begin at the end of May and continue through mid-June.</p> <p>To date, the transportation department has set up over 800 routes for the 2021-2022 and applications are still being received from the districts for new placements that will require additional routes to be set up.</p>	
<b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>	
<b>Professional Development</b>	



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Westlake School	<b>Report Date:</b> April 29, 2022
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**Enrollment:**

<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 56 <b>Acceptances:</b> 2	<b>Intakes:</b> 5 <b>Disenrollments:</b> 0
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**Emergency Drills:**

<b>Fire Drill:</b> April 11, 2022	<b>Other Bomb Threat:</b> April 5, 2022
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**Curriculum and Instruction:**

**Mr. Carten's Class:**

Math: Group A students are on number identification. Group B students are working on multiplication. Currently students are working on the 7 times table. Functional money skills are being developed for true life experiences. Science: The students are very excited to start a science unit discussing the Circulatory System. Students watched a video showing how the Circulatory System works. Blood flows or (circulates) constantly through the entire body. The main parts being discussed are the heart, blood vessels, blood. Language Arts: Students have continued to read the novel called the Secret Lake, by Karen Inglis. The story continues to evolve. Stella & Tom have gone through the time tunnel several times and developed friendships with Sophie, Emma who lived 100 years ago. We continue to work on punctuation and sentence structure. In Food Prep, students participate in making healthy snacks. This month along with Mrs. Palmer's class we made homemade French toast, Turkey and cheese wrap, pancakes. The students follow the recipe and measure out all the ingredients necessary to make the project a success. The students are given questions to complete from the recipe of the week.

Social Studies, the students are covering a unit on current events using news to you. We also covered a unit on the history of Earth Day The students are studying the states of Maine, Maryland.

**Mrs. Convery's Class:**

During the month of April, we expanded our class business. We continue to make and sell dog biscuits in our vocational class. We printed, cut, and glued paper sleeves in spring and Easter designs for various chocolate bars (Hershey bars, KitKat and Reese's peanut butter cups). We sold the chocolate bars and dog biscuits at the April board meeting, the Commission offices and in our own school community. The sales were a great success, and we are well on our way to achieve our goal of paying each student \$25 in June from the profits of our sales. The class continues to utilize google slides to practice their money skills. Once or twice a week they take turns counting money on their skill levels, which range from identifying coins and their values to counting combinations of coins and bills with values over one hundred dollars. Several students have continued to acquire multiplication skills. They have practiced their times tables to 9, learned about and completed times tables charts, and are very excited to move on to double digit multiplication. Some of the topics studied this month include the legend of the Easter Bunny. The students were surprised to learn that this custom began over 400 years ago in Germany and was brought to the United States by German immigrants. Baseball Opening Day and the contributions of Jackie Robinson were also covered. Earth Day and the importance of taking care of our Earth and environment was the topic of our science classes for a week. Finally, state DLM testing was begun with one student in class assigned to participate in the online testing this year. The student has been engaged in the process and the other students have



maintained a quiet classroom environment while testing is conducted.

**Mrs. Fernandez's Class:**

In Math, students are beginning to use numbers to read, create, and form questions about data from graphs. In Language Arts students practice receptively and expressively identifying sight words and using them in the context of a lesson and in their environment. Students continue to work on their specific programs which include, identifying community safety signs, utilizing the Edmark reading program, and identifying emotions and actions. In science students have been exploring what earth day is and how to make contributions to lessen our carbon footprint and help the environment. Students are learning new questioning techniques as well as working as a group to answer these questions. In social studies students are learning about goods and services and discussing the differences between needs and wants.

**Mrs. Pajewski's Class:**

During our morning meeting, we touched upon counting odd and even numbers, skip counting and beginning blends. In math the students are separated into small groups according to ability. **AG** has been practicing division and double-digit multiplication. **JA** continues to practice addition/subtraction with/without regrouping. **GR** continues to practice calculator skills and counting. Together we have focused on patterning skills (AB, ABBA,...) a Jelly bean graph and will be introduced to fractions. In reading the students have enjoyed listening/reading Frog & Toad All Year and look forward to our next book. **JA** and **GR** continue to move forward in Edmark level 1. **JG** has been introduced to Edmark 1. **JM & AG** continue to practice comprehension skills using Reading for Comprehension A. Together we continue to review skills which involve read and follow directions and ABC order. Social Studies topics have focused on Spring activities and Scholastic magazine. Our magazine topics have included Earth Day, (Care for earth, reuse, recycle) and Goats in Trees (Goats help disperse seeds). For science we continue to use Mystery Science. We have completed a unit Forces and Motion and a mini lesson Types of Weather. The skies Students have participated through videos (with our guide Doug) experiments and worksheets.

**Mrs. Palmer's Class:**

We were very busy in the month of April making candy for orders that several students brought back to our class. We sold candy at the Commission Office, and Mrs. Palmer sold candy at the April board meeting. The students were very happy to take a trip outside of the building. The students also sold candy in the building. The students like serving the lunches. They are very proud of their jobs. There are times when they can complete the job without the staff. This month the students read about Albert Einstein and watched the video about his life. They enjoy learning about people in history. They also are continuing to read their novel "The Library Card." In science they have finished studying about the human body. In Food Preparation the students made a Breakfast Sundae and a sandwich breakfast.

**Ms. Porchetta's Class:**

April has been very productive for our class. Now that the Bead Shop is up and running, items were packaged and sold at the Commission and Westlake. Student RC did an amazing job shadowing the cart and using her iPad to communicate with our staff. Our Earth Day celebration gave us the opportunity to learn about topics associated with the environment. In language arts, we read Here Comes the Garbage Barge! By Jonah Winter. We followed up by discussing the impact our choices have on the Planet. In social studies, we learned why we recycle and reviewed examples of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. In math recyclable materials were counted and added to a graph. Students compared the amounts as a follow up activity. Programs were evaluated and updated to help improve individual progress.

**Mrs. Robles's Class:**

In Language Arts, the class continues to work on identifying vocabulary words such as food, clothing, everyday objects, and animals. We practice answering Wh questions by playing Wh bingo. The students enjoy watching/listening to a read aloud story and then answering questions about the story. For Science the students have heard/watched several stories about spring and the changes that occur during this season. After the story the students answer comprehension questions about the story. We are currently working on life cycles. We have completed activities about the life cycle of a plant and will begin activities on the life cycle of a butterfly and tadpole. In Math the students continue to work on counting and one to one correspondence, sorting and patterning colors and sorting by attribute. The students work on Social Emotional activities with Ms. Sandrock when she

comes in for Social Group. During class they identify his or her feelings using pictures and IPADS. The students especially enjoy music with Mr. Patrick, and they all participate in singing the songs.

**Mrs. Shaw's Class:**

In April, the students worked on various spring themed lessons throughout the month. In Reading, the students read stories about various spring stories and discussed what are the changes in the spring season. In Math, the students worked on solving equations. The students found the answers in the grid and wrote down the corresponding letter to reveal words related to spring. In Science, the students worked on the four seasons and day length. The students watched the video and made observations at different times of year to relate the amount of daylight to the time of year. In Social Studies, the students learned about Ramadan and Easter holiday. They learned what the traditions are and how to celebrate. The students also learned about Earth Day and discussed what other ways they can help keep the Earth clean and healthy.

**Mrs. Swisher's Vocational Class:**

During the month of April, our "Skills to Pay the Bills" included a video on "Enthusiasm and Attitude". The activities in this section taught the students about the importance of enthusiasm and a positive attitude in the workplace. Students practiced hearing strategies for turning negative thinking into positive thinking and displaying and discussing enthusiasm during an interview and on the job. Students watched a video with a potential employee that displayed a disrespectful and negative attitude and then compared it with a video with a potential employee displaying enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Students were actively engaged in conversation and were able to compare the differences. In the end students agreed that enthusiasm and a positive attitude would make the best employee. Students also have been working on grocery store words. Activities have included tracing words, matching picture to picture, matching picture to word, and sorting grocery store vocabulary into categories. Some students have been working on rounding up to the next dollar for purchases.

**Mrs. Caputo – Art:**

Mrs. Caputo loves Spring Art Projects! We began the month printing flowers on colored paper. Students selected colors and were instructed how to "double load" their stamps. Students used cardboard to stamp stems as well. Then, students traced and cut various sized bean plant leaves. Finally, students used pom-poms to make a caterpillar and hole pouches to make "chew marks". Next students practiced weaving skills by making Snakes in the Grass. First, students made marks on green paper to look like lush thick grass. They then folded and cut the paper to make wavy lines to weave their snakes through. Students also traced 3 snakes and drew different patterns on each snake. Then they cut them out. Finally, students used their snakes to weave in and out of the grass. After Spring Break, students were inspired by the artwork of Charles Demuth and Jackson Pollock. They repeated the first letter of their name to draw, trace, cut, glue, and draw some more on various (student) painted papers. They put the finishing touches on their work by gluing on foam letters to add dimension to their mixed media artworks.

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

April showers bring May flowers! It has been another wonderful month of Health and Physical Education. This month as the weather is getting warmer, we can go outside and engage in outdoor activities such as basketball, football, cooperative games, physical fitness activities, kickball, t-ball, and many other games! When we were inside the students can engage in sports, recreation, and leisure activities such as quick shot mini basketball, badminton, soccer, knock hockey, air hockey, oversized Jenga, cornhole, ladder ball, parachute activities, scooter activities. During Health we continue to learn about fire safety and transition into self-care. Based on the check-ins with Health classes we will continue to engage in SEL and infuse guided meditation into the lessons. Boy Scouts Update: Going off the momentum of the Pinewood Derby, we were able to take a few of the Boy Scouts to Williams Nursery in Westfield on Arbor Day to get a tree to plant at our school. Another exciting activity that is coming up in May is the Rain Regatta. Each Scout will get a balsa block of wood where they will design and paint their rain regatta. Then the following week they will have the opportunity to showcase and race their regatta.

**Mrs. Sandrock – Social Work:**

Six IEP meetings were held since the last report, two of which were in-person at the request of parents. Both parents and CSTs continue to inquire about increased CBI trips and starting vocational placements for their adolescents since Westlake has always taken pride in its vocationally geared programs with an emphasis upon real

work. A tour was given to a referring CST and parents of prospective student who were interested in a placement. Again, CBI was near the top of the list of requested programming for their child to attend in the future. Individual counseling sessions are being held with students that are able to set goals for themselves and work towards attaining them. Overall, students are pleased with their own achievements this school year. A couple of students are struggling with emotional issues that impact their attendance. We continue to partner with parents to support their efforts to increase daily attendance. Intermittent therapeutic work with students that require crisis intervention to assist teaching staff continues on an as needed basis. Returning to school following the scheduled vacation break, some students have had difficulty transitioning back to a school schedule and have necessitated staff interventions requiring Safety Care techniques to de-escalate them. Having all staff trained in behavioral safety remains a wise decision to minimize classroom disruptions and injuries. Social Emotional Learning is provided on a weekly basis in all classes and geared to each level of student need and their level of understanding. A few classes worked to create a Self-Monitoring Checklist of behaviors needing their attention to increase self-awareness and their own classroom productivity. Other classes are focused upon learning ways to become more mindful and more aware of their own behavioral patterns and thought processes. When not in school many students prefer to spend hours on their phones, other electronic devices, or watching tv. Many students are unaware of the amount of sleep, exercise, and healthy food that the adolescent brain requires for growth. Calls to parents regarding Transition planning continue this month in preparation for graduation and/or admission into umbrella agencies and in some cases needed additional hours of after school care. Most enrolled students are attending 6-week ESY programming as parents feel a need to recoup academic and social skills that may have declined during the Pandemic. A virtual Social Work meeting was attended to discuss SEL programming for the 22-23 school year as well as two Clinical webinars through NASW: Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and Trans Visibility and Awareness.

#### **Behavior Department:**

This month, assessment, and program assistance of teachers, as well as observation of students and creation of new behavior strategies and interventions has continued. RBT Jen has continued to be assigned to student WL in his adjustment back to school after major elopement which resulted in suspension. Elopement has decreased significantly since RBT has been assigned to him. Behaviorist continues to work with student WL and his teacher on strategies to handle seeing staff in which he has a history of agitation when interacting. Crisis support as well as additional assistance/strategy implementation has continued to be needed for several students this month. Behaviorists have participated in several intakes this month, and have begun pulling potential students to observe, assess and work with the student while the Principal or SOI meets and tours with family and case manager. This has been effective in two ways: allowing for additional information on the student to gauge his/her ability and appropriateness for Westlake, as well as to provide the parent with an opportunity to participate in the intake without having to monitor his/her child simultaneously. Additionally, the behaviorists have worked with several potential students, collecting data, and assessing skills during three-day trial intakes this month. Parent contacts, via in-person, phone and email continued this month as needed.

#### **Occupational Therapy:**

April has been an exciting month in occupational therapy. We are so happy to welcome Jessica Trellis to our therapy team. We have been working together to create a schedule and introduce and transition students to a new therapist. Welcome Jess!! Our students were excited for spring break and even more excited to return to school and therapy. We have been busy incorporating fine motor and bilateral motor skills into activities to improve independence in activities of daily living and prevocational skills. Egg scavenger hunts and planting seeds for Earth Day were used to make motor planning and bilateral coordination fun and engaging. Our Spring seasonal activities have been getting our students excited for warmer weather and longer days while working on visual motor skills, fine motor skills, and ADLs. This month we reviewed and assessed our SGOs and PDP plans and used them to evaluate our successes and areas that need improvement. Our results will help guide future therapy plans and continuing education plans.

#### **Speech Therapy:**

This month, the speech department continued to work on activities geared towards SEL. In groups we worked on giving compliments, identifying emotions, identifying problems, etc. We watched webinars about enhancing social skills in students on the Autism spectrum and put some of those suggestions into practice. We targeted basic concepts in a variety of ways (i.e. read books, felt objects in mystery bag, went on a scavenger hunt, etc.)

Thematic units included discussions about spring, Easter, Passover, Ramadan, Earth Day, etc. Students learned various spring vocabulary and ways they can help the environment by recycling, planting, etc. Lastly, we welcomed the arrival of Jessica Pinzon's sweet baby girl and future speech therapist.

**PT:** Currently we have one physical therapist working three days a week at Westlake School with sixteen students receiving physical therapy services (21 individual sessions and two group sessions). Our students continue to progress with their PT goals this month. W.A. is demonstrating outstanding progress with bilateral coordination exercises. He can now perform jumping jacks, cross crawls, and windmills with very minimal assistance. T.B. is working hard on improving safe negotiation of the steps into the school building each day. He made up a song to help him remember the sequence of crutches and feet on the steps. Our PT group continues to enjoy practicing yoga. We are using a set of yoga songs and sequences called "Musical Yoga Adventures." The students in this group are showing nice progress with their flexibility and motor planning during these sessions. We continue to review SGO data to ensure that our students are progressing with their goals.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

Mrs. Palmer's class went to the Commission to sell candy for Easter and our Vocational Teacher Mrs. Swisher also attended bringing a couple of students to sell jewelry that Mrs. Porchetta's class had made.

Mr. Shanfield (Boy Scout Leader) took some of the boy scouts to Williams Nursery to pick up and plant an Arbor Day Tree provided by the Nursery.

All students are excited about getting back out into the Community again!

**Professional Development:**



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Work Readiness Academy	<b>Report Date:</b> April 29, 2022
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**Enrollment:**

<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 21 (includes WRA & Project SEARCH) <b>Acceptances:</b> 0	<b>Intakes:</b> 4 (for SY 2022-23) <b>Disenrollments:</b> 0
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**Emergency Drills:**

<b>Fire Drill:</b> 4/11/22 (Level 1)	<b>Other (Specify Type):</b> 4/28/22 (Lockdown)
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**Curriculum and Instruction:**

Highlights from the month of April at the Work Readiness Academy included:

**WRA Program**

- This month our students continued participating in their second internship experiences. This rotation will take them to the end of June, enabling each student to have participated in at least three different experiences during the year.
- The WRA school-based business used this month to discuss customer satisfaction and surveyed customers from recent sales to get feedback and suggestions
- Other instructional topics this month included:
  - Perseverance at work
  - Customer service 101
  - Workplace Etiquette
  - Soft Skills vs Hard Skills
  - Filling our paperwork with personal information
  - Mock personal finance budgets
  - Calculating tip and gratuity

**Project SEARCH**

- During the month of April, the interns started their third and final internship rotations.
- One intern was offered part-time employment at Overlook in the Food Services department. Job search and development activities continue for the remaining 8 interns who are on schedule to complete the program and graduate at the end of June.
- Instructional highlights this month included:
  - Selecting appropriate References for employment
  - Job Interview Practice and preparing for next month’s Reverse Job Fair
    - Using the Start method to respond to behavioral interview questions
  - Networking

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

- Students in the WRA participated in community-based instruction trips to the Bridgewater Commons Mall and the Hilton Newark Airport.
- Monthly SEL Theme: “Say Something”; the group continued to participate in the core “Say Something” student training from Sandy Hook Promise that outlined the three steps students should take to help prevent potential violence in schools; Look for Warning Signs and Threats, Act Immediately, Tell a Trusted Adult

**Professional Development:**

- Staff worked in PLCS to discuss successes and challenges related to the implementation of visual supports.
- They also worked on on developing “A Day in the Life” videos to be presented to the board.