



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Crossroads School	Report Date: February 2022
---	-----------------------------------

Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 41	Intake:
Acceptances:	Disenrollments: 0

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: 10/29/21	Other (Specify Type): 10/15/21
-----------------------------	---------------------------------------

Curriculum and Instruction:

Natalia Amador's Middle School Classroom:

During the month of January, students will continue to work on their IEP goals through the use of technological applications and resources such as Boom Cards, Google Slides, Spelling City, and a variety of teacher made materials. Our Science and Social Studies instructional lessons have infused both disciplines into offering our students fun and creative learning opportunities. Classroom students and staff prioritized instructional opportunities focusing on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. Project based assessments were utilized during Science classes to identify distinguishing characteristics of polar bears and climate issues during the winter months. In the area of English language arts, students continue to make progress using the SRA and/or Edmark reading curriculum. They have been working on strengthening their expressive language, vocabulary acquisition, object identification, and following directions. I am glad to say that all students have adapted nicely to this unprecedented change of going virtual and returning back to a full day schedule. Due to our current situation, students have slowly been transitioning back to some prevocational jobs. Students have been participating in the distribution of breakfast for all classes. This task has been helping them strengthen their social skills, communication skills and ADL skills. Students are currently working on ordering food using a fast food menu and calculating the prices using a calculator. They are also working on making a shopping list using a supermarket flyer and calculating their budget to purchase the requested items. They are also working on expanding their comprehension skills through the use of mathematical word problems.

Crossroads Speech Department:

Hope Weinstein & Alayna Quattrocchi, reports the following:
 In her short time at Crossroads, preschooler Lyanna M., of Union Public Schools, is already making great progress in her overall developmental skills, including play, motor, and communication skills. She is able to bang and shake toys, demonstrate joint attention, and drop toys into a bucket. Lyanna loves going on walks with the staff around the building. She has even found a way to move the blue divider to make her way towards the door. A great demonstration of her problem-solving skills! Lyanna is on track to making tremendous gains this school year!

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:
--

Community Based Instruction Field Trip Opportunities are currently suspended pending further notice due to the COVID-19 national pandemic.
 Crossroads middle school teachers are in the planning and implementation stages of resuming in-school pre-vocational and everyday living skills.

 Classroom projects celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., took place throughout the month of January.

Professional Development:

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

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 January.

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

The Crossroads ScIP Committee has developed a School Based Professional Development Plan for February 7th, 2022.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Hillcrest Academy North	Report Date: January 28, 2022
---	--------------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 91 Acceptances: 1	Intakes: 1 Disenrollments: 0
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: 1/27/22	Other: Lockdown: 1/25/22

Curriculum and Instruction:

Students were refreshed and excited to return to school after the Winter Break.

In Social Studies, US I History students have started to study and analyze the Revolutionary War and will move on to the new unit of the Creation of the United States in the next few weeks. Economic students learned about the importance of a good Credit Score and completed the course with a project on how they can improve their Credit Scores. Economics and Computer Science students are excited to switch to Criminal Justice next semester!

In English, students are starting each class answering critical thinking questions and have been progressing in their media literacy unit. They have discussed how media messages are constructed using a creative language and learning how different people experience the same media message differently.

In Math, Algebra classes have been learning all possible methods of solving Systems of Linear Equations. Although the Graphing Method was a great review of Algebra 1, and the Substitution Method was helpful in reviewing solving linear equations, the Elimination Method was decided to be the most efficient way to solve systems of linear equations. Students are now able to solve many real-life problems with two unknowns, in multiple ways, with multiple representations. A review of all methods were assessed as a midterm exam.

In Science, Biology students finished their studies of cell membranes. Forensic Science students began their study of the use of DNA evidence to both convict and exonerate individuals of crimes. Environmental Science students continued their exploration into the layers of the atmosphere and their specific roles in the system that is the Earth. Next month, environmental science students will begin learning about how weather develops and ways to predict and model specific weather patterns.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

A large portion of the month in the social work office has been spent meeting with students who are academic and/or attendance concerns. The social worker, Mr. Van Cleef, and Mr. Marquet have spent time meeting with each of these students individually to help them meet their goals. Due to the surge in COVID, the month started off with many students on remote instruction. As a result, the social worker has started a daily google chat with students on virtual instruction to answer any questions and set them up for daily success. As always, the social worker continues to meet with students as various issues related to school and the home arises. Social Emotional Learning groups continue to run during periods 5a and 5b. The focus of this month has been ending this marking period strong and setting goals for semester 2. We are looking forward to the second half of the year.

Professional Development:

HAN 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 is facilitating our Advocate Program during PLC time once a week and has been successful with strengthening this program.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Hillcrest Academy South	Report Date: January 31, 2022
---	--------------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 75	Intakes: tba
Acceptances: 7	Disenrollments: 5 (3 never attended, 1 refused to attend and 1 in another placement)
Emergency Drills:	
Drills: On 1/3/22 at 10:45, at 11:00, & on 1/18/22 at 1:30	Other: 1/27/22 at 10:30 Lockdown External Threat
Curriculum and Instruction:	
<p>Hillcrest Academy South Campus started in person instruction on 1/3/22 at our new temporary location at the old Lord & Taylor building in Westfield at 609 North Ave. West. Even though there has been numerous staff and student absences, the remaining staff pulled together to cover one another, and students have begun to return as well. Unfortunately, one of our English teachers and our Social Worker have been absent since we have been in person.</p>	
Guidance Counselor:	
<p>Ms. Schulhafer helped transition the staff and students into their new schedules. Ms. Schulhafer met with each student individually to review their grades, credits, and credit retrieval classes to make sure they understand their graduation requirements. Ms. Schulhafer also individually met with each senior to ensure they are on track to graduate and answer any questions. Ms. Schulhafer will continue to monitor student progress and assist them with academic or social emotional needs.</p>	
Ms. Cioffi's English Courses:	
<p>Students have been learning the new routines and rituals to in person learning. At the mark of the new year, January lessons have been working on skills and content from the English Unit 2 curriculum. Students first reviewed characterization where they learned about both direct and indirect characterization. They then learned how to analyze a character in fictional texts by using the STEAL method and examining characters speech, thoughts, effect on others, actions, and looks to determine the type of character they were. Students then wrote a written response analyzing a character by using the RACE writing method where they practiced using textual evidence, transitional words and phrases, and analysis in their writing. The remainder of January, students will learn theme and continue building upon writing strategies while analyzing themes in various types of texts and videos. Students will also continue using IXL and completing diagnostics in order to more accurately pinpoint what level students are performing at now that they are in person. Future plans in English courses will continue learning the skills from the English curriculum and begin analyzing point of views and different types of conflicts.</p>	

Ms. Arora's Forensic Science & Environmental Science Courses:

Students worked on hands-on activities like DNA model, Measure the pH of different solutions, and fingerprints. In labs, they measure the pH of different solutions. In the fingerprint lab they took their own fingerprints and analyzed them. In the DNA lab they made a model of DNA and studied the coding sequence of DNA. In Forensic science students studied forensic anthropology. In that unit they reviewed the bones of the body, the differences between shape and strength of bones for boys and girls. They will learn how bones could be helpful in solving the mystery of a dead person and watch Forensic Files video clips of detectives who solved the mysteries by using bones of the body. In Environmental Science, students reviewed phases of the moon such as why the moon changes its phase and how each phase changes the earth climate.

Mr. Mah Essiet's Biology and Forensics:

Students worked in groups on a poster project. They developed and used models to illustrate the relationships between the component parts of biological systems. Posters were created in the following areas: levels of biological organization, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, relationship between cellular respiration and photosynthesis, and carbon cycle. In designing the model, students collaboratively examined the structures of the different components, and the connections of the components to bring about a function. The posters served as tools and models for students to construct and revise explanations based on valid evidence obtained from their own investigation. Poster use facilitated the review and understanding of concepts which were hitherto unclear during remote instruction. This aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (HS-LS1-1, HS-LS1-2, HS-LS1-4, HS-LS1-5, HS-LS1-6, and HS-LS1-7).

Ms. Ferrari's Class:

Students jumped right into fourth gear within person learning. It became evident that students needed to work on basic algebraic concepts on paper. The students completed on average three worksheets daily to practice these basic algebraic concepts. Each worksheet was valued as one point towards their total of four points for their classroom participation grade. They began with a Do Now that was a real-life word problem. The second was the day's lesson in which several examples were modeled for the students. Lastly, the students completed practice problems about the day's lesson. The Do Now worksheets, daily lesson worksheets, and practice worksheets came directly from the concepts listed on the Consensus Map. Students made notable efforts to complete the second marking period with overall adequate grades and additional credit retrieval credit. There has been ongoing communication with students and parents about HAS. Guardians were updated each week about all grades and important announcements. The important announcements this month related to the rolling out in-person learning.

Ms. Fernandez-Siejack's Class:

Students were able to work in-person, so they were adjusting to the new environment. Algebra 2 students worked on polynomials this month. They began with identifying the different types of polynomial classification of monomials, binomials, trinomials, and polynomials. Then students worked on finding the degree of a polynomial with both one variable and two variables. Students then followed up with adding and subtracting polynomials before moving on to monomial multiplication. Finally, algebra was able to end this month with binomial multiplication aka FOIL and polynomial multiplication. Consumer math students worked on how to read paychecks. They were able to understand the difference between gross pay and net pay, calculate deductions on a paycheck, and then calculate what the net pay is. Also, students were able to balance a checkbook and determine what could be afforded based off of paychecks and percentage of deductions. Lastly, students were able to calculate overtime and how that affects gross and net pay.

Ms. Duarte's Class:

Students came back into the classroom, were anxious to get to work, and transition away from computers. In Economics students delved into personal finance by studying income, determining net pay, and exploring ways in which the income gap affects the United States. Students were able to express their views on income inequality as they wrote detailed paragraphs supported with evidence from a news article. In USII students saw an overview of the Roaring 1920s and the Great Depression through primary source documents. A lot of connections were made with current problems facing the country surrounding COVID. In all, everyone is pleased to be back and have gotten back into their routine.

Ms. Wrzesinski's U.S. History I & Modern World History classes:

Students 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 continued their unit about growing colonial resentment. Students learned about the Boston Massacre, Sons of Liberty, Boston Tea Party, the "Intolerable" acts, the 1st and 2nd Continental Congress and the very first battles of the Revolutionary War at Bunker Hill and Concord. Students overall learned how the Americans sowed the seeds of liberty for their independence. Modern World History students were in their last week of their Imperialism unit. Students learned the definition of Imperialism and analyzed political cartoons and illustrations about imperialism. Students also discussed African Imperialism and the "Scramble for Africa" which caused hundreds of years of oppression in Africa where the effects can still be felt today. Students also halfway completed their Indian Imperialism unit and are currently learning about the Sepoy Rebellion. Computer science class completed the 28 levels needed for the express course on code.org.

Ms. Picciano's Art Classes:

Students returned to the classroom and began drawing and painting for the first time since the Spring of 2020. All were eager and willing to participate in drawing and painting assignments. This month was devoted to reviewing concepts learned remotely and put into practice. Still life, portraits and landscapes became the subjects of drawing and using a variety of mediums was also practiced. Classes started with warm up drawing exercises which then evolved into still life drawings inspired by objects set up in the room. Two draft styles were practiced; measured and scribble/gesture techniques. Students were quick to learn how to get forms on paper. Gouache was introduced and painting skills were developed using their still life drawing exercises. The class later was introduced to drawing bodies (mannequins) and used viewfinders to create initial compositions with the focus of combining a part of the body with some still life in the room. Some students preferred landscapes and created beautiful yet simple scenes with oil pastels. The teacher worked individually with each student to develop skills related to their interest. Prepared with a variety of subjects and mediums, each student will create a final work in the subject and medium of their choice by the end of the semester.

Mr. Barone's Health Classes:

Students in have continued to discuss the coronavirus pandemic. Numerous topics are discussed each day including the Omicron variant and also up to date covid numbers in New Jersey. Mr. Barone continues to explain to the students that they must continue using precautions and also reinforces proper mask wearing and hand washing. In addition, students were also introduced to units on the nervous system, respiratory system, and integumentary system.

Mr. Peters Physical Education & Health Classes:

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 five-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 Ladderball thanks to the enormous indoor space we are afforded at Lord and Taylor. In Health, students continued to concentrate on the coronavirus pandemic. Students kept up to date with current trends and events that are affecting us all. We constantly reviewed 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 were also educated about the vaccines that are currently available and the multiple variants of the virus.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

January was a busy month for the HAS Community Service program (HASCSP) facilitated by Ms. Clark! HAS seniors are hard at work satisfying their required community service hours through working on the Freerice program and other in-house community service activities. The HASCSP honored the memory of Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. through hosting its annual MLK Day of Service. On that day students reflected on some of Dr. King's famous quotes during their Success Seminar classes. Students continued to reflect on Dr. King's commitment to serving others by hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Community Food Bank of NJ. The HASCSP also hosted a hot cocoa party during student lunches as a way of celebrating our return to school and our new home at L&T. Both students and staff alike, share in their excitement for being back in school together!

January's Overall Student of the Month: Johnny Gutierrez; Citizenship: Erika Jones; Respect: Jahlil Valentine; Perseverance: Jhosel Ciudad, Angelique Correa-Henderson, Tymir Johnson, Victor Maldonado, Kayla Mercedes, Cris Osorio, Heavenlii Romero, Shadir Sims, Jahlil Valentine, Kahlil Valentine; Art, Ms. Picciano: Valerie Chacon; English, Ms. Cioffi: QuaJanae Hunt; English, Ms. Holden/ Clark: Justin Amador; Health, Mr. Barone: QuaJanae Hunt; Health, Mr. Peters: Erika Hayes; Math, Ms. Fern: Cris Osorio; Math, Ms. Ferrari: Lazaro Argueta; Science, Ms. Arora: Luna Herrare; Science, Mr. Mah-Essiet: Heavenlii Romero; Social Studies, Ms. Duarte: Johnny Gutierrez ; Social Studies, Ms. Wrzesinski: Kenai Carandang.

Professional Development:

For the February professional development day on 2/7/21, staff will focus on the CASEL framework and how to integrate it in lesson plans. CASEL provides training activities on their website, some of which we will utilize during this PD.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Lamberts Mill Academy	Report Date: February 26, 2022
---	---------------------------------------

Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 36 LMA Campus: 28 New Point: 10 New Point at LMA: 2 New Day at LMA: 3	Intakes: 8 Acceptances: 3 & 3 pending Disenrollments: 1
--	--

Emergency Drills: January 2022

Fire Drill: 01/07/22 & 01/17/22	Other: Lockdown Drill
--	------------------------------

Curriculum and Instruction:

Social Studies:

Our seniors in History of the Arts have continued their study of the Classical Era. This has included a view of art from ancient Greece and Rome. We will then move on to the art from the dynasties of Ancient China and Japan. We have noted many times the connections between these ancient times and examples of architecture and art as seen in today's buildings and artwork. Freshman and middle school students have been exploring the emergence of the Global Age and its impact on trading, social cultures, geographic movement, and county growth. When comparing our world today we have noted the amount of clothes that is made overseas and even the connection to food. We discovered that table grapes available now are grown in Peru and our bananas come from Nicaragua. It shows we are a small world.

US History I students have been studying the ideas of Manifest Destiny. This has included a look at the Cumberland Gap, the Lewis and Clark expedition, westward expansion, the Trail of Tears, and the Dawes Act. Our students have been saddened by the strict disenfranchisement that has happened to native Americans in these processes. US History II students have studied American just after the Great War, a dive into the Roaring Twenties, a look at the Great Depression, and the building clouds of war in Europe.

Mathematics:

All students taking Mathematics have been getting used to the new building, and layout of the classroom. Students in all classes have been giving their feedback on the layout, and flow of the classroom; along with helping repurpose pieces of furniture from Lord and Taylor to functional pieces of classroom furniture including attaching bulletin boards to clothes rack and creating different types of bookcases and shelves. In addition to helping give input into the classroom, all students have been spending intervals of time working on IXL.com and on their individual recommendations per the diagnostic assessment.

Students in Algebra classes have continued to learn about graphing on the coordinate plane using different types of intercepts and writing them in equation form. We have been graphing various types of equations and using the whiteboards in the classroom to represent our different graphs. Algebra 2 students have started to learn about more

complex operations with polynomials, including using the FOIL method. We continue to practice using ‘boxes’ in order to ‘chunk’ large problems into smaller steps which has been successful for our students.

Finally, students in Consumer Mathematics have been learning about checking accounts; and how to properly write a check and balance a checkbook ledger. Students also discussed the pros and cons of using checks in today’s world. By using basic math skills, and organizational skills students have been able to track, and account for different types of checking accounts. Lastly, students have debated on if they think checks will eventually become obsolete. Students picked a side and debated to their peers’ reasons why or why not they believe checks will become obsolete.

English:

We have begun Unit II Narratives through exploring the various skills of annotation and close reading. Students have been reading aloud various short stories such as Ray Bradbury’s wonderful work “All Summer in a Day”. We continue delving deeper by discussing the annotation they have noted. These grand discussions have deepened our comprehension of the text as well as increased our vocabulary knowledge. We continue to write feverishly through varied writing prompts weekly and are able to develop our writing skills. This writing technique has supported students' learning of various narrative writing strategies. Our Career Exploration: Creative writing course has been completing our exploration by writing our own creative narratives and sharing them out with our peers.

Spanish:

This month, students in Spanish class have been getting experience by researching and learning about “*La Vida Escolar en los países hispanos*”. They are working on finding different types of ways that students go to school, along with using different Spanish vocabulary to write stories about their findings. Students enrolled in Spanish have been spending time working on “Duolingo”, the online language learning platform, in which students practice vocabulary, listening, reading, and writing along with all the different pronunciations associated with them. In addition, in the area of social emotional learning, students have been exploring the reading and writing process working on a project called “*La Carta*”, in which the students have a scenario as a foreign exchange student in Spain and they have to meet new people and reply to an ad in the city newspaper. They are practicing sentence structure about writing a letter to a friend. Finally, students have been using the Reflection form at the beginning and at the end of the lesson.

Physical Education/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.

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 are also being educated about the vaccines that are currently available and the multiple variants of the virus.

Clinical Department:

We welcomed the students back for another new year! We kicked off January 2022 in our new temporary location at Lord and Taylor in Westfield. The students returned to school with smiles on their faces and quickly acclimated to our new surroundings.

We began the month by reflecting on our goals from 2021 and discussed resolutions for the New Year. We discussed the importance of establishing new realistic goals and how they might be affected while we are still moving through the COVID pandemic.

This month we targeted the theme of Leadership. Students were asked to identify specific qualities that they feel any good leader should possess. Students were engaged in such activities as discussion questions and answers, short videos with discussion questions and interactive activities. Students participated in mock interviews with one another where they were inquiring about a leadership position, and they had to identify the necessary skills that pertained to this leadership position.

Lastly, we acknowledged Martin Luther King Day and discussed the ways he exemplifies a great leader.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development:



Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

School/Department: Nonpublic Services	Report Date: January 28, 2022
--	--------------------------------------

Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment as of December 23, 2021:	
Total Comp Ed Services: 1068	Acceptances: N/A
Total Supplemental Instruction Services: 489	Intakes: N/A
Total Speech Services: 179	Disenrollments: N/A
Fire Drill: N/A	
Other: N/A	
Curriculum and Instruction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nonpublic Services Department continues to process orders for the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools program (EANS). Nonpublic School Textbook, Security and Technology orders 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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to monitor the nonpublic schools our staff are assigned, to ensure that each nonpublic school is adhering to the health and safety guidelines as outlined by the NJDOE in <i>The Road Forward</i>. For example, if a school refuses to enforce masking mandates, our staff will be reassigned to another nonpublic school. 	
Professional Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonpublic staff completed shared activities for chapter four of the PLC book, <i>I Wish My Teacher Knew</i>, by Kyle Schwartz. 	



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Technology	Report Date: January 31, 2022
--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Enrollment:

N/A

Emergency Drills:

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

Curriculum and Instruction:

- Work with DVP, HBC & Structured Network Solutions on L&T network infrastructure
- LMA Chromebook security tightening
- Apple environment planning for Crossroads
- Jamf planning
- Incident IQ planning
- VMWare reconstruction vs cloud server model planning
- Card access research for 1571
- Backupify administration and account management
- Veritas account management
- Alyssa Law implementation for new sites
- Ring doorbell installation and configuration
- Theft of Verizon router @ L&T
- E-Rate form 470 creation and certification
- Wireless network implantation @ L&T
- VoIP procurement for L&T
- Projector procurement and testing for L&T
- Grasshopper configuration for LMA
- 1571 audit, reporting, mapping, repair, vendor and contractor collaboration
- L&T IT infrastructure build
- Chromebook and iPad asset management project
- Asset Management
- VoIP replacement planning
- Peripheral (projectors, wireless adapters, phones) procurement for L&T
- Phone administration for LMA, HAS

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development:



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Transportation	Report Date: February 26, 2022
--	---------------------------------------

Enrollment:	
N/A	
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: N/A	Other: N/A
Curriculum and Instruction:	
<p>The estimate of total yearly contract payments will be distributed to the bus companies holding contracts with the Commission on February 3, 2022. It will be included with their paychecks. This is a report similar to the one distributed to the participating districts and serves the same purpose for the bus companies.</p> <p>This year is another busy one for the Transportation Department. The department is trying hard to keep up with the demand. Many of our contractors are already working at full capacity and with the critical shortage of drivers that was in place before the pandemic is still having a major impact and bus staff reluctant to return to work because of the high risk of exposure to COVID-19 obtaining quotes on new routes is becoming more difficult with longer lag times between submission of requests and implementation of transportation. Nonetheless, only a few students are still waiting for a ride.</p> <p>Due to the continued high volume of late applications and changes in out of district placements/special schedule changes that is still being received by the transportation department, we will be having a bid opening on February 16, 2022. 20 routes will be going to bid.</p> <p>The weather this winter so far has been pretty cooperative, and we have only had one storm so far causing school closures. Much of the winter season remains so there is still time for weather related disruptions to occur.</p>	
Community Based Instruction and Special Events:	
Professional Development	



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Westlake School	Report Date: January 31, 2022
---	--------------------------------------

Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 54 Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 2 Disenrollments: 0
--	---

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: January 4, 2022	Other Lockdown – Internal Threat January 24, 2022
------------------------------------	--

Curriculum and Instruction:

Mr. Carten’s Class:

In Math, Group A students are on number identification. Group B students are working on triple digit addition. Functional money skills are being developed for true life experiences. Social Studies, the students are covering a unit on current events. The students have done research on Martin Luther King discussing all the wonderful contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Students continue to study the US States. This month we covered the states of Florida, Georgia, and Hawaii. Science: The students are very excited to start a science unit discussing the Muscular system. skeletal muscles, smooth muscle, and cardiac muscle. Students are Learning the skeletal muscles that move the bones. The legs, arms, and feet, move when you want them to move. These are also known as the voluntary muscles. The students continue to read the new novel; The Return of the Catman. By author Anne Schraff. In Food Prep students participate in making healthy snacks. This month along with Mrs. Palmer’s class we made homemade pancakes, scrambled egg wraps, and French toast. 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.

Mrs. Convery’s Class:

This month, the students have been working on the topics of money, multiplication and graphing in math. We have also continued to focus on the areas of reading comprehension and locating the answers to “wh” questions in nonfiction reading passages during language arts instruction. The holidays of New Year’s and Martin Luther King Day were studied during the month of January. Resources used to highlight the life and achievements of Dr. King includes worksheets, google slides presentations, Scholastic magazine, read aloud books and videos including Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. We have recently begun study of biomes in science class. The first to be studied is the tundra biome. The students especially enjoyed learning about the animals that inhabit the tundra such as the polar bear and the arctic fox. The class has continued the dog biscuit business. We make and sell dog biscuits to the staff once or twice a week. The profits from the business were shared with the class and each student made \$10.00. The students also shared their biscuits with Patches, the visiting therapy dog from Creature Comfort. She performed tricks such as sit, roll over and high five to receive her treats, much to the delight of the class.

Mrs. Fernandez’s Class:

In Language Arts, students are learning descriptive words and using them to describe common objects in their environment. Students continue to work on their specific programs which include, identifying community safety signs, utilizing the Edmark reading program, sight word recognition, and identifying emotions and actions. In

Math students are learning to generalize their math skills to natural situations in the school community. Students continue to use money in naturally occurring situations (i.e., money ID, counting, addition, subtraction, using a register, survey data, reading graphs, and accounting). In Social Studies, we discussed the life of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Students gave examples of ways they could honor him in their own lives. In Science, we are beginning our unit on snow and creating hands-on learning opportunities to explore and experiment with snow like using different household ingredients to create and mimic snow. Students are using Social Emotional Learning groups to identify different feelings in the “Zones” curriculum and how to problem solve when experiencing these different emotions. Students practice through video models and group discussions. Students create tool kits for how to appropriately have their needs met when feeling these emotions.

Mrs. Pajewski’s Class:

Each morning, students participate in a morning meeting which reviews calendar, reading/language, writing and math skills. Some skills we touched upon have been contractions and money skills.

In Math, the students are separated into small groups according to ability. JM and AG are currently working on higher level skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication) AG has been introduced to division and is doing well. JA has been introduced to touch points to help him with addition and subtraction. The other students are working on basic skills of (counting, sorting, classifying and number identification). CV is having some difficulty consistently identifying and counting. Together, we have focused on tally marks/graphing and identifying/counting money. In reading AG and JM are focusing on comprehension skills (Edmark level 2 and Reading for Comprehension series) WA, JG, CV & GR have been introduced to Edmark Functional word series. JA has started on Edmark level 1 and is doing well. Together, we have read the story Flat Stanley at the Firehouse. Social Studies topics have focused on fall holidays and Scholastic magazine. Our magazine topics have included Beloved Community (MLK Jr), and I am a Walrus (characteristics and habitat). For Science, we have been using Mystery Science. Our most recent topic has been Animal Superpowers. Here we are studying animal habitats and camouflage. Students have participated in listening to stories, watching videos (with our guide Doug) experiments and worksheets. Student behaviors are at a minimum as of now.

Mrs. Palmer’s Class:

The students have been very busy working on jobs from Candyland. The students placed 50 sticks in a bag, packaged 5 boxes in a bag and 25 bags in a bigger bag. They enjoy doing different types of activities. We are making candy for Valentine’s Day now. Mrs. Palmer dropped some candy off at Candyland. The students are also delivering the lunches to all the other classrooms. In Food Preparation, the students have been working in the cafeteria. They have prepared Banana Split Pancakes, French Toast and French Fries in the air fryer. They have been learning how to use small utensils and safety in the kitchen. During math the students are practicing making change and counting money. In Language Arts, the students are reading a novel entitled Report to The Principal’s Office. They are enjoying taking turns reading out loud.

Ms. Porchetta’s Class:

In Math, topics such as counting money using Touch Points, simple fractions and identifying geometric shapes in our environment were reviewed. In language arts, various everyday situations were presented. After discussion, students identified whether or not they displayed respect. In social studies we discussed the life and legacy of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Students gave examples of ways they could honor him in their own lives. In science we learned about how wind and water affect Earth’s landscape through the process of erosion. During our Vocational class, ADL skills such as making pizza in the microwave and cleaning the table were worked on.

Mrs. Robles’s Class:

In our ADL class, with Ms. Alison the students have been working on personal hygiene. They have washed their faces, cleaned their nails with a nail brush, and they have brushed their teeth. In class we have reinforced these activities with videos that the students enjoy watching. We continue to work on seasonal shape activities. The students used hearts to create Valentine puppy dogs. The students are also working on matching shapes to their three-dimensional real-life counterparts - a circle to a can, a rectangle to a tissue box. The students continue to work on sorting by color and to count objects up to the number 10. Students have been working on a variety of fine motor activities including opening and closing bottles and cans and various kinds of boxes. When doing this activity, the students must learn to correctly match the lid or top to the correct bottle or box. Students also work on a variety of language activities including identifying food and personal care items, kitchen utensils, clothing items

and other everyday home and school items. The students also work on following one and two step directions in the classroom such as, “get a glue stick from the drawer”, “put your backpack in the closet” and “give the bottle to Ian”.

Mrs. Shaw’s Class:

Reading / Language Art: By reading a story about Martin Luther King Jr, the students learned the importance of timelines to understand history. Five out of six students are working on Edmark Reading Programs, and they are making great progress this month.

Math: The students are working on how to budget for a simple shopping trip. The students were given their budget to buy various Valentine items on a virtual shopping trip. The students were able to answer questions whether they had enough money to purchase the item using Yes and No sign banners.

Social Studies: Students learned how to celebrate Kwanzaa and learned more about the symbols of Kwanzaa. The students also discussed how to observe MLK day. The students enjoyed listening and reading the News2 You article about a new movie Sign2. Science: Students worked on how animals prepare for migration and hibernation and how migration and hibernation help different species survive.

Mrs. Sandroek – Counseling:

During counseling sessions, there has been concern among some students about contracting Covid which appears to have heightened their anxiety. Students also express concern about staff that have been absent for periods of time and wondering when they will return. Contact with multiple parents has revealed that families continue to be challenged by the Pandemic’s stressors impacting their lives.

SEL groups are held on a weekly basis. These groups have been helpful to students to promote their ability to function socially and emotionally. Two classes are utilizing CBT techniques to connect their thoughts and feelings in order to help them make better choices. Another class is learning about brain function recognizing ways to grow emotionally.

Multiple IEPS have been held over the past month to plan for next school year. CSTs are granting additional schooling to the “Class of 2022” according to S3434/A5366 NJ law. CSTs are requesting that students receive Community Based Instruction and/or Vocational programming that was missed due to Covid19 restrictions.

Several new students who have been placed at Westlake have not yet applied to Perform Care and require assistance with the application process. Through discussions families are beginning to formulate an understanding of the Transition process. Other parents are at a point of understanding their child’s disability and implications for learning which will impact their future. Discussions with BCBA’s have been held to assist some parents with strategies for structuring time at home to increase independence.

For the most part, students are making the best of difficult situations that Covid has inflicted on them. Students that were apprehensive about returning to the building have settled into their classroom routines and are wearing face masks to the best of their abilities. In some cases, students have revisited their concerns during counseling sessions when needed. Staff has done a great job incorporating real work into the school day until students can participate in possible CBI trips.

Mrs. Caputo – Art:

Students have continued to be inspired by European Art in the Global Art Passport Curriculum. Students came back from break and made Cuckoo Clocks from Germany to welcome in the New Year. They looked at real images of cuckoo clocks made in Bavaria. Students used collage materials as well as supportive print outs to imagine and create their own. Students then “went” to Norway and watched a video about the traditional Folk Art of Dala Horses. Students used their drawing skills to make Norwegian inspired patterns in white crayon on blue paper. Students then traced and cut out a Red Dala horse. They then followed a directed draw to decorate their horse with a decorative saddle, bridle, and girth. Today students will travel to Rome to learn about Mosaics and then they will create a paper mosaic. They will cut and glue strips of paper to create a design, picture, pattern, or expression onto a Heart for Valentine’s Day.

Mr. Shanfield – Physical Education & Health:

Keeping with the theme in December, stress is still a very common theme amongst everyone. From the positive feedback I was receiving I kept going with the Mindfulness and Social Emotional Learning lessons. The students and staff engage in many physical, mental, and emotional exercises. Some of the activities we engaged in included floor exercises, stretching, yoga, guided meditation and some recreation and leisure games to help relieve the physical stress on the body and to help us keep focused on the importance of keeping our most precious muscle active, the heart! In the coming months we will be restarting our Boy Scout Troop 1571. As the month goes on there will be more information to discriminate. Updates: We are now in the process of having the four scout leaders including myself get all their paperwork together.

Health:

During Health, the students are learning, developing, and practicing skills in Mindfulness and Social Emotional Learning, which crosses over with my Physical Education classes. We are learning how to use various strategies during times we are down or sad to help create a positive mind set. We will also learn, practice, and develop the skills to maintain those positive thoughts, which will reduce stress levels.

Behavior Department:

This month, the behaviorists have continued to assist with filling in for teachers and 1:1 paraprofessionals as needed, due to absences (& the Covid pandemic). On a positive note, this has allowed for some 1:1 instruction time that may not otherwise be readily available. Assessment and program assistance of teachers, as well as observation of students and creation of new behavior strategies and interventions has begun to pick up at the end of the month, as staff absences and coverage constraints have decreased. RBT Jen has been attempting to collect data sheets and input as time allows, when not assigned to a student. Crisis support as well as additional assistance/strategy implementation has continued to be needed for several students this month. This month, a new student has started at Westlake. Student AA began attending this month and is enrolled in Mrs. Convery's class. Behaviorists have been involved in assisting classroom staff with a smooth transition into AA's new classroom and he has had a very successful first month here at Westlake. BCBA DS is to meet virtually with Carrie Dattilo and Crossroads Safety-Care representative DC to plan the Safety Care initial training for new staff next month. Jenn Pavlik and Tim Fitzgerald will be training Westlake's new staff as well as assisting with LMA staff alongside Anna Kuzdraj.. Parent contacts, via remote, in-person and via phone continued this month with parent teacher conferences occurring.

Occupational Therapy: The Occupational Therapists were happy to welcome our students back from winter break this January. We quickly got back to work on independence in hygiene for our students, such as the sequence and motor skills of brushing teeth, using a brush to clean fingernails, washing hands, and washing faces. The students are working hard to be able to perform these skills on their own in school and at home. We are also introducing life skills related to first aid skills such as taking care of a minor cut and working on the fine motor skills of putting on a band aide. Students are learning to sequence: 1. Apply pressure to stop minor bleeding, 2. Clean the area with soap and water, 3. Open and apply a band aide. They are developing the fine motor skills to open and place the band aide correctly. We continue to provide sensory integration activities to our students and work with teachers to provide sensory activities in the classroom. Students are calming when deep pressure is introduced using rolling pins and large therapy balls. Students are using heavy work programs developed by occupational therapists to improve body awareness, motor coordination, and improved regulation. We are excited for a healthy, happy, and productive 2022!

Speech Therapy: This month, we targeted social skills in groups and used a variety of methods to practice maintaining conversations including social skills UNO, social question BINGO, scripts, surveys, etc. We continued working toward meeting our SGO's by collecting data and making adjustments as needed. We participated in parent teacher conferences as they were requested and provided updates on student progress. Therapists got to know new students and assessed their skills to see if any new additions needed to be made to upcoming IEPs. As a department, we also established some thematic units for the month including discussions around Martin Luther King, New Year's resolutions and winter.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Monthly Virtual Yoga Monthly Pet Therapy Holiday Sale at the Commission – Mrs. Palmer’s Class
Professional Development:
GCN Training – Bloodborne Pathogens, SCIP Meeting



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Work Readiness Academy	Report Date: January 30, 2022
--	--------------------------------------

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

Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: 1/21/22	Other (Specify Type): 1/31/22 Lockdown

Curriculum and Instruction:

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

WRA Program

- Due to the Omicron variant and sharp rise in COVID-19 positive cases, we made the difficult decision to keep students back from the community and pause our work-based learning experiences for the first two weeks of January. We commend the students and staff for their flexibility and understanding that health and safety remains our priority - and that this would be a temporary interruption.
- In lieu of work-based learning experiences our staff created replacement programming that included focusing on practicing interviewing and working in teams. Additionally, we were able to bring in clerical and assembly “jobs” from two non-profit organizations: The New Jersey Sharing Network and Children’s Specialized Hospital.
- Other instructional topics this month included:
 - Time Management, including Prioritizing
 - Food Shopping on a Budget
 - Using Google Sheets to enhance productivity

Project SEARCH

- The Project SEARCH program was able to maintain normal operations despite the Omicron surge, thanks to continued adherence to strict COVID-19 protocols across Overlook Medical Center.
- January marked the start of the second internship rotation for the students. We are excited to have added a new experience in the Radiology department.
- Instructional highlights this month included:
 - Completing a job application correctly.
 - Writing a professional email
 - Time Management
 - Healthy Habits lead to a Healthy Lifestyle

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

- All Community-Based Instruction trips for the WRA were put on hold for the month of January.
- We did host a special Murder Mystery Game as a special Friday activity. The students and staff enjoyed role-playing as their characters and using deductive reasoning skills to try and solve the mystery at the Teen Idol Awards Show.
- Monthly SEL Theme: Responsible Decision-Making; students learned about the importance of making constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms; the realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions; and a consideration of the well-being of oneself and others.

Professional Development:
All certified staff completed mandated district training on Bloodborne Pathogens.